

# UFO

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## MUFON chief says UFO investigators need to cooperate

By Laura Ingram  
Staff Writer

LAWRENCEVILLE — UFO investigators need to share their evidence more and engage scientists in dialogue if they are to gain acceptance into the scientific community, according to the chief science advisor of the Mutual UFO Network of Georgia.

"Evidence is what we do have; this is what we don't have," the advisor, Ralph Howard Jr., told his fellow members Saturday as he pointed to the word "proof" and its definition on the screen of Gwinnett



Michael Hitt, a field investigator for MUFON, shows examples of UFOs that have been reported in Georgia.

Justice and Administration Center's auditorium.

Howard, who is also a geologist for the federal government, suggested at the meeting Saturday that they must use the plodding scientific method of compiling enough evidence to make UFOs seem obvious to most everyone.

"We may [be able to] solve this with science," Howard said. "We've tried everything else."

Though MUFON investigators and others in other organizations have found many cases that could not be explained, many people believe UFOs are no more than test aircraft, celestial bodies viewed under unusual atmospheric conditions, a few weather balloons, satellites, meteors and returning space junk, unusual natural phenomena or hoaxes.

Georgia MUFON officials partly credit those who exaggerate or lie about sightings and the government for not sharing information for the denial of the existence of UFOs.

Many people, even state officials, who report such sightings fear releasing their names because the news would damage their reputations. Admitting seeing a ghost or experiencing another paranormal experience is more accepted than seeing an object in the sky that is not identifiable.

"I think we can agree that we have a culturally contaminated climate," Howard said.

Howard explained that the public does not scoff as much at paranormal because paranormal investigators are more scientific. He suggested MUFON investigators follow the advice of an ancient Chinese proverb, "When in hole, stop digging."

MUFON investigators already are directed to approach each sighting with skepticism and how to find physical evidence and interview witnesses to determine credibility. Howard wants them to cooperate more like those in the scientific community.

Like those in the paranormal field, UFO investigators need to create an umbrella organization that helps its group members act in concert, sharing information and evidence.

This organization could publish periodically one case with merit and plenty of evidence to create more awareness among the public and more dialogue with scientists.

Howard also suggested networking with friends and individuals in academics, the military, law enforcement and other organizations to raise awareness.

"We can show them that you don't have to be a kook to believe in this. That's what I try to do," Howard said.

The 60 members of Georgia's MUFON chapter include retired and active members of law enforcement, an aerospace engineer and other respected fields.

For more information, contact State Director Walter "Tom" Sheets at 770-917-4419 or mufonga@webtv.net.

## UFO expert talks on the infamous Roswell crash

JANE WIGGINS  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

"If we had to prove our case about the 'Roswell Incident,' based on the credibility of witness testimony I believe we would win," said Dennis Balthaser as he spoke to a packed crowd Saturday night at the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

Balthaser, one of many UFO investigator/researchers presented his second monthly lecture at the museum "UFO Research: Sharing the Frustrations and Gratifications With the Public."

Of the more than 120 people attending, many remembered reports of the crash and subsequent statement by the U.S. government that the flying saucer was actually a weather balloon.

Balthaser explained the many different angles involved in being a UFO researcher, such as why ufology is researched and investigated and the positive and negative sides of the Freedom of Information Act requests. He urged continued interest in research about the incident.

In sharing his information with the public, Balthaser said he would be "brutally honest."

"There are some parts of the incident I believe and some that I don't believe at all," he said.

Some of the testimony of the witnesses is in question, he said, because of attempts to protect other people, fear of the consequences and possible memory loss over the years.

"I definitely believe there was a cover up by the government," he said. "There would be drastic after affects if we were told there are other beings (out there). It's the government way of control. Maybe they can't do anything about it. Our future depends on what happened at Area 51."

"The odds are too great to think we're alone," he added. "There are 200 billion stars or planets in our atmosphere!" he said.

"If the government says this (life on other planets) doesn't exist why are they spending millions in active research?" he asked.

Mac Brazel, a rancher living 30 miles southeast of Corona heard what sounded like a crash during a thunderstorm the night of July 4, 1947. The next day while herding his sheep to water he discovered what appeared to be the wreckage of a flying saucer. Alu-

minum-like pieces were scattered 1/4 of a mile by several 100 feet wide, Balthaser said. His sheep refused go through it and went around it.

White Sands radar tracked the flight of something (in the area) during the storm. Security representatives told Balthaser speeds were registered as fast as 3,500 miles per hour.

By July 8, the intelligence office of the 509th Bombardment group at the Roswell Army Air Field reported the possession of a flying saucer.

Brazel brought samples of the metal to Sheriff George Wilcox and was interviewed by KGFL radio. As quickly as the so-called flying saucer appeared it was denied by the U.S. Army.

A statement to the Daily Record was made by the Army July 9. "An examination revealed the objects found on a lonely New Mexico ranch were a harmless high-altitude weather balloon — not a grounded flying disk" was their explanation.

The first ever Associated Press wire was dispatched from Roswell telling of the wreckage, only to be met with a threat from the Federal Communications Commission threatening to remove their license if the media did not go along with the government examination.

Balthaser shared his frustrations with the Freedom of Information requests in attempting to prove witness statements.

He said the government still refuses to investigate armed services personnel stationed in Roswell at the time. He said all UFO investigators have phone taps and have monitors on their e-mail.

Balthaser said buildings in Roswell that had some connection with witnesses and events after the crash are disappearing. He lamented the loss of Saint Mary's Hospital, the office and living quarters of Sheriff Wilcox and Hangar 84, where the supposed bodies and debris were kept.

He said there are plans to lease, renovate and remodel the hangar, leaving only photos to connect the investigation to the past. It seems impossible to keep things "the way they were," he said.

Balthaser's e-mail is truthskr@roswell.net. His website is www.truthseekeratroswell.com.

Down in a Colo. valley, enthusiasm is always up for supernatural sights.

## Along this watchtower, UFO lovers flying high

By Judith Kohler  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOOPER, Colo. — Green, glow-in-the-dark cutouts of bug-eyed extraterrestrials line a dusty road off a two-lane highway in southern Colorado.

Travelers stop in a makeshift parking lot on Judy Messoline's ranch, get out, and wander into a small, domed building with shelves stocked with "alien dust," posters, shiny extraterrestrial dolls and pyramid candles.

Outside, steps lead to a 10-foot-high UFO-watching platform. For \$2, people can scan the skies for bright, darting lights and strange, hovering crafts, the likes of which have been reported for decades by residents and visitors in the San Luis Valley.

"I didn't realize I could work 11 hours a day, seven days a week, and giggle the whole time," said Messoline, who, with her partner, Stan Becker, opened the UFO watchtower on Memorial Day weekend.

The idea might sound like a joke, but tales of supernatural phenomena abound in this naturally spectacular 50-mile-wide, 125-mile-long valley, which is 7,600 feet in altitude and ringed by the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains.

### 'People talk and it gets out'

The UFO Computer Network Internet site ranks Saguache County, home of the watchtower, as No. 1 nationwide in reports of otherworldly sightings per capita — 131 this year in the 4,619-person area. Neighboring Alamosa County is No. 3.

Saguache County Undersheriff Mike Norris said his office did not get frequent reports about mysterious lights or crafts, "but people talk and it gets out."

The book *The Mysterious Valley*, by Christopher O'Brien, examines reports through the years of cattle mutilations, mysterious helicopters, and oddly shaped aircraft hovering over the valley.

Messoline got the idea to build the watchtower after putting up with ET enthusiasts camping on her property. She also needed to make some money because cattle ranching, which drew her to the valley five years ago, was foundering.

A big fan of *The X-Files*, a TV show about UFO-hunting FBI agents, she acknowledged that she had seen strange lights in the sky. As for believing in UFOs, Messoline said, "It would take one landing, so I could take a look."

Restaurant owner Tim Edwards, who lives north of the valley, is a believer. He made national news in 1995, when TV stations broadcast his home videotape of what he believed was a UFO hovering near the sun.

"It was quite a spiritual experience. I basically kind of went into an emotional trauma," Edwards said.

He called Messoline's watchtower "a publicity stunt."

"You can drive up to about 12,000 feet here and see for a hundred miles. You could just sit by your car and not pay," he said.

### Roswell part of tourist circuit

Dozens of people who have heard about the watchtower have visited the ranch near Hooper, a town of 120 people about 220 miles southwest of Denver.

For some, it has been a stop on a circuit that includes Roswell, N.M., the scene of what true believers say was a UFO crash in 1947 and the site of the annual UFO Encounter, which draws tens of thousands of people.

O'Brien, who lives in the valley, has made an avocation of document-

## L.A. 'Battle' Launched a Golden Age of UFOs

*Saucers, bathtubs, hubcaps, stars; Russian space ships, men from Mars? Bananas, headlights, silver spoons; Hallucinations or weather balloons?*

—Unknown author

**C**lose encounters of the strangest kind are, of course, a fact of life in Los Angeles. So, it comes as no surprise that the area was an epicenter for one of the late 20th century's genuinely eccentric pre-occupations: unidentified flying objects.

In fact, a few days after the region endured one of its most mysterious wartime traumas—the so-called "Battle of Los Angeles"—UFO enthusiasts were suggesting that extraterrestrial tourists, rather than Japanese aviators, had flown across the basin's sky early on the dark morning of Feb. 25, 1942.

Memories of Pearl Harbor were fresh, and just two days after a Japanese submarine surfaced and shot 16 shells at an oil field 12 miles west of Santa Barbara, radar stations picked up an unidentified object over Santa Monica Bay at 2:25 a.m. The region's anti-aircraft batteries—the largest at Ft. MacArthur—went fully into action, blindly firing nearly 1,500 rounds into the suddenly searchlighted skies.

As *The Times* wrote the next day: "At 5 a.m. the police reported that an airplane had been shot down near 185th Street and Vermont Avenue. Details were not available. . . . Five persons died in the 'air raid,' three in car crashes and two from heart attacks."

To this day the real story of the "Battle of Los Angeles" remains unknown. The Japanese deny that their warplanes ever flew over Los Angeles; official U.S. wartime records are inconclusive. Although some residents later claimed that they had indeed seen a globular or triangular craft in the sky, military officials blamed the whole thing on jittery nerves and a wayward meteorological balloon. No bombs were dropped or shots fired from the air.

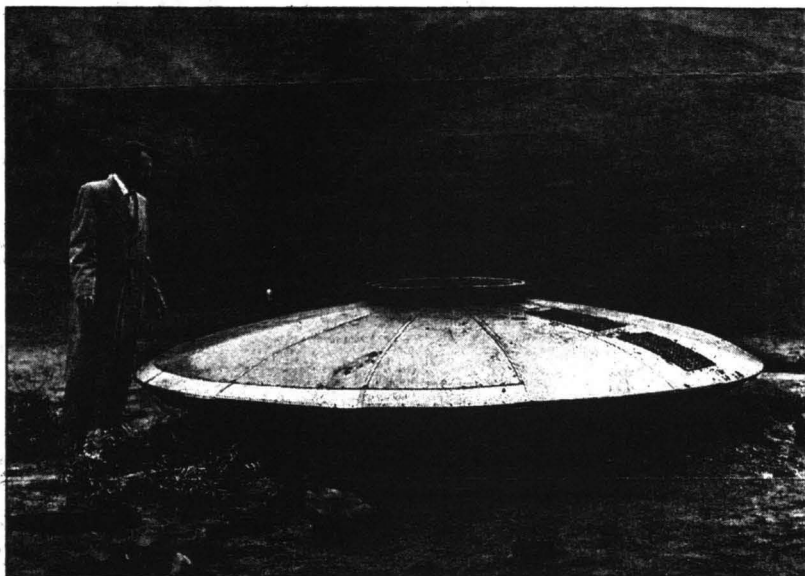
And there was more to come:

Throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, Los Angeles was a hotbed of UFO sightings. In fact, former *Times* editor DeWayne B. "Doc" Johnson, now retired, was a UCLA student at the time, writing his unpublished 1950 thesis: "Flying Saucers: Fact or Fiction?" which chronicled who saw what, where and when from 1947 to 1950.

Johnson's work is a treasure trove of period detail, linking local UFO sightings to others around the world.

On July 8, 1947, for example, Lt. Joseph C. McHenry, two sergeants and a stenographer at Muroc Dry Lake, now Edwards Air Force Base, reported seeing "two silver objects of either spherical or disk-

## L.A. Then and Now / Cecilia Rasmussen



Los Angeles Times

Times reporter Dewey Linz inspects faux UFO that turned up in the Hollywood Hills in 1957.

like shape, moving about 300 mph at approximately 8,000 feet." More officers gathered as a third object came into sight. A test pilot had reported seeing a roundish object at about 12,000 feet the day before.

The base's initial news release said, "The many rumors regarding the flying discs became a reality today." An hour later, Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey told a different story about the objects being "of some sort of tinfoil."

A magazine article pointed out, "Muroc is the Air Force's most hush-hush sanctum, where the Air Force and Navy test their secret supersonic models, so it's not a place where you would expect personnel to get unduly excited by strange things in the sky."

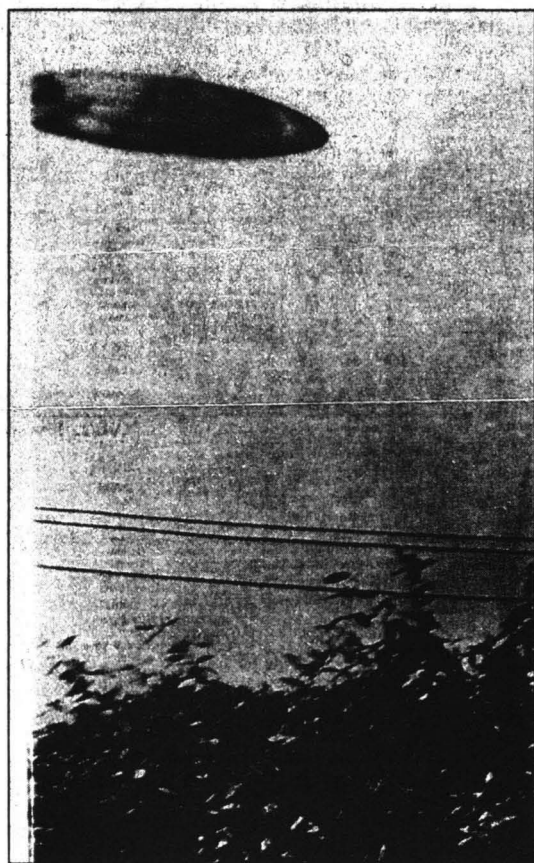
Although the Air Force attributed 96% of all UFO sightings to the high-altitude U-2 and SR-71 super-secret U.S. spy planes, it took care not to reveal that to the public. Concern during the Cold War that the Soviets might try to use UFO sightings to touch off mass hysteria and panic in the U.S. prompted the Air Force and other agencies to downplay the issue and concoct cover stories for unexplained sightings, according to a 1997 CIA journal.

On March 12, 1950, amateur photographer and medical assistant Bette Malles snapped a photo of "something shining" flying over a Hawthorne field. An artist's drawing printed in *The Times* and taken from the unretouched negative showed that the center part of the object was "composed of a luminous oblong doughnut."

Other unpublished 1950 sightings, reported in Johnson's thesis, included one by Frank E. Taylor, a producer for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, who was driving home with his wife from Pasadena when they said they witnessed three revolving disks traveling at great speed. The next day, a group at Caltech reported seeing the same objects; Johnson himself later witnessed, along with a friend, a UFO over the Arroyo Seco during daylight hours that he said defied the laws of physics.

In 1956, 15-year-old Michael Savage, son of a San Bernardino surgeon, took a picture of a mysterious flying object that he said hovered near his house for 30 seconds; those photos, too, made the paper.

Just as the phenomenon was beginning to die out, Hollywood



Associated Press

A 1956 UFO photo taken by Michael Savage of San Bernardino.

added its own inimitable touch to the UFO craze.

In January 1957, actress Gloria Swanson and a group of friends heard that a spaceship had landed in the Hollywood Hills. So, off they trekked through mud and dark of night to an area off Lake Ridge Road. (History does not record what they had been consuming before they set out.) In a shallow hole at the end of their hike, they found a 12-foot-diameter disk, which purportedly had knocked down a lamppost upon landing. The cockpit seats were upholstered in coral Leatherette, and two electrical cords dangled to the wooden flooring.

Amazed by their find, they called *The Times*.

After a careful inspection, *Times* aviation writer Dewey Linz not only found that the "spaceship" was lacking an engine and controls, but—after interviewing neighbors—learned that it was a prop that had been discarded after a documentary was filmed on the site.

Today, the Mutual UFO Network, one of several private organizations that keep track of such information, receives more than 300 reports a year of UFO sightings nationwide that cannot be explained.

UFOs have survived jokes, scientific ridicule and bad movies, and continue to maintain a firm grip on the imagination of skeptics and believers alike.

ing the area's strange occurrences.

The reports stretch back centuries, with American Indians talking about flying seed-podlike objects, O'Brien said. Area newspapers in the late 1800s and early 1900s ran stories about strange crafts and lights.

People in the farming and ranching area tend to be set in their ways

and regard Messoline's watchtower with some cynical unease, O'Brien said.

"However, nobody is going out of their way to really slag her about it," he said.

Instead, Messoline said she had taped hours of conversations with residents who say they have had otherworldly experiences but do

not feel comfortable talking to most people about them.

O'Brien has heard the same thing from many people since writing in a local newspaper about a wave of reported sightings in 1993.

"I've found myself acting like a paranormal counselor," he said.



# Alien-spotting aspirations drive the curious to

BY JOHN BARTOSEK  
PALM BEACH POST

AREA 51, Nevada — When you tire of the flashing lights in Las Vegas, it's time to get out of town — way out.

Head for Area 51: the crosshairs between wide-eyed X-Files enthusiasts and stone-faced military boys.

It's really out there. And, creepily, they know when you're coming.

Area 51 is inside the sprawling Nellis Air Force Base north of Las Vegas, squeezed in next to the Nevada Test Site (think "A-bombs"). The U-2 spy plane flew there in the '50s; more recently, the SR-71 Blackbird, the F-117A stealth fighter and the B-2 stealth bomber. A dry lake bed, Groom Lake, provides expansive takeoff and landing room. Presumably, lots of other high-tech research goes on there, but we're not authorized to know.

With all the science comes a strong dose of science fiction. Because it's so secret and secure, the stories go, Area 51 is where the government took the aliens and their spacecraft that crash-landed in Roswell, N.M., in the 1940s. Some folks claim they saw the charred bodies, or the "survivor." Some say they worked on otherworldly space-



craft at Area 51. Reports of strange, hovering lights and eerie shapes in the sky are routine.

Chuckling Nevadans named Nevada 375, the closest public access to Area 51, "The E.T. Highway." The facetious Groom Lake Yacht Club's motto: Our lake is dry, but our ships fly.

To get there, I head north on In-

terstate 15 to U.S. 93, a two-lane road that arrows through empty desert for 100 miles, then turn left onto the E.T. Highway. The only road signs show a steer silhouette, meaning this is open range, home of Unidentified Bovine Objects.

The town of Rachel is 40 miles farther. I go there first, driving past Area 51, to the Little A'Le'Inn ("Earthlings Always Welcome"), a

cafe in a trailer with rooms for rent and a corner of souvenirs. Hollywood loves the place: A large plaque from the cast of *Independence Day* sits out front, along with a 10-foot-tall lighted flying-saucer prop from the movie *Galaxy Quest*.

Pat and Joe Travis run the inn. It's been crazy, Pat says, since the Internet release in April of the first satellite photos of Area 51 ([www.terraserver.com](http://www.terraserver.com)). A one-page guide to the dirt roads off the highway costs 33 cents, and it suggests I start by finding "the black mailbox" along 375. I miss it the first two times past. It's white, not black. Disinformation, perhaps?

Graffiti covers the plain, locked metal box on a pole. "The truth is out there" is a popular phrase. Maybe it's a real mailbox, but it serves more as a road marker: Turn here for Area 51. Watch out for the cattle.

The dirt roads are well kept, but any vehicle kicks up a trail of dust. Maybe that's how they know I'm coming, though a Web site also mentions special sensors buried in the ground. (The main Area 51 Web site, [www.ufomind.com](http://www.ufomind.com), is no longer maintained.)

About halfway to the mountain

range, I see a cloud of dust coming the other way. I stop; the other dust cloud stops, too. I drive on, slower. The other dust cloud resumes.

At the base of the hills, about 10 miles from 375, the road turns right. Two red-and-white signs on each side of the road mark the border for Nellis. A remote camera on the hill to the left points toward my car.

Atop the hill on the right, where the dust is settling, is a white Jeep Cherokee. I can't see past the window tint, and nobody steps out, but these are the "camo dudes," the private security for the base. The guide sheet says they won't bother you for driving up and looking. But the signs warn "No Photography" and that the fine is \$600 for the first offense. I put the camera back in the car.

The warnings supposedly are toned down; local legend says they used to read "Use of Deadly Force Authorized." The Little A'Le'Inn sells a nice cap with that warning stitched on the front.

That's it, the end of the road and as close as you get to Area 51. You can't go forward, and there's nothing to see or do after driving 3 1/2 hours through the desert. The Big Secret is safe for another day.

Back to the hotel/casino, though, I notice the same woman I saw 12 hours earlier, sitting at the same quarter slot machine, still smoking and sipping a beer. Maybe I saw an alien life form after all.

## lonely Area 51

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TIMES, Washington, DC - Feb. 17, 2001 CR: T. Good

# Seek aliens, find friendly locals in tiny Rachel

By Judy DeLoretta  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A journey along the Extraterrestrial Highway may not lead visitors directly to aliens or other planets, but it does lead folks from around the globe to the tiny town of Rachel, Nev., and the Little A'Le'Inn, a sort of cosmic restaurant, bar and motel where the rooms are cheap and the locals welcome tourists with open arms.

The town attracts earthly visitors who make the 150-mile trek from Las Vegas in sport utility vehicles, on motorcycles and even on bicycles.

Rachel is about the closest place for a chance to catch a glimpse of Groom Lake, which is inside Area 51, long rumored to be a top-secret U.S. test facility operated by the U.S. Air Force, and one of the Nellis test ranges, north of Las Vegas. The name "Area 51" originated from old maps from the early 1950s, on which the property surrounding Groom Lake was so designated. The term was used officially from the 1960s to the 1980s, when the place was renamed the Air Force Flight Test Center.

Rachel gets lots of visitors from Europe, Asia and around the globe.

The drive to Rachel — about 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas — sets travelers in the middle of the high desert for long stretches of road from Interstate 15 to the green pastures of Pahrangat Valley.

Alamo and Ash Springs, just up the highway, are about the only places to stop for such necessities as gasoline, food and lodging.

Sherry Arias, who works at the Chevron station in Alamo, has heard just about everything.

"We're asked if we've ever seen strange things, or if it's true there are aliens along Extraterrestrial Highway," Miss Arias says. "My grandfather told us he saw the mutilations of cows up here a few years ago. Their organs were gone, and the coyotes wouldn't go near them."

Along Extraterrestrial Highway (Nevada State Highway 375) and in the town of Rachel, visiting earthlings seem to be hoping to catch sight of something — anything — flying in the night sky, and who can beat it? The room rates are cheap (\$30 a night), the sunsets are beautiful, and Little A'Le'Inn staff members are about the friendliest folks you'll ever want to meet.

The Little A'Le'Inn is almost in the

middle of nowhere — but it's a fun spot to stop for lunch, meet the locals and tourists and pick up a few alien-inspired souvenirs.

Should you choose to stay overnight, the 10 rooms — two or three in each trailer — have no television reception, no cellular service and no telephones, so don't plan on surfing the Web during your ET-chasing downtime. There are, however, VCRs in every room and a pay phone on the premises. Visitors also should plan on sharing bathrooms with other guests.

Guests may visit the Little A'Le'Inn restaurant and bar to borrow videos. Don't count on the latest blockbuster hits. There is, instead, an assortment of films such as "Dances With Wolves," "The Shootist," "Foreman vs. Hernandez Fight" and recorded TV specials and magazine-format shows about aliens, outer space and beyond.

Inside the A'Le'Inn restaurant, bar and gift shop, open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., are interesting photographs of UFOs, celebrities and retired Air Force personnel; memorabilia; a few choice bumper stickers; and visitors ranging from local retirees to bicyclists and from journalists to those who think they're aliens. The locals admit some of the visitors — men in black suits and military personnel — occasionally stop in to ask questions.

Teresa Aneweer moved to Rachel to spend time with her sister and has been asked questions herself.

"Every now and then, these guys will come in and ask if anyone has seen anything," Miss Aneweer says.

Anything?

"I've seen a few lights up in the sky out here," she says, "but I'm not too worried. I was more worried about a big storm and tornado that came through town last week."

"To me, anyone who walks through that door is an alien," says Connie Calvaruzo, daughter of Little A'Le'Inn hosts and owners Pat and Joe Travis. "We have UFO weekend festivals twice a year, and we have a few bike tours coming through here, but mostly we get visitors who are just curious."

Two such visitors, Gerry and Cindy Earl from Las Vegas, stopped for an overnight visit on their way to a bed-and-breakfast in Benton Hot Springs, 30 miles east of Bishop, Calif., for their 15th wedding anniversary. Both are psychiatric social workers at Lake Mead Hospital in Las Vegas.

"I've always been curious about Rachel," Gerry Earl says. "I remember, growing up in Las Vegas, all the above-ground testing that took place outside of town. We could actually see the mushroom clouds."

For Cindy Earl, the side trip to Rachel sounded like fun.

"Last week, a woman was brought into the hospital with scars all over her body," she says. "She told us she does surgery on herself. So if we see anything weird in Rachel, I don't think we'll be too surprised."

With or without UFO sightings, guests in Rachel will find small-town warmth and a lot of fun chatting with the locals, international travelers and those who just drop in on a bike run. In fact, there isn't much else to do. There is not much doubt that some have seen UFOs in the skies above, but there is doubt about where the objects come from.

Groom Lake, in the center of Area 51, measures about 575 square miles. The Nellis Ranges, including Area 51, the Tonopah Test Range, the Nevada Test Site and the bombing and gunnery ranges, cover an area of 5,200 square miles. The Nevada Test Site alone covers about 1,600 square miles.

These days, advanced hikers occasionally climb 3 1/2 hours up to Tika-boo Peak, about 26 miles east of the base. Northwest of Rachel and about 45 miles from the base is Reveille Peak, where some folks with high-quality binoculars claim to have viewed two runways at Groom Lake. The first satellite image of the Groom Lake base was taken during a routine mapping program, followed by more recent satellite photos in 1994 and in April 2000.

An assortment of high-tech secret aircraft were developed and tested at Groom Lake within the boundaries of Area 51, an installation so secret its existence was denied until recently by government agencies and contractors alike. The entire boundary of the base is clearly marked but unfenced and patrolled by an anonymous security force equipped with high-tech surveillance gear.

More recent projects include the rumored high-speed, high-altitude Aurora; unmanned planes (UAVs); and a new stealth plane to replace the F-117. Some believe research at the site even includes the reverse engineering of alien spacecraft.

Once folks got wind that they could get a glimpse of Groom Lake from Freedom Ridge and Whitesides

Peak, the areas were closed officially to all public access.

Jack Emory and his son Donald operate the Area 51 Research Center just down the road from the Little A'Le'Inn.

"When I retired from the Navy two years ago, I bought myself a fifth-wheel," Jack Emory says. "I took my son on a trip, and we ended up here."

Both Emorys believe a lot of inaccurate information has been spread about Area 51, but they are happy to help out with an occasional chat or tour.

"People who visit here are magnificent," the senior Mr. Emory says. "Since the Little A'Le'Inn became part of the mainstream media, there's a lot of curiosity. About half of the people who we meet claim they have had some kind of extraterrestrial experience."

Some, he says, might be making up stories, but he's not so sure about others. "People are so interesting to talk to. We don't jump to conclusions about anything out here. We have to be pretty conceited to think we're the only ones who exist," he says.

Inside the Area 51 Research Center, guests will find books, souvenirs and great conversation with the Emorys.

*Rachel is about 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas and surrounded by nothing but high desert. To get there, take Interstate 15 north from Las Vegas about 20 miles, passing the Craig Road exit; turn left onto northbound U.S. 93/Great Basin Highway for about 85 miles. Turn slightly left onto Highway 318 for just six-tenths of a mile (you'll see the Extraterrestrial Highway sign), then travel straight on Highway 375 for 39.2 miles.*

*Most of Highway 375 is open range, meaning there are no fences. Cattle often wander across the road, especially at night. Slow down and be prepared to stop. Additionally, make sure to fill your gas tank in Las Vegas, then again in Alamo or Ash Springs. There are no services in Rachel.*

*To obtain reservations at the Little A'Le'Inn, visit [www.dreamlandresort.com](http://www.dreamlandresort.com) or call 775/729-2515. For more information: The Area 51 Research Center has a Web site ([www.area51researchcenter.com](http://www.area51researchcenter.com)) or call 775/729-2648 or contact the Nevada Commission on Tourism ([www.travelnevada.com](http://www.travelnevada.com)) or 800/NEVADA-8.*

# Passport to the Cosmos

by John E. Mack, M.D.  
edited by Will Bueché

*Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer John E. Mack, M.D., spoke at the Seven Stars bookstore in his hometown of Cambridge, Massachusetts, earlier this year. Dr. Mack talked about his new book, Passport to the Cosmos, and shared where this passport has taken him in his understanding of the relationship between alien encounters and human transformation. These remarks are excerpted from his discussion.*

I am always asked, "Why did you write this book when you had already written that other book, *Abduction*?" How many times can a Harvard professor lose his respectability or virginity in the intellectual world? You can't come out twice, so why did you do this book? What's different?

My reason for writing this book is to try to move the conversation out of the argument of whether UFOs and abductions are real or not. I have to confess to you that I believe that is boring at this point. It is definitely real, and if you want to deconstruct what "real" means we can do that. Whether it is materially real or not, or comes from some other place and shows up materially — I love those ontologically sophisticated discussions — but this is not the main thing. The main thing, for me, has become "What does it mean for us that people of sound mind — hundreds of thousands if not millions of people from all over the world, not just in the Western countries, but on other continents and among indigenous people — are having what seem like authentic, incontrovertible encounters with some sort of beings that apparently enter into our physical world and communicate to us about ourselves, and seem in some way to be connecting with us?"

The heart of the writing of this book began when I was invited by Mu Soeng and Catherine Diehl at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies to spend time there alone in a cottage with all my notes and transcripts. I took all my boxes of interview transcripts and sat with them, sorting them day after day, to see what ideas and themes seemed to emerge from that material.

I began to be struck by how powerful was the environmental dimension to this, the overwhelming communication of danger about the planet that was coming from this apparently outside source. Bernardo Peixoto, a shaman born in northern Brazil, one of three members of indigenous cultures whom I discuss in detail in the book, told me that the Ikuyas — his people's name for beings that seem similar to the gray beings reported by people in the West — are coming now "because they are conscious that we as human beings on this planet are destroying ourselves." They are trying to influence us, he suggested, by bringing knowledge and understanding of our connection to each other and to the earth, and a reminder that "we are just one part of a big, big whole."

The experiences that are written about in the book make it clear that the encounter phenomenon opens people to an awareness of Self, with a capital S, that goes way beyond any kind of ethno-national identification, to a much larger sense of being a child of the divine, or a child of spirit, a child of the cosmos. And so it is in a sense a passage experience from a nationalistic identity to a collective identity, to a larger global identity.

When you open Self to a connection beyond the material world, beyond the earth to a larger firmament, this opens people to the sacred. It opens people to a sense of the divine, of being one with All That Is, what people used to call God, and when that occurs, then everything

becomes part of that. Everything becomes part of God, part of the divine. Everything you do, everything you see, every material or non-material object, whatever you encounter becomes a part of that sacred universe.

Many of the destructive things that we do, particularly the destruction of the earth itself, become impossible from the place of that kind of consciousness. You'd cringe every time you saw a bulldozer. You would shrink in horror from every polluted stream; it just wouldn't be okay.

And similarly, in the way peoples treat one another, it makes Erik Erikson's notion of pseudo-speciation really, really powerful. Pseudo-speciation means the treatment of others, other peoples, other ethno-national groups as if they were another species, rather than as one human species or family. He was talking about the scope of being human, the need for a shift to a new human identity. He did not speak directly about the concept of cosmic identity, so we may need to expand his concept.

The alien abduction experiences themselves are often initially quite frightening, yet over time, many experiencers form a powerful bond with one or more of these beings. People become deeply connected with these entities. They have palpable experiences that are just as powerful, sometimes more powerful, than relationships here. They view them not just as these cold, calculating, indifferent big-eyed creatures, but

bonds develop between experiencers and those strange creatures that often have an intense, transcendent, spiritual, sometimes even erotic, element to them.

When people start to recall an invasive encounter, they begin to shake on the couch. They sweat. They cry. They scream at the beings, "You can't do this to me; this is terrible." The transformational, the transcendent, the kindness aspect, the Earth-connected aspect of it, usually comes after passing through a kind of dark night of the soul, an initiation, whatever you wish to call it.

As a clinician, my role is to listen to a person as he or she describes an experience, and simply stay there in an empathic place. I may say I am sorry for the pain, and I will ask, "And then what happened?" But I don't say, "Oh those aliens are terrible, that is too bad they did that to you," because that would evoke a victim mentality. If you do not argue the good or bad, if you just stay with it, it moves from there.

The people who have the experiences move. They change. They grow. They transform. They become Earth-conscious. That is why I seek to give them voice, for they become passionate on behalf of the stewardship of the earth.

I think that the most important point here is that something that opens us to a larger sense of self, of identification with others and with a more cosmic level of being, will open us to a sense of the divine and a reverence for life, for nature. ■

JOURNAL-WORLD, Lawrence, KS - July 27, 2000 CR: R. Swiatek

## UFO essays gain scholarly nod

University Press' editor-in-chief hopes a new volume will lead to an academic interest in an understudied field.

By ERWIN SEBA  
JOURNAL-WORLD WRITER

For most scholars, abductions by extraterrestrial aliens in unidentified flying objects are the stuff of Hollywood or grocery-store tabloids and not worthy of study by university faculty.

That's why University Press of Kansas decided to publish a scholarly book on the topic.

"The feeling among scholars is this is a disreputable field because it does not have the participation of people in the academy," said Michael Briggs, editor-in-chief of Lawrence-based University Press.

"What the field really needs is the attention from the academy from a variety of different dimensions to bring the standards up," Briggs said. "This book is an attempt to jump-start interest in what is a very, very understudied field right now."

"UFOs and Abductions" is a collection of essays by scholars and researchers studying the phenomena of UFO abductions from a variety of disciplines. There are examinations from the standpoint of history, psychology and neurology. The book was edited by David M. Jacobs, an associate professor of history at Temple University.

"There is no consensus among the people in the book or in the field or coming from us about what it is," Briggs said. "The point of the book is to say there is an 'it' and 'it' would be good for academics to study 'it.'"

A Lawrence astronomer says there may be some value to such a point of view, but it must be weighed against the risk of giving credence to pseudoscience.

"To say, 'Well, maybe there is something there worth studying' can be a dangerous thing," said Bruce Twarog, Kansas University professor of physics and astronomy. "The phrase 'something there' can mean anything to general public."

Twarog said studying those who claim to be victims of UFO abduction would be like studying those who believe the Holocaust didn't happen.

"It uses their acceptance of a fraudulent claim," he said. "There's nothing there

worth studying."

Even an area man who believes in UFOs thinks the book will never achieve its goal.

"Scientists will not believe in UFOs until they land on the White House lawn," said Scott Corder, an Ottawa physician.

Corder's medical license was suspended for three years in the early '90s because of his belief that UFOs bear messengers from God.

"Humans studying UFOs? That's like an ant studying the X-rays from the sun," Corder said.

Of the book, he said, "I think it's going to be another little bitty flash in the pan."

With 3,500 copies of the book in print, about twice the usual press run for one of the publisher's political science volumes, Briggs hopes it will reach an audience beyond academics.

"I like the idea this might be a breakthrough book," he said.

In the three years the book has been in preparation, Briggs used three times the usual number of reviewers to make sure the book would not make University Press "look foolish."

University Press of Kansas is supported by the six state universities overseen by the Kansas Board of Regents. University Press publishes about 60 titles a year. In fiscal year 2000 the publisher sold 181,354 books and had sales of just more than \$2 million.

"UFOs and Abductions" sells for \$34.95 and can be ordered from University Press by calling 864-4155.

— Erwin Seba's phone message number is 832-7145. His e-mail address is eseba@jworld.com.





# LOOKING BACK

[All articles on pages 5 & 6 are from Cleveland, OH newspapers, either PRESS, NEWS or PLAIN DEALER]

## Says Spacemen Out of This World Guide "Saucers"

NEW YORK, Dec. 27—(UP)—True Magazine said today that "informed authorities" believe that "flying saucers" are interplanetary vehicles manned by spacemen from a distant civilization more advanced than on earth.

True said it learned that "a rocket authority stationed at Wright Field, O., has told... (Air Force) personnel flatly that the saucers are interplanetary and that no other conclusion is possible."

(Wright Field officials, however, did not support this view. "There is nothing new or startling to indicate that the saucers are interplanetary visitors," said one official.)

Basing its conclusions on an eight-month investigation by Donald E. Keyhoe, a former

PRESS, Dec. 27, 1949

Navy flier and former official years. of the Department of Commerce Aeronautics Branch, True said it has come to the "considered conviction" that the planet Earth has been under systematic close-range examination by "living, intelligent observers from another planet" during the last 175

True pointed out that the "discernible pattern of observation and exploration" shown varies "in no important particular from well-developed American plans for the exploration of space expected to come to fruition within the next 50 years."

## COMES NOW 'FLYING ICE CREAM CONE'

April 8, 1950  
GOUVERNEUR, N. Y. (INS)—Comes now the "Flying Ice Cream Cone."

According to James L. Kraker, retired Navy lieutenant, he and three other Navy men saw an ice-cream-cone-shaped object whizzing through the skies, 10,000 feet above Alameda, Cal.

Kraker said he has told naval intelligence all about it. He added that personally he does not think the flying saucer stories are "the nonsense the military seems to wish the public to believe."

UPPER SANDUSKY, O. (AP)—Those mysterious flying objects have shown up over Upper Sandusky.

Richard Widman and James Shafer of Upper Sandusky reported seeing an object they said appeared to be elliptical in shape. It was moving at high altitude, giving off a constant and brilliant light but no noise.

## This Flying Saucer Dunked in the Lake

Aug. 26, 1952  
WATKINS GLEN, N. Y., Aug. 26—(UP)—If three carpenters really saw what they think they did, then there's a flying saucer sitting at the bottom of Seneca Lake today.

The carpenters said they were working atop a building yesterday when their saucer flashed "like a bright sheet of silver" over the horizon. They reported the craft suddenly nosedived into the lake, kicking up a 10-foot splash, then disappeared beneath the water.

State police at Horseheads, N. Y., said they would "look into the matter."

Aug. 13, 1952

## Square Flying Saucer

HOLDENVILLE, Okla., Aug. 13—C. A. Holland, assistant Hughes County attorney, reported today he saw an unidentified object "moving at tremendous speed" through the sky. He said the object was square.

## Fiery Cone, Green Mist in Southern Ohio Sky Remains Deep Mystery

Jan. 8, 1948  
WILMINGTON, O., Jan. 8—(AP)—A phenomenon of the skies, a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist, appeared near the Clinton County army airbase last night and today it continued to provide a mystery for the thousands of people who saw it.

The army airbase late today issued a formal statement on the matter, but, a spokesman said, officials there still had no idea what it was or what it might mean.

"The sky phenomenon, described by observers at the Clinton County airbase as having the appearance of a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist, appeared in the southwest skies of Wilmington Wednesday night between 7:20 and 7:55 p. m. (Eastern standard time)," the army statement said.

### "Hung Suspended"

The statement continued: "Staff Sgt. Gale F. Walter and Corp. James Hudson, patrol tower operators at the airfield, first saw the phenomenon at 7:20 p. m. and observed its maneuvers in the sky up to 7:55 p. m. when it reportedly disappeared over the horizon. The sky phenomenon hung suspended in the air at intervals and then gained and lost altitude at what appeared to be terrific bursts of speed. The intense brightness of the sky phenomena pierced through a heavy layer of clouds passing intermittently over the area and obscuring other celestial phenomena."

"Master Sergt. Irvin H. Lewis, Staff Sgt. John P. Haag, Sergt. Harold E. Olvis and Tech Sergt. Leroy Zeigler, four members of the alert crew, joined the patrol tower operators in observing the sky phenomenon for approximately 35 minutes."

Dr. J. J. Nassau, director of the Warner & Swasey Observatory at Case Institute of Technology, said he had noted "nothing unusual" in the skies Wednesday night and hazarded a guess that the phenomenon reported at Wilmington, O., might have been a reflection on

the clouds from some movement on the earth.

The fact that the cone moved rapidly at intervals would indicate that the phenomenon was probably not of astronomical origin, Dr. Nassau said. Heavenly bodies, even though they actually move at great speeds, are so far away that their movement does not seem to be rapid, he remarked.

Moreover, a purely astronomical object probably would have been visible in Cleveland, Dr. Nassau said.

### 'Flying Saucer' Chase Kills Flier

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 8—(AP)—Several areas of Kentucky and adjoining states were excited today over reports of a "flying saucer" which led to the death of a national guard flier and fruitless chases by several other pilots.

Guard headquarters said Capt. Thomas F. Mantell, jr., 25, was killed late yesterday while chasing what was reported as a "flying saucer" near Franklin, Ky.

Astronomers at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., reported they saw some object in the sky Wednesday afternoon which they believed to be a balloon but the Nashville Weather Bureau said it knew of no balloons in that vicinity.

Col. Guy F. Hix, commanding officer at Godman Field, adjoining Fort Knox, said he observed the "flying saucer" for some time. He said three national guard planes were contacted by radio and instructed to investigate.

Glenn Mayes, who lives near Franklin, said he saw Mantell's plane flying at an extremely high altitude shortly before it apparently exploded in the air.

July 5, 1952

## Report 'Saucer Over Atom Plant'

DENVER, Col., July 5—(UP)—Four Florida pilots, three of them World War II veterans, told today of seeing a "flying saucer" hovering over the Hanford atomic plant at Richlands, Wash.

Capt. John Baldwin of Coral Gables, Fla., an air force pilot in the Pacific during World War II, who has 7,000 hours of air line pilot experience, said the object he

and his companions saw early today was a "perfectly round disc, white in color and almost transparent with small vapor trails off it like the tentacles of an octopus."

He said he was flying at about 9,000 feet and saw the object "just below a deck of wispy clouds about 10,000 to 15,000 feet directly above us."

All of us have been flying a number of years and we've seen all kinds of clouds and formations, but none of us had ever seen anything like this before," Baldwin said.

NEWS, March 7, 1950

## Flying Saucers Appear In North African Skies

TUNIS (INS)—Flying saucers, having looked over the U. S. and Europe, are now beginning to flash their way through North African skies.

The celestial phenomena, which

have been variously described as the aftermath of A-bomb explosions, space ships from Mars and the product of mass hypotism, have been sighted both in Tunisian and Algerian skies.

PRESS, June 18, 1952

## Weatherman Sees 'Flying Saucer'

PUEBLO, Colo., June 18—(UP)—Orville Foster of the U. S. Weather Bureau at the municipal airport here said he sighted "an object commonly called a flying saucer" on the bureau's theodolite last night.

He said the nondescript object circled leisurely for 10 minutes and then disappeared toward the northeast.

Theodolite is the instrument the weather bureau uses to observe its weather balloons.

Dec. 4, 1953

## Youngstown Sights Mystery Object

EAST LIVERPOOL, O. (AP)—Another report of a strange object high over Youngstown came today from the night supervisor at the nearby Calcutta Ground Observer Corps station.

Mrs. Theodore Ashbaugh said the air filter center at Canton alerted the observer station at 5:30 p. m. yesterday to watch for an object about the size of a bushel basket and trailing a bright stream of light.

Mrs. Ashbaugh said jet interceptors, based at Youngstown, were unable to catch it.

# New "Saucer" Reports Leave Air Force Cold

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18—(UP)—The Air Force said today that, despite recent reports to the contrary, it still believes there is no such thing as a "flying saucer."

A spokesman said that Air Force intelligence and technical officers had not been impressed by any of the latest accounts of flying discs.

The Air Force position, he said, still is that reports of unidentified flying objects results from "misinterpretation of various conventional objects, a mild form of mass hysteria or hoaxes."

The Air Force reached this conclusion last December after a special group of civilian scientists and Air Force technical officers had investigated 375 "flying saucer" incidents over a two-year period.

Since then, preliminary investigation of such reports has been left to Air Force technical and intelligence officers at field bases. So far, no reports has had enough credibility to be forwarded here.

FARMINGTON, N. M., Mar. 18—(UP)—Most of the 5000 residents of this northwestern New Mexico oil town said today that they were "absolutely convinced" that flying saucers exist.

More than 50 witnesses reported a mass flight of disc-shaped objects yesterday.

The witnesses said the aerial flood of flying saucers was staged by group waves which numbered up "into the hundreds."

Clayton Boddy, advertising manager of the Farmington Daily Times, said he was with a group of five businessmen who saw the first group of saucers appear.

HAVANA, Mar. 18—(UP)—A Cuban pilot said today he had tracked a flying saucer over eastern Cuba for 15 minutes last Thursday morning.

The pilot, Capt. Miguel Murciano, of the Cuban Aviation Co., said he first sighted the saucer

while flying from Santiago to Antilla Airport. All crew members and passengers saw the shiny disc, Murciano said, and a large group of persons watched the saucer from the ground.

BURSA, Turkey, Mar. 18—(UP)—Priests chanting the morning prayer call atop minarets of this ancient city reported today they had seen flying saucers.

July 23, 1952

## SAUCER SAUCE

### Sky Watch Spots a Dot Over Lake

A bright orange object traveling west "at a terrific rate of speed" over Lake Erie was reported today by the crew of "Operation Skywatch" atop Hotel Westlake.

Richard Fisher, assistant chief observer, said the object appeared to be the size of a pin-point and was flying at about 5,000 feet. He estimated its distance at eight or nine miles north of the observation post.

The strange orange dot in the sky was first seen by Dr. Ray McKeon, who shared the night watch with Fisher, at 12:53 a. m. It remained in view of both men for three minutes, Fisher said, and was reported to the Canton Filter Station by telephone as a "saucer."

From Columbus came a report of a mysterious object flying at 65,000 feet. Six armed jet planes took off in pursuit but could not overtake it. The Air Force decided it was only a weather research balloon.

Meanwhile, five "Skywatch" observers in a lookout tower in Brunswick, Medina County, saw a red-orange object in the sky at 1:30 a. m. The "light" remained stationary at 3,500 feet for 10 minutes, and then moved on, they reported. They described the object as the size of a baseball.

July 26, 1953

## SKY LIGHTS MYSTIFY

Seven Over Texas City Baffle Observers

DENISON, Tex., July 26—(AP)—Seven mysterious red lights hung over this North Texas city last night for more than a quarter of an hour.

Nearby Perrin Air Force Base reported it had the lights under surveillance for 16 minutes but declined to say whether they were visible on radar screens. The field said it had no weather balloons aloft.

All but two of the lights were gone when an airplane was seen by newsmen to circle the remaining objects. The lights disappeared as the plane circled.

Aug. 23, 1952

# Scoutmaster Tells of Kayo Blast by Fiery Disk in Florida Woods

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 23—(AP)—A scoutmaster revealed today a wierd story of his encounter with a saucer-like object in a rural area near here last Tuesday.

D. S. Desvergers, 30, hardware salesman and former marine, said he was "blasted by a ball of fire" from the strange object when he attempted to investigate flashes of light near a country road.

## Shaped Like Half Ball

The scoutmaster described the object to air force officers as shaped "like half a rubber ball," about three feet thick at the edges and high enough at the center for men to stand erect inside.

Desvergers reported he was taking three Scouts home Tuesday night when he stopped to investigate the lights in near-by woods. He said when he flashed his light on the object, he was blasted by the ball of fire and overcome.

Deputy Sheriff Mott N. Partin, summoned by the Scouts, said the hair was singed off Desvergers' arms and three tiny holes were burned in his cap. He also said he found evidence of scorched grass where the scoutmaster said he encountered the object.

One of the Scouts, Charles Stevens, said the group saw a "big glowing white light come down out of the sky" and "there were

about six reddish lights around it when it neared the ground."

David Rowan, another Scout, said that soon after Desvergers entered the woods, something "went off and showered sparks all over the area like a roman candle."

## Area Scorched

Deputy Sheriff Partin related that when he went into the woods the grass "seemed to be scorched or blistered" in the small clearing where the scoutmaster claimed he met the object.

No trace of the object has been found. Investigators theorized that it either exploded or disappeared rapidly.

Desvergers claimed the object housed beings "who were as afraid of me as I was of them." That, he said, was why they projected a "ball of fire directly at my head."

He indicated that he and "high ranking officers from Washington," whom he refused to identify, were substantially in agreement on what the object was.

"I know what it is, and it's of vital importance," he told the Palm Beach reporter. "But it's better for me not to go any further for the public good, because it might cause another Orson Welles panic."

He was referring to an "Invasion From Mars" drama, presented by the actor in a broadcast several years ago, which caused widespread alarm among listeners in many American cities.

"It's not ours," Desvergers added. "It's not foolish to say it will determine the future of all of us some day."

## 30 Feet in Diameter

He said the object was about 30 feet in diameter and was hovering about 10 feet above the earth. When it projected a "ball of fire" at him, Desvergers said he was overcome, not only by heat and light, but also by an overpowering stench.

The area where the object was seen is approximately 12 miles southwest of the West Palm Beach business district on South Military Trail about one-quarter mile south of Lantana Road. This is about five miles southwest of Lake Worth.

The West Palm Beach Weather Bureau said that at 11 p. m. (E. S. T.) Tuesday night when the encounter occurred the sky was almost clear, except for a few scattered clouds. There had been rain during the day and lightning was seen about 9 p. m.

## Air Force Investigating

In Washington, an air force spokesman said an officer was sent to check on the incident.

He said the officer flew from air technical intelligence center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O. The center has the responsibility of analyzing the reports of unusual aerial objects.

The air force spokesman said "we cannot tell yet just what it was there." He added:

"We spoke to the man, but we had nothing up to now upon which to base a conclusion.

"We are going to continue to check up and to get all the facts together."

Aug. 25, 1952

## 'SIZE OF FOOTBALL'

### Police Spot Saucer With White Light

Add the names of four Cleveland policemen and two East Siders to the list of "flying saucer" spotters.

Patrolmen Eugene Terpay and Robert Tadsen said they were talking to Leroy Williams, 3948 Cedar Ave. and John McWilliams, 3028 E. 79th St. in Woodland Hills Park at 3:20 a. m. when they noticed a bright object in the sky.

Both said the object, "about the size of a football," was traveling north to south. Patrolman Terpay said it had "a white light," while his partner described it as "light, surrounded with kind of a haze."

"It was impossible to estimate how fast it was going or how high it was," Patrolman Terpay said, "but it seemed to be floating slowly through the sky." Both said they were positive it was not an airplane.

Patrolmen Leo Maksym and William Brown said they were driving across the Detroit-Superior High Level Bridge between "3 and 3:30 a. m." when they saw a "bright object" make a semicircle in the sky and disappear out over the lake.

"It was 10,000 to 15,000 feet in the sky and traveling at a high rate of speed," Patrolman Maksym said.

May 23, 1951

## '51 Flying Saucers in Midwest Show

By UNITED PRESS

Flying saucers, real or imaginary, were back with us today.

They appeared, the people who claimed they saw them said, over Kansas and Minnesota yesterday.

About 50 residents at the Eastern end of Rainy Lake near International Falls, Minn., said they saw a "crystal ball" which performed like "a huge humming bird" as it flashed across the skies. It was joined later by another "crystal ball."

And an American Airlines pilot said a "bluish white star played tag" with his plane at an altitude of 21,000 feet southwest of Dodge City, Kans.





# FOREIGN NEWS

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

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Scunthorpe, England - Aug. 11, 2000

For decades UFO-watchers have been trying to convince us that the truth is out there – but as fast as someone brings in some undeniable proof, someone else discounts it. Now a Scunthorpe man and UFO expert has thrown his hat into the ring with a new book that will add more astrofuel to the fire.

## Truth is out there

**L**IKE so many others, Nigel Watson became interested in UFOs in 1968 with the first moon landings.

He scoured the central library for everything he could find on the lunar mission, coming across books and Telegraph clippings about unexplained object sightings along the way.

"I started interviewing people who said they had seen things in the sky, and got so interested I helped set up the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society at Grange Farm Hobbies centre," he said.

Nigel, who lived on Angerstein Road, Ashby, helped run the society for most of the 1970s. "We collected quite a few cases," he said.

The year 1971 was a big year for UFOs over Scunthorpe – no doubt connected to the explosion of interest in outer space following the moon landings.

"Even my grandmother saw a floating red ball of light over the town," remembers Nigel. "And quite a few other people saw it."

One celebrated case concerned a group of people driving back from Grimsby who thought their car was being chased by a ball of light.

But Nigel, a former steelworker, remained firmly on the sceptical side of ufology, believing the fiery globe was in fact the planet Venus and the incident caused by a combination of driving at night and over-excitement.

"Because Lincolnshire is so flat there tends to be a lot of sightings in the countryside. We used to get a lot of Vulcan bombers coming over which would look like flying saucers on the horizon."

"Our group used to go to Ashbyville to watch the skies. It always felt spooky and one or two people saw lights over there."

"But there are a lot of electricity pylons in the area."

Hoax sightings abound – Nigel remembers a case in the 1950s when two lads leaving a pub claimed to have seen a 'bottle-shaped' UFO in the sky. The case was covered in the Telegraph, and no explanation ever found.

"Twenty years later I was there when one of those lads confessed it was a hoax," says Nigel. "I suppose it was obvious – they'd just left a pub and saw a bottle in the sky. A lot of hoaxers leave a clue around."

He admits to being stumped only once, when he believes he saw a UFO himself.

"I was once was in back garden in Ashby and saw a little ball of light I thought was an aeroplane," he says. "But it shot away really fast and was like a meteor going upwards. I don't have an explanation for that."

Nigel is now a technical author living in Portsmouth, and his continuing fascination with the

subject has led him to publish a book about some UFO sightings which swept the country, but are now largely forgotten.

The Scareship Mystery (Domra Publications) chronicles reports of what were thought to be German Zeppelins in 1909 – long before the term UFO had ever been formed.

"Literally thousands throughout England saw lights in the sky – there were sightings in Doncaster and Hull and right across Humberside."

"It set off a social panic and questions were asked in the House of Commons – Churchill used it to build up our defences."

"It is really hard to pin down, but it is unlikely the Germans would have done that."

And the answer? There isn't one, says Nigel – yet.

"I suppose I'm a sympathetic sceptic. I want to believe, but ..."

jo.rogers@scunthorpetelegraph.co.uk



AUTHOR: Nigel Watson.

**T**HE last big year for UFO sightings in North Lincolnshire was 1997, according to Hangar 18 chairman Dave Jackson.

"That was our busiest time – black triangles were seen across the country and all over the world."

"At the moment we seem to get a lot of orange balls being reported."

"We have no idea what they are – if we did we'd be half way to solving it."

Hangar 18 meets every month to discuss local UFO sightings, and Dave is convinced there really is something out there.

"I'm a firm believer, without a doubt," he states.

His own experiences include seeing something hanging in the sky over Gunness Wharf –

and then flying off towards Keadby.

"I've come to the conclusion that we can't be alone. There's been a cover-up for over 50 years and it's still going on now."

"It would blow your mind if we knew everything."

Hangar 18 has around 30 members, and holds a yearly all-night 'skywatch' to scour the heavens.

Every time there is a report or a sighting a group member goes out to interview the witness and a comprehensive file of the sighting is compiled.

"A lot can be put down to mistaken identity," says Dave. "But not all of them."

One recent unexplained sighting happened in Keadby where two women saw something

flying 50ft above their heads. It came so close they could see windows in the side of it – but it didn't make a sound.

Minutes later a man reported a sighting in Epworth.

"What it was I honestly don't know," says Dave, who always checks with local airports and helicopter stations following a sighting.

"But something did fly over there that night. A true UFO – unidentified flying object."

■ Hangar 18 meets at the Dragonby Hotel on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm.

For more information call Dave Jackson on (01724) 848612/07957 980500, or Amanda Gibson on (01482) 839746.

(Ref: S310700G)



BELIEVERS: The Hangar 18 group includes (left to right) Raymond Burnett, Simon Peel, Dave Jackson and Bruce Wilson.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - Oct. 21, 2000

## SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

## Questions military do not want to answer

FOR YEARS, the British military dismissed the UFO phenomenon. They claimed UFOs were "of no defence significance" and so of no interest.

We know now the Ministry of Defence were closely following UFO encounters. They kept extensive files.

In May 1993, an RAF Hercules on a training mission crashed near the village of Blair Atholl.

Even after an official inquiry the cause of the accident remained a mystery. But the evidence of one witness was never heard.

If it had, it might have raised unsettling questions. Questions the authorities would not want.

For, months before the disaster, David Evans, of Dunblane, had watched strange objects in the sky ... disc-shaped UFOs, which seemed to be using the surrounding hills as their landing site.

David explained: "I had seen them take off and land from the hills a few miles from my house."

"I never thought of them as other than friendly ... until the day of the accident. I had been watching the hills for signs of UFO activity when the plane flew over."

"I was then amazed to see one of the disc-shaped objects lift off and speed after the plane."

David had no doubt that the UFO was tracking the Hercules.

**UFO seemed to be carrying out some kind of experiment**

So could the UFO have been responsible for the accident. Or was it simply a chance encounter "of no defence significance."

In the 1970s, Joyce Byars claimed she had logged over 100 UFO sightings over Moffat.

She reported that an enormous spaceship, which she christened 'Big Bertha', was using the hills around the town as a landing site. She was convinced it was a threat.

The UFO seemed to be carrying out some kind of experiment. Dropping objects from the sky and then picking them up again. But someone in authority seemed to know what was going on.

Once a plane appeared as Big Bertha was in the sky and seemed to be monitoring its activities.

The UFO responded by flying directly at the aircraft which may have been destroyed. It certainly vanished from sight.

There's no doubt that in the 1970s small aircraft crashed in the area in mysterious circumstances.

In July 1976, several people died when a privately-owned Piper Aztec ploughed into a hillside north of Moffat. This was less than a year after four met their death in an unexplained plane crash close to Dalmellington village.

Then there was the mysterious disappearance of pilot Jane Whylam last heard of flying towards the town of Hawick.

WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE, England - Nov. 2, 2000

## Jenny views the mystery lights show

TALES of mysterious lights in the Blackpool sky filled 11-year-old Jenny Randles with awe.

Staying in a town centre hotel, she listened to other guests discussing bizarre lights and buzzing noises.

It was a life transforming moment for Jenny, of Fleetwood, now one of the world's foremost researchers of the paranormal.

While Blackpool's version of the northern lights of 1953 was never explained, Jenny has since written almost 50 books about UFOs and other phenomena – using her training as a science teacher.

Tonight Jenny joins fellow researchers from The Project Penine Group, who reckon something is happening on the Penine Moors beyond the realms

By JACQUELINE MORLEY  
Chief Feature Writer

of modern science. The claim is made during an investigation by Close Up North on BBC2 at 7.30pm tonight called The Haunted Valleys.

The Longdendale Valley from Glossop to Barnsley is dubbed the "most haunted place in Britain" for its strange lights.

### Driving

Art teacher Sean Wood, who lives opposite one of the key sites, Shining Clough, recalls: "It was as though somebody had driven an articulated wagon up the road and pointed the lights on full directly into the front room so much so that it was coming through the corridor and lighting the kitchen."

Mrs Laverne Marshall, who

lives in Glossop, was driving through the valley with her daughter when balls of light appeared inside her car.

"I won't go back into the valley now. I'm too frightened. My daughter and I were terrified. The lights moved around the car and then as suddenly as they had come they vanished."

Jenny said: "We're dealing with an energy phenomena here which originates in ways that science doesn't understand yet."

She is joined by science author Paul Devereux, who has studied the lights for years. He believes he has the answer to the mystery in the programme – and concludes we are not alone.

Local expert Jenny will also be available for a live web chat following tonight's programme: [www.bbc.co.uk/manchester](http://www.bbc.co.uk/manchester).



RIDICULE: How early UFO reports were greeted – a cartoon from 1909.

# UFO JOE

Until recently Joe Firmage was a young computer tycoon regarded as the next Bill Gates. Now he's preparing humanity for imminent alien contact. William Langley reports

Until his interests shifted to outer space, Joe Firmage was doing fine on Earth. A multimillionaire computer tycoon since his early twenties, Firmage had a splendid house, a pepper-red roadster and a spread of landscaped offices. Then he discovered 'the Truth'.

One morning Firmage woke to find an apparition at the foot of his bed, which explained certain things about space, time and energy, then sent a bolt of blinding light into his body. By the time he got out of bed, Firmage realised his tycoon days were over. His mission was to discover the secrets of worlds beyond ours, and the beings that might inhabit them. Now, at 29, he believes his task is to prepare humanity for imminent alien contact. To this end, he has published *The Truth*, a 600-page manifesto.

Like all truths, Firmage's comes with consequences. One of these is that many of those who thought he was going to be the next Bill Gates now regard 'UFO Joe' as a clear case of circuit overload. He has been removed from the top job at US Web, the company he founded four years ago. 'Joe is a marquee name in the industry,' says Gary Rieschel, one of the directors. 'He has done a wonderful job here. The problem is that some of our competitors were going around saying we were run by a crackpot.'

Gaunt and earnest, Firmage looks and sounds nothing like most of the buffed and sleek young executives who crowd Silicon Valley's boom towns. In the space of 20 years, the computer industry has turned this strip of coastal farmland into the richest place in America, and the world's most powerful magnet for talent. Joe was one of those who felt the pull early.

A direct descendant of Brigham Young, the first disciple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who led the Mormons to Utah, Firmage was born in Salt Lake City. His father, Edwin, is a distinguished lawyer and former advisor to President Lyndon Johnson. At 17 Joe won a scholarship to the University of Utah. He set his heart on becoming an astrophysicist, then discovered how badly paid it was. 'A career that might bring in \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year,' he winces. 'It was a pretty depressing measure of worth.' Computers offered the same excitement but more money.

Firmage realised that the people who could benefit most from new technology were those least likely to understand it. Before his 20th birthday he founded Sirius, a company designing software to simplify the business of programming. In 1993 he sold Sirius for \$24 million, and used the money to found US Web, which helps businesses to make sense of the internet; when it was floated on the stock exchange last year it was valued at nearly \$3 billion.

Firmage is currently estimated to be worth at least \$100 million, and a good slice of that is riding on his hunch that ET will soon

come knocking. He believes that many of today's technologies were found in the wreckage of crashed UFOs. Aliens have had the Earth under surveillance for thousands of years, apparently, and governments have conspired to keep this fact from us. The key date is 1947, when an alien spaceship is rumoured to have crashed in the New Mexico desert — the celebrated 'Roswell Incident'. 'Within six months of Roswell,' says Firmage, 'the CIA was formed, the National Security Act was passed, the Majestic Twelve operation was launched and the air force separated from the army. And then all these technological advances started spilling out of the military-industrial complex — semiconductors, microwaves, lasers, fibre optics. Is that all coincidence?'

Just up the road from Firmage's office is the headquarters of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, a private agency that takes a sceptical view of UFOs. Its director, Professor Frank Drake, says: 'We are interested in all new information on this subject, and that's the problem with Joe's stuff; it's not new. I wish him well, but he needs to move on.'

There are UFO bores everywhere, especially in California, where eight per cent of the population claims to have been abducted in one. Is Firmage any different? He is dressed in beetroot cords and a smoke-blue shirt with the word *kairos* (Greek for 'truth') written on it. An ill-nourished beard writhes around the point of his chin. He doesn't look like a corporate whizz-kid, but he doesn't look like a fruitcake either.

'Look out there,' he says, nodding towards the darkening sky. 'The whole of 20th-century physics is built around the idea of space as pure nothingness. Let's suppose that idea is wrong, that space is not a void but a boundless sea of staggeringly potent energy. And that it is possible to harness that energy. What then?'

Thankfully, Firmage answers this question himself. 'Then,' he says, 'you can begin to form an understanding of the science that makes the UFO concept plausible. You are over the feasibility hurdle.' What he means is that the flight characteristics of UFOs, as described by those who claim to have seen them, breach the laws of physics. It simply is not possible for a craft, flying at thousands of miles an hour, to stop dead without imploding under the forces of deceleration and turning its occupants into salsa.

But suppose — a favourite Firmage word — that UFOs are *not* bound by the laws of physics. Then they *could* do what they are said to do. Firmage declares that it is now possible not only to understand how UFOs work, but also to emulate the technology. Stripped of technicalities, his theory is that a UFO produces a kind of synthetic gravity field through which it 'falls', swiftly but gently,

to its destination. Once we adopt this technology, he says, we will graduate to the fraternity of higher intelligences. Then the aliens, who have barely intruded into our lives until now, will make themselves known.

We are sitting in Firmage's small office in Santa Clara, a bustling Valley town north of San Jose. 'It's a lot easier to trivialise issues like UFOs and extraterrestrial life,' he says, 'than it is to consider that we've been engineering energy for only around 100 years in a multibillion-year planetary history. People say: "Well, if there really are flying saucers out there, why do they visit cornfields in Kansas? Why don't they land on the White House lawn?"'

The answer can be found in the history of our planet. Every time an advanced society has come into contact with a primitive one, the result has been the decimation of the weaker society. This has happened even where there was no hostile intent. The primitive society loses its coherence and ultimately disintegrates. There is an optimum time for such contact to take place, and it is clearly the moment when the lesser society advances to the point where it can deal with the implications of higher technology. That time, I believe, is very, very close.'

As he advances these propositions, Firmage is composed and polite. But there is a slight, faintly unnerving glaze in his eyes. Deep private anxiety? Or simply the effort of explaining? Since he seems happy to discuss his sanity, I ask if he has sought a professional opinion, and his eyes do a spooky roll. He says he is confident about both his balance and his intellect. 'There are people I trust who would tell me if they thought I needed help, but no one has done that.'

One of these people is Ann Druyan, the widow and former business partner of the astronomer Carl Sagan. Disgusted by what she called the 'corporate persecution'

of Firmage, she contacted him with a proposal. Sagan, who died in 1996, was fascinated by the possibilities of extraterrestrial life. His other passion was broadcasting. So Druyan asked Firmage if he would be interested in a joint venture; this autumn a Firmage-Sagan entertainment company will be launched in Los Angeles. It will, says Joe, 'transform our understanding of cosmic phenomena'.

'Our agreement allows me to walk away from this venture if it leads to anything we feel reflects badly on my husband's reputation,' Ms Druyan tells me. 'Carl worked with many people whose views he did not necessarily share. We are not in business to promote Joe's

ideas about aliens or anything else. I will run the production company, making movies and television specials and publishing books. He will have charge of the huge website devoted to emerging scientific topics.'

'The Truth' dawned on Joe Firmage at 6am on a winter's morning in 1997 at his house in the bijou town of Los Gatos. (He lives alone, and says he doesn't have 'the bandwidth' to handle a steady relationship.) 'The alarm clock had gone off, I'd hit the snooze button and was dozing. Somehow, I was aware of this light in the room, and there was a figure hovering above my feet. It was a human form, an elderly man, glowing and looking down at me.' The vision wanted to know why it had been disturbed. Firmage replied: 'Because I want to travel through space and time.' The vision, says Firmage,

'chuckled: "Why should you have that opportunity?" I heard myself saying, "Because I am prepared to die for it."

'He became very still and out of him came this blue, shining sphere of energy, about the size of a basketball. It floated down and passed into my body. I was overcome by this amazing feeling of ecstasy, a pleasure thousands of times beyond orgasm.'

I ask Firmage if he might have been dreaming, and he shakes his head. Doesn't he, by telling this story, risk undermining those strands of his thinking that have a chance of being taken seriously? 'Maybe,' he sighs. 'I don't offer an explanation. I'm just saying it happened.'

Firmage has spent \$5 million to set up an institute to

**'If there really are flying saucers out there, why do they visit cornfields in Kansas? Why don't they land on the White House lawn?'**

research space sciences. His website ([www.firmage.org](http://www.firmage.org)) displays hundreds of pages of what is claimed to be previously unpublished material, including US government files. 'We have our own Deep Throat in cyberspace,' grins Firmage. This includes a 1947 memo from President Truman ordering a classified operation, code-named 'Majestic Twelve', to investigate UFOs, and subsequent high-level letters that appear to acknowledge a series of UFO crashes, including Roswell.

All this has been a Hollywood staple for years, and it is appropriate that Firmage has set up shop there. But, for him, aliens are fact, not fiction. He's there to give all he has — his tremendous conviction, his remarkable intellect, his vast financial resources — to prepare the way for 'the greatest event in all of human history'. To regard this as a tragedy you have to believe he is wrong. ■

## Mince pie UFO author sought

A former Dudley author who wrote about "The Mince pie Martian Case" is being sought by the members of a UFO publication.

John Hanson from the Flying Saucer Review (FSR) said he and his colleagues were trying to trace a Mrs E Morris who interviewed Rowley Regis housewife Jean Hingley about the case in 1979.

The case, dubbed in the press The Mince pie Martian Case, took place in the run up to Christmas.

At the time, Mrs Hingley said she had waved her husband off to work at 7am when she saw a light in the garden.

A spacecraft landed and three creatures flew into her living room and examined the Christmas tree.

### Shocked

The shocked resident offered them some water and mince pies, but the aliens declined.

When Mrs Hingley then showed them how to light a cigarette, they fled in terror — each taking a mince pie.

Mr Hanson said the group believed that Mrs Morris had lived in Dudley during the late 1970s.

He said: "We have tried all the local UFO groups, but to no avail, it appears that a lot of people have forgotten about the case."

"We know Mrs Morris wrote a book and produced some drawings, but unfortunately we do not know much more about her, not even her first name."

Mr Hanson, a former police officer, said the group had tried to track down Mrs Hingley, but believed she and her husband had died.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Mrs Morris, or anything about the case can contact Mr Hanson on 07870 359210.



# My secret life as a computer hacker

Forget GT Online – hacker Matt Bevan broke into the top secret computer systems of NATO, NASA and the United States Airforce.

**Magnus Buchanan** caught up with him on his visit to Guernsey for an E-security conference, and asked what motivates a hacker

**M**ANY of us are fascinated by the possibility that UFOs might exist. Few are quite as determined as Matt Bevan, or his alter ego Kuji, in our search to discover the answer.

Bevan faced charges in 1994 for his access to the computer networks at the Griffiths and Patterson airforce bases as well as at the Lockheed Martin Space and Missile Company. American officials had become so concerned at Kuji's ability to ghost in and out of their most classified systems that the hacker's activity was discussed in the Senate.

Many officials were convinced that he was a Russian spy. However, after his capture by the FBI and lengthy legal proceedings, no evidence was offered against Bevan.

A free man, he walked out of the courtrooms and into the land of hacking folklore.

In person, 25-year old Cardiff-born Bevan does not fit the profile of the stereotypical computer whizzkid.

He is tall, pony-tailed and holds his stature with an air of confidence. Nevertheless, he says that his life with computers did result largely from his unhappiness as a teenager.

'I was basically bullied almost every day of my life at school. For me, it was great to escape into a world where people were friendly to me and I could even become rated as important.' Bevan did not receive his first computer until he was 12 years old, and along with many other children of his generation, it was a ZX81.

Through his teenage years, he graduated through a BBC, a Commodore 64 and a

Commodore Amiga before reaching the PCs that now dominate the home computer market.

It was not until his 14th birthday that he received the gift that truly transformed his life – a modem.

After an initially shocking phone bill, Bevan's parents were delighted that their son appeared to have ceased making calls. But he had not – instead he was learning the secrets of telephone phreaking.

Making a connection to a long distance free phone number, the young hacker sent tones down the line that indicated he had hung up. In fact, he still remained on the network at an undetectable level, eavesdropping and making calls at his leisure.

Bevan spent much of his time in an illegal Internet community called Sin City, becoming involved in PHATE (Phreaking Hacking And Terrorism Enterprises magazine).

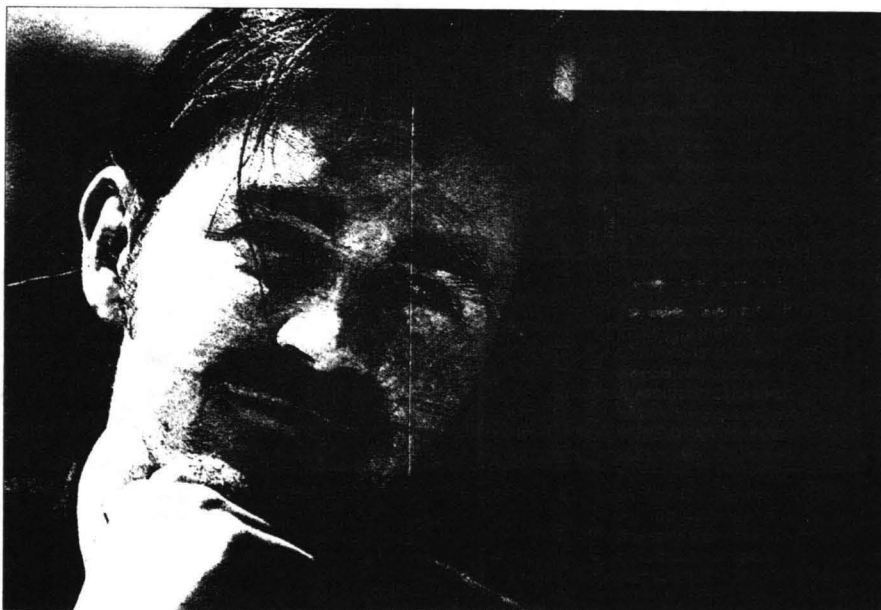
'It's a bit embarrassing now,' he admitted.

But after playing pranks for several years, Bevan discovered his true mission – to uncover the truth about UFOs.

Bevan is unapologetic about his protracted trespasses into American military installations and their effect on the government there.

'I basically wanted to find more about UFOs. I'd read and researched a lot of stories and I

*'Bevan's parents were delighted he had ceased making phone calls. But he had not – instead he was learning the secrets of telephone phreaking'*



■ LOVE AT FIRST BYTE: Matt Bevan got hooked on hacking from the age of 14.

(Picture by Chris George, 3803/19/00)

tried to search the systems for things that might be connected.' He was unable to find conclusive evidence in the sites but drew his own conclusions from some of the classified material that he viewed.

'There were some very interesting things relating to engine technology. I don't know of any engine capable of Mach 15 that was available in 1994.' He also discovered many references to a mysterious Hangar 18, which he believes to be connected to the Roswell incident – when a UFO is said to have crashed and alien life forms were claimed to have been found on board.

'There were many things there

and, yes, I do value my freedom,' he says, tightening his lip. Bevan's biography bears a truly uncanny resemblance to the plot of Wargames.

It is tempting to believe that, just as in the film, programmers might actually leave 'backdoors' in their systems to help them bypass security.

'It really does happen. They're told not to do it but they just keep on.'

Bevan proceeds to outline a recent case in which a well-known Internet shopping channel was breached because the Microsoft engineer left a derogatory remark about rivals Netscape as an access-to-all-areas password.

Even so, there is no particular technique that hackers use. 'It really does come down to the individual site or server. There are so many different applications on the Internet – music, bulletins, business, which means that there are many different functionalities to be abused.'

The myth of hackers operating from their bedrooms is also a refreshingly true one.

'The power of the computer is not that important in hacking. It's really the quality of the programming code that matters most.'

Since his acquittal, Bevan has enjoyed status as a minor celebrity with no difficulty in gaining employment, working as an Internet security auditor and lecturing at conferences. National newspapers reporting his case have referred to him as a spy and criminal while also saluting him as a lone genius and a prodigy.

If Bevan is aware of the way in which the media has distorted him to its own ends, he certainly enjoys the notoriety that they have brought him.

Most of all, he is perhaps a living example of the rewards of breaking the rules.

'I still keep my hand in. I still love to hack,' he says. 'Legally of course,' he quickly adds.

# Valley of ghosts

## Probe into UFOs and hauntings

By Tony Belshaw

A VALLEY on the outskirts of Sheffield dubbed 'the most haunted place in Britain' is to be the subject of a BBC documentary.

Close Up North is to examine what have become known as The Haunted Valleys – the area between Glossop and Barnsley which have seen many strange sightings of mysterious lights which baffled scientists.

It follows years of reports of strange goings-on, particularly in the Longendale Valley between the two towns.

Some claim the lights are ghostly apparitions of Roman soldiers marching by torchlight. Others say they are UFOs.

People have reportedly been chased by bubbles of light which followed and entered their car.

Laverne Marshall, of Glossop, tells the programme: 'I won't go back in the valley now. I'm too frightened. My daughter Stacey and I were terrified. The lights moved around

the car and then, as suddenly as they had come, they vanished.'

The programme looks at the work of the Project Pennine Group, set up to investigate.

Former Star journalist Dave Clarke, a member of the Project Pennine Group, said: 'The area between Manchester, Leeds, and Sheffield has got by far more sightings of this kind of phenomena over the years than any other area, which is out of proportion to the population density.'

'So it suggests that there is something real and physical behind what these folklore stories are telling us.'

Scientific tests recorded strange energy levels around the valley, with some claiming the lights are the work of paranormal forces.

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - Oct. 11, 2000

**A UFO group is investigating claims of an unusual sighting over Dovercourt.**

A resident told the Essex UFO Research and Paranormal Group they saw a light speeding out to sea with white lights around its edge and down the centre. The witness said the rectangular-shaped object disappeared over the horizon in five or six seconds. Anyone with more information should call Michael Joyce on 01255 821121.

Starting this week: we uncover the Cannock-Files

# WAS THERE A CHASE UFO CRASH COVER-UP?

T.H.E...  
**C-Files**  
Mysteries from  
the Chase



Area's  
own  
**Mulder  
and  
Scully**

WE are pleased to announce that commencing with this issue, local paranormal investigators Nick Redfern and Irene Scott will be contributing a monthly column on the real-life X-Files of Cannock Chase: The C-Files.

ONick is the author of three best-selling books on UFOs: 'A Covert Agenda', 'The FBI Files', and most recently, 'Cosmic Crashes'. His books were serialised in 'The People' Sunday newspaper and he has appeared on numerous TV shows, including 'The Big Breakfast', 'GMTV', 'Channel 5 News' and 'Out of this World' with Carol Vorderman.

He also writes regularly for the newstand publication 'UFO Magazine'.

Following a personal UFO encounter near Penkridge, in 1995 Irene established the Rugeley-based Staffordshire UFO Group, which celebrates its fifth anniversary in September.

The group organises monthly lectures on UFOs which are held at the Red Rose Theatre, Rugeley. Previous speakers at the group's meetings have included Crop Circle investigator (and singer with The Troglites), Reg Presley and Ministry of Defence UFO investigator Nick Pope.

Have you witnessed a UFO? Seen a ghost? Or maybe you've had a close encounter with the elusive black panther that prowls the Cannock Chase at night?

If you have and would like to contact Nick and Irene to report the details, telephone our two C-Files investigators on 01922 869641.



Despite the incredible nature of this account, we located a source who was intimately involved. He had been driving through the Chase on that fateful day in 1964 and had come across a cordon manned by military personnel. Ordered to turn his vehicle around, he drove several hundred yards up the road, pulled over and, with camera

in hand, stealthily headed through the trees to see what the fuss was about. He soon found out. Sitting on the trailer of a military transporter was a small triangular-shaped object that looked like nothing on Earth... The witness told us

that his camera was confiscated and he was asked about his reasons for being in the area. It was made clear to him that speaking out publicly would not be in his best interests.

But that was not all.

In the day we went to interview him, he told us that he had received a strange telephone call from the MoD that had unnerved him considerably.

We looked at each other and questions flooded our minds: Was he a hoaxer?

Were we in the middle of an investigation worthy of an entire episode of the X-Files? And was our witness really being kept under apparent surveillance more than 30 years on?

We asked if we could dial 1471 to see if he was being honest. Sure enough, a number was available and it was the MoD. We were put through to a military operator and eventually traced the call to the MoD Guards Service at Whittington Army Barracks. From there, however, the only response was a deafening silence.

To this day, the origin of the mysterious object found on the Chase in 1964 remains unknown.

Was it a crashed UFO? Or was it perhaps a prototype aircraft that the military and the MoD wished to keep under wraps? At this stage the C-File on this case remains open.

Do you know what the object was? Were you part of the retrieval team? If so, give us a call.

HERALD, Penticton, B.C., Canada - Oct. 27, 2000 CR: G. Conway

## UFO believers have opportunity to hear latest on favourite subject

By BOB MUNDAY  
Penticton Herald

Are they out there? You better believe they are.

Aliens, that is. This according to an expert on extra-terrestrials as well as Okanagan residents who insist they have witnessed sightings.

UFO believers will have an opportunity to hear the latest on the subject Saturday at Okanagan University College.

Guest speaker is Graham Conway, president of UFO-BC.

Conway has focused on the abduction-contact experience for the past 25 years, during which time he has met and spoken to at least 20 claimants.

One of the Okanagan residents who is a firm believer in aliens and UFO's is 44-year-old Corina Saebels, of Summerland.

Saebels had her first UFO experience as a 10-year-old living in Quebec and says the experiences have followed her throughout her life.

"Absolutely, I'm a firm believer, without a doubt. I've seen ships myself. My brother and I, when I was living in Quebec, were playing in the backyard of our house in the middle of the day when all of a sudden we felt a humming feeling inside our stomachs.

"We both looked up," said Saebels, "and other people were pointing up, at a saucer the shape of a ship about 150 feet right above us.

"It was my first sighting of a ship and since then I've seen many," said Saebels.

Her sightings have continued over the years, including what she describes as a major event while living in Aldergrove in 1993.

She and a friend were having tea one



BOB MUNDAY / Penticton Herald

Digit, which is how an alien appears, according to Corina Saebels, will be on hand to greet those attending a lecture on UFOs Saturday at Okanagan University College.

evening in July when all of a sudden they had a strange feeling - "no sound, no lights and when we looked up there was a boomerang-shaped ship.

"The reason it was so frightening was the size of the ship; like the size of a football field. My friend was so scared he ran inside, but I stayed outside and watched it. It made me feel like I couldn't breathe," said Saebels.

That incident occurred seven years ago and, apparently, was witnessed by others. UFO-BC fielded 32 calls of the sighting. It was also her first contact with Conway and UFO-BC.

Another Summerland resident, Tom

Anderson, says he witnessed a UFO north of Los Angeles in 1996, while hiking in the mountains above Pasadena.

He thought it was one or more planes in a triangular formation.

"I expected the sound from the plane, or these planes, to reach me at any moment, but I heard nothing. I stopped walking and looked again at the lights. There was still no sound," he said.

Several calls to a number of agencies failed to explain the happening, and he realized he had seen a UFO.

"Every possibility had been checked out," he said, adding U.S. military officials told him to stay silent and not talk to the press.

"And so I kept it quiet, until now," he said.

Kelowna resident Gordon de Roos also has come forward with his account of a UFO sighting. It was May 5, 1998, when he and two friends witnessed a strange object in the sky.

Their experience lasted about two minutes as the vessel flew east over Knox Mountain, then followed the perimeter of Okanagan Lake.

UFOs are becoming an increasingly studied subject by a number of credible people, such as former astronaut Gordon Cooper, Harvard Medical School professor Dr. John Mack and Nick Pope, former British minister of defence.

Those who have witnessed UFOs or have had alien contact are urged to contact Okanagan UFO Research at (250) 494-3242 or UFO-BC at (604) 878-6511 or on the web at www.contact-us@ufobc.org.

The talk gets under way at 6:30 p.m. and continues to 10:15 p.m. in the OUC lecture room. A question-and-answer period is also planned. Cost is \$10 with limited seating available.

HARWICH & MANNINGTREE STANDARD,  
Essex, England - Oct. 13, 2000

## Is it a UFO or not?

A UFO group is investigating claims of an unusual sighting over Dovercourt.

A resident told the Essex UFO Research and Paranormal Group they saw a light speeding out to sea on Tuesday, September 26, which had white lights around its edge and down the centre.

The witness said the rectangular-shaped object disappeared over the horizon in five or six seconds.

Anyone with more information should call Michael Joyce on 01255 821121.



# The night the aliens landed

**Lorna MacLaren** meets a Scottish investigator whose book throws fresh light on a mystery suppressed by the authorities

**I**T WAS a pretty ordinary evening in Christmas week, the air thick with frost and a pitch-black sky above. At about 9pm emergency desks at Heathrow Airport informed journalists they had received a wave of calls stretching from as far south as Cornwall and as far north as Yorkshire. A trickle of phone-calls to the emergency services had become a flood as people began reporting strange lights in the skies.

Meanwhile, military personnel at the twin bases of RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge in Suffolk found themselves in a bizarre situation which was set to change their lives forever. Something had landed in the forest beyond the perimeter fencing – and the group which went out to investigate could never have guessed what would greet them.

An official report on the UFO sighting submitted afterwards to the MoD by a Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt clearly outlines the “happening” as an event the military personnel involved could not explain.

As the twentieth anniversary of the 1980 encounter approaches, fresh evidence uncovered by a Glasgow trained researcher has brought the Rendlesham Forest UFO mystery, dubbed the British Roswell incident in reference to the alleged US alien encounter of the 1960s, back into the public domain.

Georgina Bruni, 47, has gained access to police files and Ministry of Defence and United States military sources. She has found previously unreported eye-witness accounts of that night and uncovered the harsh treatment meted out to people who dared to waver from the duplicitous line of officialdom. Ms Bruni even gained a comment from Margaret Thatcher in 1997 who said: “UFOs? You must get your facts right and you can’t tell the people.”

But Ms Bruni’s investigation is light years away from the background, she says, which gave her the tenacity to hang on to her project when odds seemed stacked against her. Then, she was tramping Scottish streets as a trainee private investigator in her early twenties. Her boss, based in Glasgow city centre, was an old hand at the patience game. He taught her well, she says, to stay on the case no matter how difficult it appeared – a skill which has kept her focused throughout a three-year period of research which dominated her life.

Now living in London, she is the last person you would expect to be involved with UFO mysteries. No anorak here. Blonde and chatty, it is hard to picture her grilling eye-witnesses or dealing with tight-lipped military staff while asking impertinent questions about flying saucers.

“I’m a lot tougher than I look. I’ve had years of experience, firstly as a private investigator then as an investigative journalist,” she says.

Ms Bruni works from her London home and does high-profile PR work as well as writing. She was raised in Cumbernauld after her father



ON THE TRAIL OF TRUTH: Georgina Bruni, whose research was assisted by Major-General Gordon E Williams, right. Tabloid newspapers once reported he had communed with aliens

(continued from page 11 - HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - Nov. 24, 2000)

moved to the area for work. She got to know the city of Glasgow as a student at the Art School before her first office job landed her in the shadowy world of the private eye.

"I was just a kid at the time and did a lot of filing before I was sent out on jobs," she smiles. "The office was just off Sauchiehall Street and was a rundown little place. My boss was a real clichéd investigator, bad attitude and no private life. He used to send me out to watch premises and record comings and going of people. It made me meticulous as well as very, very patient."

**M**S BRUNI eventually left Scotland and travelled extensively through Europe and across America. The closest she came to looking into more bizarre aspects of life was investigating religious cults and their members. It wasn't until 1997 that interest in UFOs reached a new height and suddenly people were talking about what happened in Rendelsham Forest years before. Ms Bruni says: "We all love a good mystery and here was one right on our doorstep. It seemed to me that it had never been looked into with enough depth, although UFO enthusiasts and some journalists had tracked down solid witnesses."

"As a hardened sceptic I decided to target the British and American military personnel involved. If I had known it would take over my life - or realise the hurdles I would encounter - I would never have started."

For a mystery story the setting could not have been better than rural Suffolk which was already known for its myths and legends. Sandwiched between the areas of Bawdsey and Orfordness and surrounded by miles of thick pine forest lie the remains of RAF Woodbridge

and Bentwaters.

In 1945 the Woodbridge airfield, having played an important part in the Second World War, became an area for experimental work, with the RAF testing grand slam bombs around Orfordness. Four years afterwards its sister base, RAF Bentwaters, which had been used to train pilots to convert from old propeller-driven aircraft to modern Vampire and Meteor jets formally closed down. The two sites would not be quiet for long, however, as the United States Air Force moved in and made the dual complexes part of a large group of sophisticated Nato bases scattered throughout the world. Ms Bruni was told by a source that Bentwaters had had its fair share of secrets, including the testing of the fledgling secret stealth F-117 aircraft.

At the time of the UFO incident the joint installation was under the command of Colonel Gordon E Williams (later Major-General) who was to contact Ms Bruni when she researched the case. Most of the witnesses to the bizarre event were USAF personnel. A detailed report on the incident was submitted to the MoD by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt, the deputy base commander. It states that, seeing the mystery lights on December 27, military personnel thought a plane had crashed nearby.

USAF security police patrolmen were dispatched and found a glowing object, three metres across, triangular in shape, and metallic to look at which was seen manoeuvring through the forest and at one point appeared to land. Farm animals in the vicinity panicked, with cattle herds stampeding.

Later that night, through the trees, a huge "sun-like" red light was seen which broke into five white objects. One of the patrolmen later described what he saw as three alien entities

outside the craft. This, along with the lights in the sky seen by civilians, was corroborated by radar evidence.

Investigations by military personnel the next day found three deep indentations on the forest floor. Trees were damaged and radiation readings in the area were high. Witness accounts of alien sightings were also rapidly hushed up and dismissed as hoaxes. Ms Bruni says: "Despite some diligent digging by ufologists, those in officialdom still continued to play down the whole event. I was finding it hard to take things much further but during my research Colonel Williams, who had never gone on record previously but had been in the tabloids as having communed with aliens, contacted me in January 1998. I was suspicious at first but did some background research on him. There'd been a lot of fear around the incident and finding people who would talk was not easy."

"I had very quickly to learn how to communicate with the forces. I had to speak their language. When it came to Williams I found he was evasive about that night to such an extent it led me to believe he knew far more than he was stating. When I spoke to Margaret Thatcher on the subject of UFOs at a social gathering a year before she had conveyed a similar attitude."

Ms Bruni went on: "The newspapers at the time had had fun with the story. Sightings were rubbished and one theory was that the lights were caused by a lighthouse. I believe I've cut through the speculation and at least have found enough evidence to prove that something inexplicable happened that night."

**■ You Can't Tell the People is published by MacMillan.**

## More close encounters of the third kind

Livingston

■ On November 9, 1979, Bob Taylor, a forestry worker had just started his usual inspection of the local forest just outside Livingston, when he encountered the strangest object he had ever seen. Its shape was similar to that of the planet Saturn, it was about the size of a family car, and Taylor could make out windows. Two objects, looking like sea mines, emerged and positioned themselves either side of Taylor. He noticed a strange smell and experienced a burning in his throat, and a sensation of being grabbed by the side of the legs and tugged forward. The next thing Taylor remembered was waking up

with his head pounding, sore throat, and a bitter taste in his mouth. He later calculated that he had been unconscious for at least 20 minutes.

Police treated the case as an assault: the only case in British history of an alien encounter being subject to a criminal investigation.

The Solway Firth photo

■ On May 24, 1964, Jim Templeton, a fireman from Carlisle, took his daughter out to the marshes overlooking the Solway Firth to take photographs. When processed, one of the pictures showed a figure in a silvery white space suit behind



FRIEND OR FOE: the "alien" in the American Roswell incident

the girl. The incident was reported to the police and taken up by the film manufacturers. Then Templeton received two mysterious visitors who referred to one another by numbers and asked unusual questions as they drove him out to the marshes. They tried to make him admit he had just photographed an ordinary man walking past. When Templeton rejected this they became angry and drove off, leaving him to hike five miles across country to get home.

RAF Cosford

■ According to various sources, on December 10, 1963, two Royal

Air Force personnel observed a strange domed object fall behind a hangar on the base at RAF Cosford, situated at Wolverhampton. The two men then stated that the object swept the airfield with a strange green beam. However, when they returned with help, the mysterious object had gone. The two men were then allegedly subjected to a rigorous interrogation, and the events covered up. A couple of days later a very large transport plane landed, which was extremely unusual for this base, and was loaded up with a large hidden object.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England - Oct. 8, 2000



SITE OF SIGHTINGS: Fred Lewis-Goodwin at the spot near his home where he says he saw a UFO hovering

SP06A

# PENSIONER TELLS OF UFO SIGHTINGS

**A RETIRED Rolls Royce engineer yesterday claimed there is a UFO hotspot near his West Country home after he saw two mysterious objects in the same place.**

By JON COUCH

Fred Lewis-Goodwin, 78, was out walking his lurcher dog in fields behind the Torbay Holiday Motel, just yards from his home in Beechdown Park, Totnes, when he saw the first UFO around two years ago.

The former senior research engineer says the area is being used regularly by UFOs after witnessing a similar object within a few yards of the first just a few weeks ago.

He said: "The first time there was a kind of fuzz in the air, like looking through rippled water, then this rectangular object appeared."

"The dog noticed it too because she stood up on her hind legs with her paws crossed across her chest and her ears pricked up - she's never done that before."

"It was a moonlit night so the fields were lit up admirably."

"The dog was looking at something in the field in front that I couldn't see."

"I thought it might be a rabbit, but then this appeared."

Mr Lewis-Goodwin says he stood for 20 minutes

## 'The area is a real hotspot'

watching the shining object lift off the ground and follow the line of a hedge, before making off rapidly towards Totnes.

"As it passed under some electricity wires that supply a house a light outside the house went out and I thought: 'That's the bulb blown'."

**Lifting**

"But it came back on again slowly as this thing moved on."

"Then it stayed by a gap between two fields for about ten minutes before lifting and going towards Totnes," he said.

It was rectangular in

shape measuring about 10ft, by 10ft, by 3ft, he said.

A detailed report sent to the Ministry of Defence evoked "little interest", said Mr Lewis-Goodwin.

On the second occasion he had been sitting by the swimming pool at the same motel when he witnessed a similar bright object in the same fields.

"I looked up and saw the same thing going up the hillside, then it turned and went along the hedge."

"But this time it went off towards Stoke Gabriel."

At 3am on the same night somebody else reported witnessing something

bright in the sky near the motel.

"It seems that the area is a real hotspot for UFO activity," he said.

Mr Lewis-Goodwin is now to set-up specialist monitoring equipment on the motel roof, including cameras and an X-ray detector, in an effort to record any more unexplained activity.

"On both occasions the Moon was out and Venus was in the same position behind the earth."

"So whatever it was could have been using the planets as some sort of navigation aid to guide it to the same spot," he said.

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - Oct. 6, 2000

**UFOs**

WHEN will the Government admit that UFOs exist? Sightings captured on camera and film prove that our planet often gets visited by extra terrestrial life forms, but the MoD always come up with excuses that all of the sightings are either fake or have natural explanations.

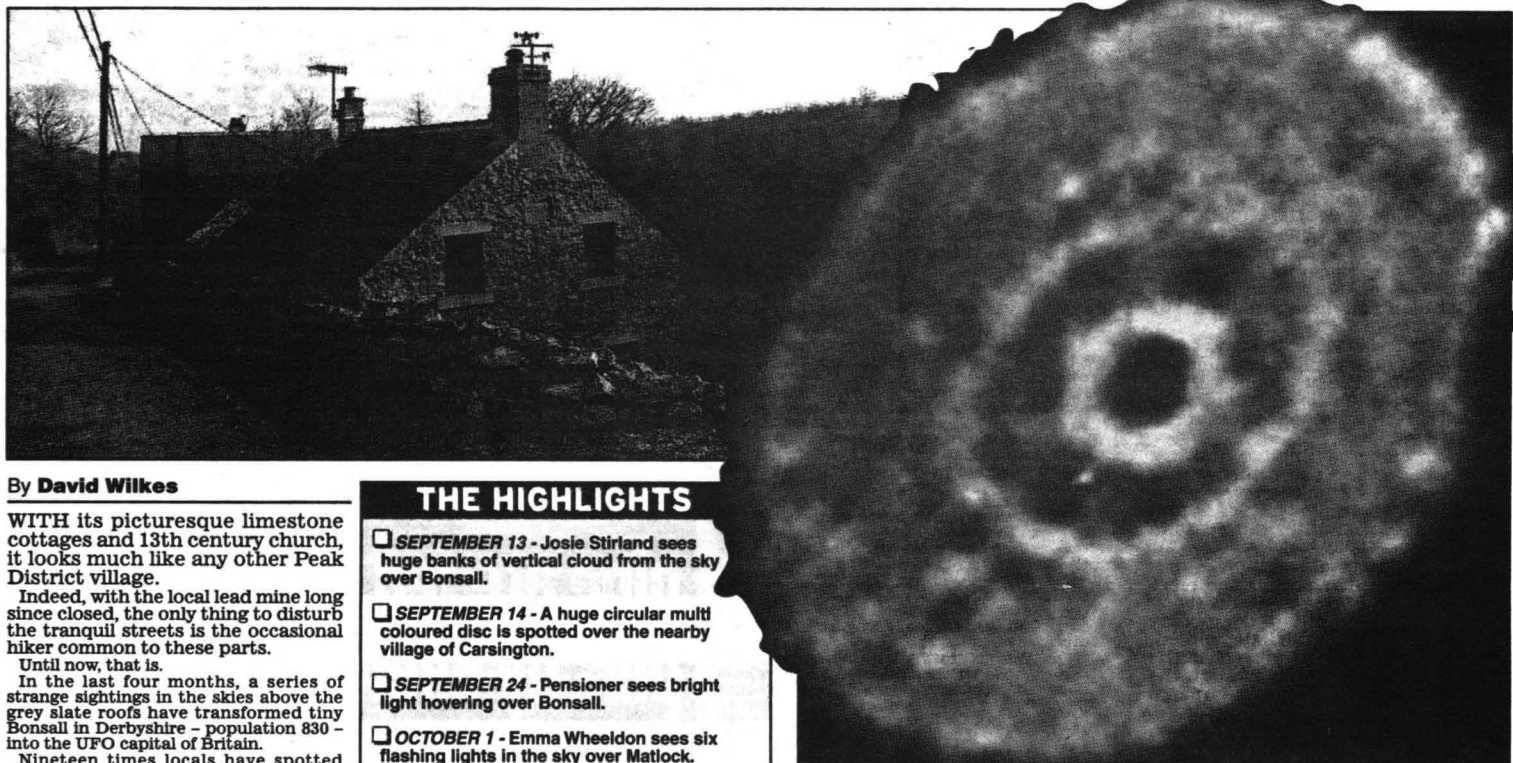
With so many horrid tales of abduction, the world leaders should announce that they have contact with galactic visitors from outer space.

That way people would not get ridiculed or labelled as 'screwballs' when mentioning flying saucers. Open up the files, Mr Blair - Christopher Wardell, Darlington.



# Not another UFO!

Welcome to Bonsall, the village where life wouldn't be the same without those strange lights in the sky



By David Wilkes

WITH its picturesque limestone cottages and 13th century church, it looks much like any other Peak District village.

Indeed, with the local lead mine long since closed, the only thing to disturb the tranquil streets is the occasional hiker common to these parts.

Until now, that is. In the last four months, a series of strange sightings in the skies above the grey slate roofs have transformed tiny Bonsall in Derbyshire - population 830 - into the UFO capital of Britain.

Nineteen times locals have spotted what they believe to be alien life forces hovering above their homes.

There are, of course, the sceptics who insist that the village is more 'flat caps' than 'flying saucers'.

But even they began to question the truth yesterday after one of the latest sightings was caught on a six-and-a-half-minute video film shot by housewife Sharon Rowlands.

The 44-year-old mother of two was watching television with her husband Hayden, 45, when they heard an eerie noise and rushed to the window. What they saw on the night of October 5 at 9.15pm amazed them.

'I was filming it from around two miles away. It resembled a giant disc with a bite taken out of the bottom,' Mrs Rowlands said.

'It had yellow, orange and blue lights - with intricate markings and a dark circle in the centre. As it hovered over the woods, it seemed to expand and then get smaller again.

'We could see it pulsing as if it started up and then it just went - it came really close at one stage and I thought it was going to land in the field. You can hear me on the video say "Wow!"

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 13** - Josie Stirland sees huge banks of vertical cloud from the sky over Bonsall.
- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 14** - A huge circular multi coloured disc is spotted over the nearby village of Carsington.
- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 24** - Pensioner sees bright light hovering over Bonsall.
- ☐ **OCTOBER 1** - Emma Wheeldon sees six flashing lights in the sky over Matlock.
- ☐ **OCTOBER 5** - Sharon Rowlands captures flying saucer on a six-and-a-half minute video.
- ☐ **OCTOBER 21** - Man sees the same craft as in the video - this time over Bonsall Moor.
- ☐ **JANUARY 13** - Anne Saunders sees triangular UFO hovering above Bonsall for three minutes before breaking into two pieces.
- ☐ **JANUARY 13** - Matlock man sees similar UFO with a pink glow.
- ☐ **JANUARY 17** - Joan Power sees an oblong 'ball of fire' over Matlock.
- ☐ **JANUARY 26** - Heather Shuttleworth makes the most recent sighting.

Out of this world?: An image from the video filmed by Sharon Rowlands from her cottage in Bonsall

Matlock, include a 'ball of fire' seen earlier this month by Joan Power, and 'two big, bright lights' seen by Heather Shuttleworth.

A man out walking his dog witnessed a 'pink glow, vertically shaped like a shoe box'.

Quite why extra-terrestrials might be keen to visit Bonsall remains a moot point.

If they are fans of picturesque villages with medieval churches and market crosses, they are in luck. But if they are just looking to do some shopping, they will be disappointed - the general stores shut in 1995 and is now seen occasionally as a film set for Peak Practice.

Mick Pope, 54, landlord of the Kings Head pub, which dates back to 1677, has his own theory.

'Bonsall is very high up - 1,217ft above sea level - and after all the heavy rain we've had I reckon they've had trouble with the windscreen wipers on their UFO and had to come down low,' he said.

Whatever the reason, so cluttered are the skies above Bonsall that UFO expert Alan Hitchcock, of the Derby-based Phenomenon

Research Association, has started monitoring the village and surrounding area.

Yesterday he warned the good folk of Bonsall of the dangers of seeing a flying saucer: 'Some people find it frightening and it's been known to give people mental problems.'

A spokesman for the RAF said military aircraft could explain some of the sightings, but weather experts said they could not be explained by natural phenomena.

A Meteorological Office spokesman said: 'Sometimes you get auroras, or northern lights, producing all sorts of lights in the sky. But they occur at dusk, whereas some of these sightings occurred in the day time.'

Asked if Bonsall's UFO phenomenon could be marketed as a tourist attraction, a spokesman for Derbyshire County Council said: 'There are no plans, but I suppose it's another selling point for people to visit.'

d.wilkes@daily mail.co.uk

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Oct. 17, 2000 CR: G. Conway

## Agencies opted out of UFO event

By CHUCK TOBIN  
Star Reporter

Martin Jasek's cup ranneth over, at least for a time.

The 304 people who ended up registering for the first Yukon UFO Conference on Saturday shattered all expectations about attendance.

But on Monday, none - not one - of the 35 agencies invited, attended a workshop on improving the coordination of UFO reporting in the territory.

Sure, it was disappointing, suggests the primary organizer of the conference, which received \$17,000 of the \$25,000-budget from the Yukon government's Millennium Fund.

But not totally surprising, Jasek noted in an interview yesterday afternoon following the close of the workshop.

In the words of internationally renowned UFO researcher Stan Friedman, who was sitting directly beside

Jasek during the interview, Jasek said: "Most people don't know that most people know."

Translation: Most people don't know that most people believe in UFOs, and that believing in UFOs is OK.

Friedman said it's like the Gallup poll that shows the percentage of UFO believers rises with the level of education: the higher the education, the more likely the individual will believe in UFOs.

The poll, which was presented at the conference, showed that 66 per cent of those with college-level education believe in UFOs.

In many countries across the world, said Friedman, the existence of UFOs is readily accepted. Only in North America is there still ridicule of those who believe, or those who report seeing an unidentified flying object.

NavCan, the company responsible for air traffic control in Canada, was

been drinking - but then they see the video and are awestruck.

So convinced is Mrs Rowlands of the value and authenticity of her unusual home movie that she has locked the video tape in a bank vault.

Other weird phenomena spotted in the skies above the village, near

nations, municipalities, and others were also invited.

Whitehorse RCMP Const. Shawn Lemay said today the invitation went to the federal enforcement section of the Yukon M Division. However, that section was tied up attending a video-conference from Montreal on the national child-fine program. (The conference, attended by several officers, was held in a room directly across the hall from the workshop.)

Jasek said a primary goal identified in the workshop includes increasing the number of local UFO investigators, a task currently held by Jasek and Lorraine Bretlyn.

Raising awareness through things like seminars or talks for professional groups has also been marked as a goal, Jasek said.

He explained that the participation of local agencies like the RCMP and air traffic controllers would increase the efficiency of tracking sightings. It would also create a central storing house for all reports, even those that

end up in the waste basket the moment a caller hangs up.

Ultimately, Jasek added, it would reduce the workload on a particular agency by allowing it to redirect reports of UFO sightings.

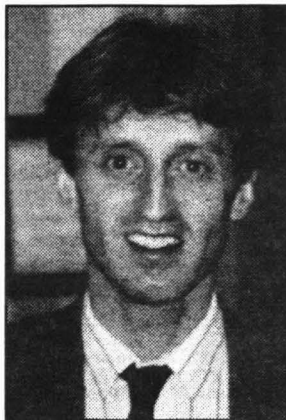
It would be similar to what happens in the United States, Friedman added, referring to the 5,000 calls received annually at the National UFO Reporting Centre in Seattle.

He said many agencies, including emergency response agencies like police detachments or fire departments, already direct UFO reports to the centre.

A primary goal of Saturday's conference was to reduce the stigma attached to those who report a UFO sighting or express their belief in UFOs.

As Friedman pointed out, those who attended represented a significant one per cent of the territory's population - which says something, he believes.

See related story opposite.



MARTIN JASEK

invited to the conference.

"The local people were told from higher up that it would be inappropriate to attend," Jasek said.

The RCMP, Transport Canada, first





## LEISURE BOSS BILL NORTH WITNESS

# 'UFOs' spotted at South Park

by Pete Taylor

AWE-STUCK South Park residents were left gob-smacked and dazed after seeing a bright flashing and humming UFO above their Macclesfield homes.

The "massive whirling saucer high in the sky" shattered the calm of the dark autumn night and brought tears to the eyes of stunned and terrified witnesses.

The sparkling, spinning saucer stunned onlookers for more than 15 minutes at 9.15pm on Sunday evening.

Eye-witness 39-year-old Susan, not her real name, said: "It was just incredible."

"We saw this massive three-dimensional disc of light, spinning."

"We could hear a whirring sound. It had lights around it rotating like the blades of a lawn-mower."

The office receptionist said the mysterious object seemed to have depth and cast an eerie shadow over the ground.

Although she was excited and thrilled by the incredible sighting, her boyfriend was terrified.

"He was driven to tears he was so scared. His whole body was shaking," she said.

"For me, the adrenalin was flowing because of the excitement, though it was a bit scary. It was the spinning that put me ill at ease."

Her boyfriend had rung her on the mobile in a frenzy of excitement as he made his way home down the side of St Edward's Primary School.

She said: "It literally stunned him. It frightened him to death."

Susan then shot down to the park with her two children.

"The children found it a bit spooky but they are fine," she added.

The strange lights in the sky were confirmed by Macclesfield Borough's outdoor leisure boss Bill North, who saw the flashing lights above the Park he manages.

"I definitely saw something," said Bill, who was walking along Bollinbrook Road with his wife, Julie, at

8.25pm.

He described seeing lights rotating in a clockwise then opposite direction. "It was quite faint, over the south Park area," he said. "I automatically thought — lasers."

Other sightings were made from Bond Street and High Street.

Mr North confirmed, along with police, that they knew of no lighting show in the Macclesfield District on Sunday night.

In a separate incident, David Bayne of Wilmslow took photographs of a UFO he described in startling similar detail to the South Park appearance.

He said: "One was like a giant spinning disc or ball which made a quiet whirring noise."

Fortean Times UFO investigator Jenny Randles said since the summer a lot of Macclesfield and Wilmslow residents had flagged-up an increase in UFO activity.

She said: "There has been covert military manoeuvres in the area, and planes from Manchester Airport have

been re-routed on occasions.

"We are looking into a number that are more mysterious."

UFO expert David Cayman said there had been sightings in Macclesfield over the years with a famous one at The Fools Nook in 1980.

Jodrell Bank and Manchester University astronomer, Ian Morrison, who takes a special interest in UFO sightings, said that Jupiter is particularly bright in the East at that time of night and, along with a bright moon, can cause coloured effects in high cloud.

"That is the only astronomical explanation," he said. "We have had no other sightings that night."

Richard Wright of the National Air Traffic Services, the air traffic controllers who control Britain's airspace, said there had been no unusual movements or sightings in the area.

If you saw the UFO on Sunday evening, please contact the newsdesk at the Macclesfield Express newsdesk on 01625 424445.

## PANDORA

pandora@independent.co.uk

The publication of a book about a supposed UFO visitation to this green and pleasant land seems to have caused more of a stir at the Ministry of Defence than at first seemed the case. It will be recalled that *You Can't Tell the People*, by Georgina Bruni, was rather surprisingly launched at the MoD last month, albeit with a warning that the ministry in no way sanctioned the views expressed therein. Which were that a spaceship landed in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, just after Christmas 1983, witnessed by American servicemen. Indeed the MoD even promised a big article in the *Focus* in-house magazine. And two interviews with a "senior journalist" took place. "He seemed more interested in where I got the information than the incident itself," says

a puzzled Georgina. But the piece never appeared due to "lack of space". *Focus* was also due to take her pic with MoD employee and UFO researcher Nick Pope, but all cameras were banned from the launch. The reason, it seems, was a memo circulated by the Directorate of Air Staff. "Under no circumstances whatsoever must Nick Pope or Georgina Bruni be dressed up as Mulder and Scully from the popular TV series," it said. Seems that the "truth" out there is being taken rather seriously, after all.

## More UFO sightings reported

RESIDENTS in the Harwich area have reported a series of possible UFO sightings over the town.

The Standard recently told of one such incident and the Essex UFO Research and Paranormal Group said it had heard of more sightings since.

Michael Joyce, of the group, said: "One person told me about a high-pitched sound with an associated frequency which caused her bed to shudder in the early hours. When she

spoke to someone at a party she attended the following Saturday, the other person told her about a similar shuddering she experienced — associated with a huge ball of white light she saw through her bedroom window."

He said another report mentioned a large, stationary ball of fluorescent green light seen from Harwich, which appeared to be over Shotley which lasted for a few minutes before fading out.

## Mystery over lights still remains

THE mystery lights in the sky south of Henley may have been caused by lasers being used by Reading University students celebrating "Freshers' Week", it emerged this week.

Another possibility was that they came from the Goodyear Airship which was operating in the area.

Dozens of people phoned or e-mailed the *Standard* after the story of the mystery lights in the sky appeared, from Hare Hatch near Twyford to Sonning Common, Henley and Caversham.

The majority thought the lights came from someone operating a laser machine.

A spokesman for Reading University said: "It had been Freshers' Week and lasers were being used as part of the events."

But a spokesman for Goodyear said: "It could have been our airship. It was operating in the general area at that time and from the description it sounds possible it was us."

# Their 'UFO' encounter is captured on camera

by JILL SMYTH  
jill.smyth@ecng.co.uk

IT CAME from outer space — and Salhouse pilot David Hastings captured it on camera.

This ghostly UFO suddenly appeared as he was flying over California, flashed noiselessly over his tiny Cessna six-seater aeroplane and then hovered at his port side accelerating up and down.

It hung around long enough for Mr Hastings to walk to the back of the plane, find his camera, come back to the cockpit and take photos of it.

His airborne close encounter has convinced the 67-year-old that he saw a UFO.

"I had stopped to refuel at Grand Canyon airport and I was climbing back to 10,500ft when my co-pilot and I suddenly realised something was coming at us head-on and very quickly," he said.

"We braced ourselves for a

## It's the great debate

THE Great Debate — many people have wrestled with the existence or non-existence of unidentified flying objects, not least the great and the good.

In 1979, a debate took place in the House of Lords on the issue during which it was revealed that countries whose governments admit

that UFOs are real included France, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

And prominent people who had gone on record as saying they too were believers included first man on the moon Neil Armstrong and Apollo astronauts Ed Mitchell and Gordon Cooper.

mid-air collision when this big shadow passed over us with no sound at all. I expected the roar of a jet engine but it was completely noiseless.

"Then we both sensed something moving over to our port side. We couldn't see it but we could sense it."

When he landed in San Francisco, Mr Hastings immediately got his photographs developed and the spooky shape he and co-pilot David Patterson had sensed appeared.

"I felt shattered when I saw

the photographs but we were not surprised — we knew something was there. We had seen the object coming for us and the shadow passing over us and the camera had picked up what we had sensed off to port."

Flying over the Mojave Desert, where the American government carries out top secret tests on new developments, prompted Mr Hastings to ask acquaintances in the US Navy to examine the snaps.

"They took one of them away but when they came back to me

**'We braced ourselves for a mid-air collision when this big shadow passed over us with no sound at all'**

pilot David Hastings



PILOT: David Hastings, of Salhouse, who spotted a "UFO" on a flight over the desert in California.

Photo: STEVE ADAMS

all they would say was 'no comment'. They obviously did not know what it was."

But Mr Hastings believes what he saw was his first UFO encounter in 40 years of flying.

"It was a UFO, definitely," he said. "It couldn't have been a manned aeroplane."

"There is no aeroplane that can accelerate up and down like that."

"It made no noise and the air traffic control people on the ground saw nothing on their radar screens."

# Is anybody out there?

A UFO ENTHUSIAST wants to trace local people who had a close encounter with flying objects last month.

Margaret Fry, a founder of the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologist, wants to hear from the people who contacted *The Journal* in September after they spotted strange objects in the night sky.

Mrs Fry, of Abergele, wants to record their recollections and compare them to other reports from people living in Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Wirral and Liverpool, where UFOs were also seen during the month.

She said: "I read the different stories which appeared in the paper, relating to incidents where people saw UFOs in the Rhyl and Bodelwyddan area."

"They did not want to give their names for the articles, which is understandable, but I would really like to speak to them myself and find out exactly what they saw."

"I have already received reports from

by JOANN  
RAE

people living in other parts of North Wales, Wirral and Liverpool and want to gather all the information available to see if they all saw the same object.

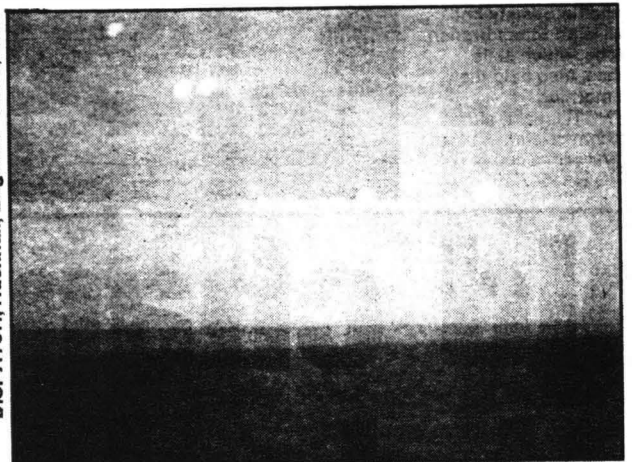
The first sighting of the unidentified flying object last month was by a husband and wife in Bodelwyddan who saw a huge hovering object which gave out a strong beam of light.

It stayed motionless for 15 minutes, then disappeared at great speed towards Llandudno.

A similar UFO was also seen that same night just before midnight, over Rhyl promenade, and was described as a triangular object with a set of red lights. This also flew off towards Llandudno.

Anyone who has seen a UFO in the area and would like to have their story recorded can contact her on 01745 833310 or at Fry's Croft, 5 The Broadway, Abergele LL22 7DD.

DISPATCH, Hucknall, England - Oct. 8, 2000



## Did Mavis see UFOs on Skeggy beach?

WHAT are these mysterious white shapes in the sky?

That is the question being asked by Mavis Evans, of Sandy Lane, Hucknall, who caught them on her camcorder from her caravan at Skegness when they appeared over the sea.

She said: "I did not think I would get them on my film because they seemed so far away on the horizon."

In the course of the video-

recording, one of the objects seems to appear from nowhere.

The sighting by Mrs Evans and other witnesses has caused a lot of speculation about possible UFOs.

Two suggestions are that the shapes were parachute flares or aircraft.

"But the strangest thing was that they did not seem to be moving," said Mrs Evans.





# Bigfoot, big ... well, maybe not

MARK HUME

*A plaster cast of a buttock imprint left by a Sasquatch. Apparently*

**E**DMONDS, WASH. • The place where the Sasquatch sat down, where its hairy, hominid primate buttocks left two oblong impressions in the mud is obvious enough to Richard Noll.

Standing in his mother-in-law's garage, where the latest breakthrough in Bigfoot research is stored, Mr. Noll's eyes gleam as he traces the outline in a 136-kilogram plaster cast.

"There's where the cheeks are," he says. "And that's a heel mark and the Achilles tendon. We figure this is where its arm rested, as it turned on its side."

Mr. Noll points out the fine ridges left by matted hair in the thigh — and then points delicately to a double print between the cheeks, where the, uh, impressions were left that show this Sasquatch was male.

They are small. Judging by this cast, which is being heralded as the biggest find since 1967 when Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin filmed what appeared to be a man in a gorilla suit, big feet do not equate to big testicles.

No matter. Mr. Noll, who machine tools aircraft parts for a living, says it's the little details that make what has become known as the Skookum Cast such a remarkable piece of evidence.

"I mean," he says standing back to look at it, "have you ever seen anything like that in your life?"

"The truth is, nobody ever has, if it indeed is what Mr. Noll says it is."

But there are critics, as there always are in the Sasquatch game, who dismiss it simply as a mish-mash of prints left in the mud by a much more common animal.

"It's an elk!" hoots Cliff Crook, founder of Bigfoot Central, who has been tracking Sasquatches since 1956.

Mr. Crook, however, who lives not far away in Bothell, Washington, has not bothered to see the cast for himself. "He's just jealous," says Mr. Noll, "because he's never found anything like this himself."

Still, there would certainly be reason to believe Mr. Crook's dismissal is well grounded. There are several elk tracks embedded in the cast, for example, and no Bigfoot tracks.

And then there was all the hair the research team picked up. A few strands are in a lab in Vancouver awaiting DNA analysis. Several others already tested have been identified — as elk hair.

Mr. Noll shrugs off these small inconsistencies as he paces around the Skookum Cast, explaining how the Sasquatch positioned itself in the mud, showing where its heels dug in, pointing out what appear to be dermal ridges from the skin on the feet.

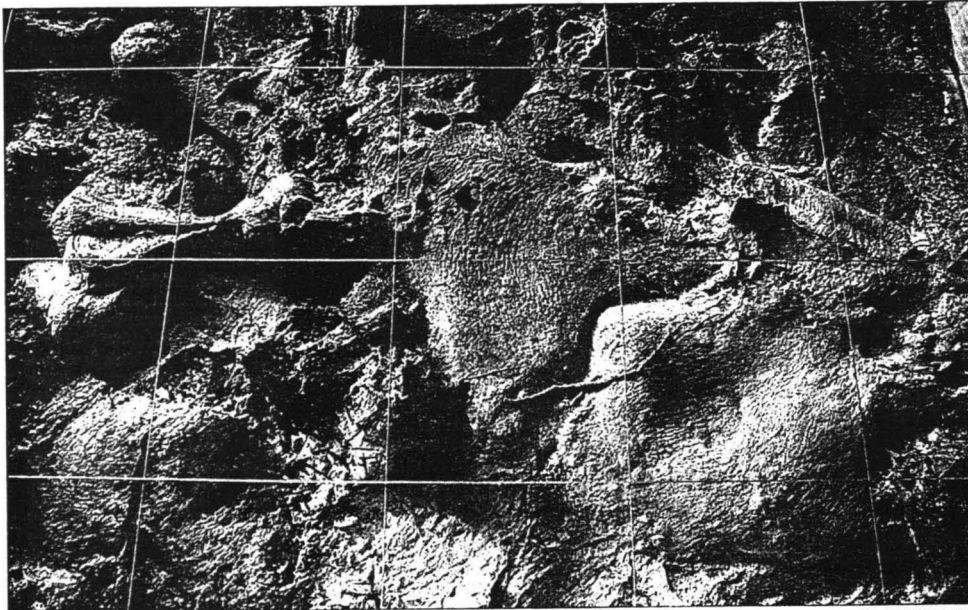
I am trying to bring it all into focus, but I just can't see it.

Neither could the research team at first.

Mr. Noll and nine others with the Bigfoot Field Reporting Organization headed out on an expedition last fall into the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, a wilderness area near Mt. St. Helens, a slumbering volcano in northern Washington State. Along with them was the film crew from a television series known as *Animal X*.

The team went equipped with all kinds of stuff that had never been tried before in Sasquatch research, including infrared cameras, night vision goggles and ... a sexual attractant.

Mr. Noll said Dr. Greg Bambenek, a psychiatrist from Minnesota and expert on animal pheromones whose nickname is Dr. Juice, had concocted a special mix for the occasion. "There is no Sasquatch



NICK DIDLUCK / NATIONAL POST

This is the cast that a member the Bigfoot Field Research Organization says shows a Sasquatch butt print on the lower right.

pheromone," he explained. "So he mixed human and gorilla to create one. We thought we'd give it a try."

The Sasquatch pheromone chips were hung in trees around the base camp, hoping to attract a roving Bigfoot. "The pheromones are for close in. They might work up to a mile," said Mr. Noll.

To hold the interest of Sasquatch, the research team also set out fruit drops, small piles of oranges, apples and melons. The fruit drops were made mostly in areas where there was soft earth or mud nearby, so any approaching animal would leave tracks.

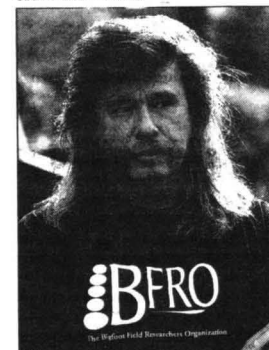
A few years ago Mr. Noll and 40 researchers spent nearly a week trying to find evidence of Sasquatch in 100 square miles of rugged wilderness. They got nothing for their efforts. Not even a toe print.

From that experience, and several much longer expeditions where he spent up to three months in the bush, Mr. Noll concluded that a new approach was needed. Instead of trying to track down the fleet-footed Sasquatch, he reasoned, they'd have to bring the animals to them.

So when they went to work under the shadow of the volcano they were armed with a new weapon: the call blaster.

As they sat around their camp surrounded by the seemingly endless wilderness, the Sasquatch team broadcast a recording of a Sasquatch that was made last year in California. Owl and wolf researchers do the same thing to get population estimates, sending out recorded calls, then counting howls and hoots they get in reply.

Mr. Noll's team took a huge sound system to reach out as far as they could across the gullies and ridges of Mt. St. Helens.



NICK DIDLUCK / NATIONAL POST

Richard Noll, Sasquatch searcher

"When we call blast a scream," he explained, "we pump it out at 150 watts on this great, big battleship horn, and we wait for a response. Then the next day we look in those areas for tracks where we hear Sasquatch screaming back."

And they did hear them answering. "It sounded sort of like a high-pitch scream by a woman, trailing off to a gurgle," he said.

Five days into the expedition Mr. Noll, LeRoy Fish, a zoologist, and Derek Randles, a landscape architect, went out to check the fruit drops. At two sites the fruit had vanished, but no tracks were left.

Then they came to what was known as the mud site, in Skookum Meadows. The expedition diary recounts what happened next: "Mud site has fruit missing, three out of six apples gone. Melons pecked by birds, probably ravens. Old tracks in mud include elk, deer, bear, coyote ... Noll notices an unusual impression in the transition mud at the edge of the wallow and suddenly figures out what caused it. Fish and Randles note the shock of Noll's face and come over to have another look at what he's examining. The three observe and note the various parts of the impression, and the chunks of chewed apple core nearby."

"The base camp is alerted. Everyone comes to see the impression. All conclude the animal was lying on its side at the edge of the mud, reaching out over the soft mud to grab the fruit. The group discusses the possible reasons why the animal might have done this, instead of just walking into the wet mud to grab the fruit, as the other animals did ... One possible explanation is immediately apparent — the animal did not want to leave tracks."

If that was the Sasquatch's intent, it has been outsmarted. While most of the team couldn't make out what the print was at first, Mr. Noll soon won them over, repeatedly lying down in the mud to mimic what happened. Finally, they got it.

While the *Animal X* crew records the moment, the Bigfoot researchers make an enormous cast, freezing it all in a plaster substance known as Hydrocal B-11: impressions of the buttocks, the ankles, the testicles, the thigh, the arm and the imprint of hair.

Mr. Noll gets down on the garage floor to show how the Sasquatch was lying, lounging on its side and reaching out with one long, hairy arm to pluck an apple or two from the fruit drop.

Little bits of chewed apple have been collected and are at a lab

awaiting analysis. Perhaps tests will find proof of Sasquatch saliva.

Having heard this incredible story, having heard how Mr. Noll has spent most of his adult life searching for proof of Sasquatch, until now without success, of how he has dedicated himself to finding hard evidence, I am struck by how bizarre the moment is.

In the cast are the clear hoof tracks of an elk. There are imprints left that would match perfectly with an elk's legs. The hair collected in the mud has been matched to an elk. It would seem that Mr. Noll has, if anything, a cast of the impression left by the hindquarters of an elk. But Mr. Noll and his entire research team see only one thing — undeniable scientific proof of a Sasquatch.

"One day I hope this will be in a museum," he says. "Where everybody can see it. It's like something out of an archaeological dig."

## A Sasquatch alert in the Hoh Rain Forest

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT ANGELES — Gene Sampson doesn't know what's been lurking in the woods behind his home on the Hoh Indian Reservation.

But he knows what he's seen — he describes them as giant footprints — and what he's heard:

"Bam, bam, bam, stop, bam, bam, stop, bam, bam, bam," Sampson said this week.

His tales have residents on the reservation, near the Hoh Rain Forest on the Pacific Coast, locking their doors, shutting their blinds and closing their windows.

Sampson said some Hoh natives believe the invader is the elusive Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, the large, hairy creature that has been reported around the world but is most closely identified with the Pacific Northwest.

Sampson says he found two sets of footprints, which he measured at 14 inches and 17½ inches in length, and 7 and 8 inches in width. He also says he found trampled trails.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs investigated and is skeptical. "I saw some big indentations that looked like footprints, but they were not that recognizable," said the bureau's Scott Small. "There is something big going through their yards, but it's most likely a bear."

Grover Krantz, a retired Washington State University anthropology professor and author of a book called "Big Footprints," said he believes the evidence on the Hoh reservation indicates one male and one female Sasquatch.

Richard Greenwell of the International Society for Cryptozoology calls evidence of such creatures inconclusive.

"On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, I absolutely believe in Bigfoot, after I evaluate all the data and read all the information," Greenwell said. "On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, I think it's all nonsense."

"On Sundays, I rest."

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - July 1, 2000

## ON THE ROAD: Willow Creek

# GIANT FOLLOWING

## Bigfoot large draw for California backcountry

By Michelle Locke  
Associated Press

**WILLOW CREEK**  
Some people believe in Bigfoot. Most don't. Some aren't sure what might be tramping around California's backcountry.

Margaret Wooden is skeptical, but she knows one thing: Bigfoot could be good for business.

"He's quite a drawing card," said Wooden, who helped organize the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum's new Bigfoot Wing.

The concept: Put some local history on display and see if this struggling former lumber town can jump-start its economy with a big hand from Bigfoot.

"It was a natural," said Jo Ann Hereford, a member of the squadron of volunteers that keeps the museum going.

Bigfoot? Like the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas, Bigfoot — often called Sasquatch — is an apelike creature 6 feet to 10 feet tall that numbers of people claim to have spotted roaming the backcountry of the Pacific Northwest. The existence of the critter has never been proven to the satisfaction of scientists. Neither has it been disproved.

Bigfoot goes back a long way in Willow Creek, an old Gold Rush town about 300 miles north of San Francisco. Tracks were reported in 1958 at Bluff Creek, a remote spot about 50 miles north.

Newspapers quickly took up the story. "Huge Foot Prints Hold Mystery of Friendly Bluff Creek Giant," reads one headline preserved in the Willow Creek exhibit.

Al Hodgson, 76, remembers the event well. He was running a general store in Willow Creek when a reporter for a local paper talked him into giving her a ride up to remote Bluff Creek.

Soon, he was making regular trips into the woods, plaster of Paris at the ready. Hodgson never found Bigfoot, although he did make casts of some footprints.

But he was there the night in 1967 that Bigfoot hunter Roger Patterson came into town saying he'd just captured his elusive quarry on film. The much-debated grainy footage shows a shaggy apelike creature walking upright.

"I really personally think he

absolutely did see Bigfoot," said Hodgson, recounting the story in a laid-back drawl.

"I've had my doubts at times, but I just don't see anything else, really. I just don't think he faked it."

If the scientific community hasn't exactly embraced the concept of Bigfoot, that hasn't quelled amateur enthusiasm.

Sightings have been reported all over, although the Pacific Northwest is a favorite.

Explorer J. Richard Greenwell has led Bigfoot expeditions into the forests of Northern California. His first and third trips turned up some strange prints, weird howls and mysterious

nighttime visitors who sneaked food; the second year's outing was a month of "absolutely nothing," he said.

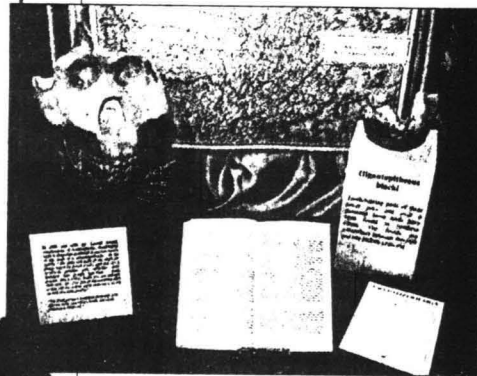
A lot of scientists think the thing cannot exist, it's impossible, so why waste time even testing the hypothesis," said Greenwell, a research associate with the International Wildlife Museum and secretary of the Tucson, Ariz.-based International Society of Cryptozoology, a society dedicated to the scientific evaluation of evidence of unverified animals. "In real science, you start off with, 'Let's examine the evidence.' If you start off by saying it's impossible, then what you're doing is you're taking the shortcut."

Greenwell thinks the Willow Creek exhibit is "fairly well done. It's not like the Smithsonian, of course, but for the resources they had, I think they put a lot of thought into it."

The bulk of the memorabilia was willed to the museum by Bigfoot enthusiast Bob Titmus, on condition it be put in a worthy setting. Town boosters, looking for something to replace the dwindling logging industry, went to work, getting \$9,000 in federal grants, stirring up chili cook-offs and putting sweat equity into a new, two-story addition.

The main part of the Willow Creek-China Flat (the latter is the town's original name) Museum consists of a lovingly tended collection of regional artifacts, from antique baby booties to gold-mining mementos.

The Bigfoot room is dominated by casts of — you guessed it — big feet, along with the stories and pictures of the people who found them.



Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press  
At the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum, a replica skull of a Gigantopithecus is on display, above. The two-story-high statue of Bigfoot, left, is a popular photo spot with tourists. Volunteer guide Al Hodgson holds up a plaster cast of a Sasquatch imprint, far left, which is a hit with visitors.

### IF YOU GO

The Willow Creek-China Flat Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday and holidays from mid-April to the end of October, but it is open by appointment the rest of the year. For an appointment, call (530) 629-2653 or (530) 629-2551. Willow Creek is west of Redding at the intersection of Routes 299 and 96. Web: [www.bfro.net/news/wcmuseum.htm](http://www.bfro.net/news/wcmuseum.htm).

"A lot of scientists think the thing cannot exist, it's impossible, so why waste time even testing the hypothesis. ... If you start off by saying it's impossible, then what you're doing is you're taking the shortcut."

— J. Richard Greenwell, explorer

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - July 5, 2000

## Oregon man's reported Bigfoot sighting interests researchers

SELMA, Ore. (AP) — Grants Pass psychologist Matthew Johnson insists he's not crazy.

Even when he tells people that he heard, smelled and saw the Pacific Northwest's mythical Bigfoot

while hiking Saturday with his family at the Oregon Caves National Monument.

"It was very tall, it was very hairy," Johnson said. "It was nothing else but a Sasquatch. I swear to God."

Johnson said he was squatting in the woods near one of the monument's backwoods trails when he spotted the creature standing upright about 60 feet away, hiding behind a tree and spying on his wife and three children.

He said shortly before the sighting, his family detected a pungent, musky scent on the trail and heard some deep, guttural groans in the woods nearby, as if the sound was following them.

"I lived a lot of years in Alaska," Johnson said. "I've been chased by a grizzly bear. This was no bear."

Johnson said he ran off to get his family and report the sighting to monument rangers.

Rangers checked the area Sunday and found "nothing unusual," monument Superintendent Craig Akerman said.

But the incident has caught the attention of Bigfoot researchers in Northern California, who spent part of Monday retracing the Johnson family's steps along the monument's Big Tree Trail.

Johnson said the researchers, accompanied by a monument ranger, found some partial prints in the area.



# At a Remote Forest Lake, Monstrous Legends Spawn

By JASON SONG  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**L**ake Elizabeth's surface is smooth. No scorched trees in the surrounding forest, not a single giant footprint on shore.

But you've driven 30 minutes along windy mountain roads to this lake in the Angeles National Forest. You've got to ask. Try the men casting into the dark waters. "Ever seen a dragon in the lake?"

Long silence.

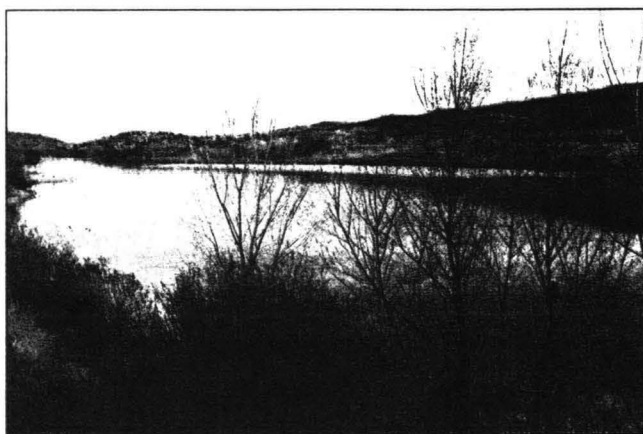
"Been fishing here for 25 years, and I've never seen nothing like that," the one with the camouflage vest says, pushing his toe into the gray sand beneath his feet and

looking at you like you're holding a crayon and coloring book, not pen and pad.

You cross Elizabeth Lake Road, the dust kicking over your shoes, to the Rock Inn, a cobblestone building with iron bars across the windows. Perhaps somebody here will know.

"Nah, nothing like that in there," the waitress at the Rock says over the football game playing in the background, writing down your order and pivoting on the dark wood floor back toward the kitchen.

Of course not. It's just a legend, some fanciful tale you heard once. You're better off asking if Elvis has left the building. Just go home and quit believing



MYUNG J. CHUN / Los Angeles Times

Not all local residents dismiss the idea of a monster living in Lake Elizabeth.

everything you hear.

But since you're here, maybe just one more guy, the bald man with the big salt-and-pepper sideburns behind the bar.

"Hey, you ever heard of a dragon in the lake?"

He lets your question linger a minute, folding his arms across his chest, as if preparing to impart a big secret.

"I think it was shot in Tucson in 1910 or 1912," says Larry Martin, who owns the joint.

Since the days of the Spanish explorers, there have been stories of a dragon in Lake Elizabeth, which is located along the San Andreas Fault about 30 miles north of Santa Clarita.

Some people, like Martin, believe the dragon was shot in the early part of the century.

Fred, a man sitting at the end of the bar with his reading glasses slung low and People magazine spread wide open, claims to have laid eyes on the creature.

"You can still see her on the eastern end of the lake," he says.

According to legend, the monster is anywhere between 18 and 30 feet long, blue or green, smells sulfurous, has a fondness for raw cattle and—according to Martin—sports a "tyrannosaurus neck."

Some say the legend has faded away as the population around the lake has grown from a handful of settlers to 4,000 or so residents. And the story itself is not that surprising—lake monsters are a fairly standard part of oral literature, experts say.

Well-known examples include the Loch Ness monster and Champ, a creature that supposedly lives in Lake Champlain, N.Y., said Sabina Magliocco, an assistant professor of anthropology at Cal State Northridge.

"When you don't know what's at the bottom of a lake, every log and ripple becomes mysterious and has to be explained. A monster was a pretty easy way to do it," she said.

Stories about such monsters were typically passed on through word of mouth, much the way Martin tells his tale from behind the counter at the Rock Inn, a cavernous, darkly wooded bar/restaurant where locals can toss back rum-and-Cokes in the early afternoon while calling each other by their first names.

As Martin, who's lived in the area since the 1960s, tells it, a Spanish explorer was leading his troop along a well-worn trail by Lake Elizabeth when they got stuck.

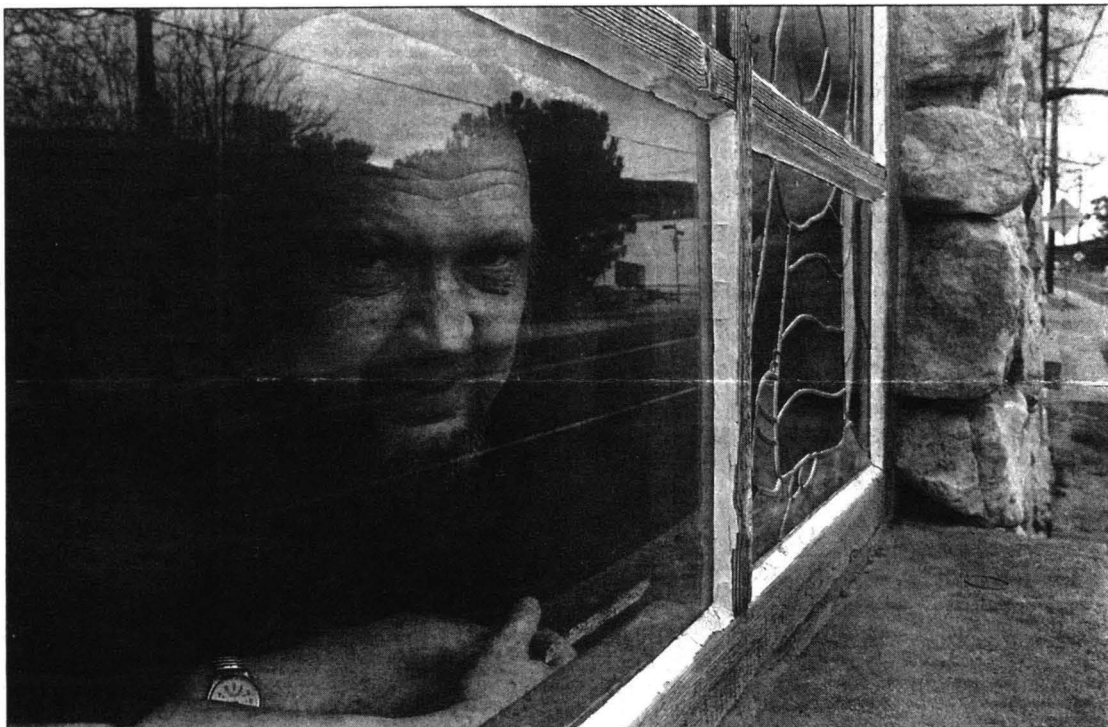
The Spaniard sold his soul to the Devil in exchange for a road. After the road was built, the leader decided he wanted to keep his soul a bit longer and told the Devil the deal was off.

Miffed, Satan created the lake and furnished it with the dragon—which terrorized settlers and devoured cattle periodically for the next two centuries.

At this point, a few afternoon drinkers who were talking about the previous night's car crash in front of the Rock come over to listen to the tale. Martin's voice picks up pace, his bristly sideburns bouncing as he speaks.

"It lived there until 1910 or 1912, not exactly sure which, and then there were these farmers in Tucson who shot it. There was a picture in the paper out there. I don't remember which one..."

Whoa, Tucson? Arizona? How'd it get there?



MYUNG J. CHUN / Los Angeles Times

Larry Martin tells the story of a monstrous creature that inhabited Lake Elizabeth for decades before being shot dead in the early 1900s.

"It flew," Martin says simply, an eyebrow raising in a "how-else-would-it-get-there?" expression.

The roadhouse owner catches himself. "Supposedly," he adds, shrugging his shoulders deeply and wiping his hands on his apron again.

Martin says the legend was alive and well during the 1960s. That was when the homes were mostly small and made of wood, there was just one telephone line, and swapping stories "was just a part of life," he says.

"Used to be you knew everyone here, there were only 13 houses, and the story was part of the mix because it was everywhere," Martin says.

While the roads are still mainly unpaved, modern homes have begun springing up on the east side of the lake, and fewer people are steeped in local history, Martin says. "The story has died over generations," he adds.

But others say the old tales persist through other means. Instead of being told around the campfire, tales are passed along via books, movies and the Internet, academics say.

Print has its drawbacks, academics say. A skillful storyteller would have a mental Rolodex of possible story endings or scenarios and could change the tale to suit an audience. For example, "the wolf could eat Little Red Riding Hood" instead of Little Red Riding Hood slaying the wolf, depending on the speaker's mood, said Gene Cooper, a professor of anthropology at USC who studies Chinese folklore.

"Once a story goes into print, it solidifies them and you can lose a lot of the meanings it once had," Cooper said.

But folklore experts say monsters are increasingly finding an audience in cyberspace, which has countless sites devoted to unexplained mysteries. The Internet is

"tailor-made for the dispersal of folk tales," Cooper said. "Rather than being passed along from father to son once a generation, they get passed along to everyone on your mailing list and it puts more material in peoples' hands that they can work with and spice up."

Angeles National Forest officials try to keep a straight face at the notion of a dragon in Lake Elizabeth.

which is less than 100 feet deep and occasionally goes dry during the summer. While much of the lake is surrounded by brush and pine, homes do overlook the eastern edge. As Bruce Quintelier, a spokesman for the forest, pointed out: "Not a lot of places to hide."

But some locals aren't as dismissive. Devin Peterson has spent four or five nights by the lake in the last

several years and swears he's heard ducks screaming each time, as if something were chasing them. "Nothing would surprise me," he says, pacing the lake shore, the sand crunching under his feet.

"Ducks don't scream like that for no good reason."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Feb. 26, 2001 CR: J. Whitehead

## Nearly 3 million join search for alien life

BY ANICK JESDANUN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — Michael Johnson is so committed to finding life in outer space he bought an \$800 computer to do nothing but analyze radio signals for signs of E.T.

Combined with his two other computers, Johnson has donated nearly two years of processing power to the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

"If I'm the one who finds the signal, hooray for me," said Johnson, 35, an Omaha, Neb., resident who works for a long-distance telephone company.

Even if the question of whether we're alone remains unanswered, Johnson is by no means alone.

Nearly 3 million Internet users worldwide have donated their idle processing power to SETI@Home, one of about a dozen SETI efforts to detect alien life. By stringing those computers together, researchers can do a better job of scanning the sky.

"It's something that's very near to my heart," said Rob Yale, 47, a Toronto recording studio owner who has been watching stars since he was about 11. "I'm doing

my part for something that I would really like to know the answer to."

SETI@Home, which runs out of the University of California at Berkeley, uses the Arecibo Radio Observatory in Puerto Rico to record signals from outer space.

Researchers slice those signals and distribute them to SETI volunteers, whose computers analyze the data and send back results for further analysis at Berkeley. Volunteers only have to connect to the Net and can even set the software to do so automatically.

David Anderson, the project's director, says SETI volunteers already have identified hundreds of millions of "candidate signals" that warrant further review, though most are likely background noise or manmade signals from Earth.

The project needs intensive computing power to correct for uncertainties in how a planet from which a signal emanates might rotate and orbit, factors that affect how signals appear on Earth. Think of how a fire engine's siren appears to change as the truck whizzes down the street.

In less than two years, the SETI computers have together completed more than 570,000 years of calculations. The 550,000 active volunteers contribute the power of about twice the world's fastest supercomputer, the \$110 million ASCI White built for nuclear weapon simulations.

SETI@Home organizers now hope to extend the project beyond its scheduled May completion, possibly by using a telescope in Australia.

The project has a loyal following. Scores of SETI clubs have formed around the world. It's highly competitive, with a Web site tracking the most productive individuals and groups.

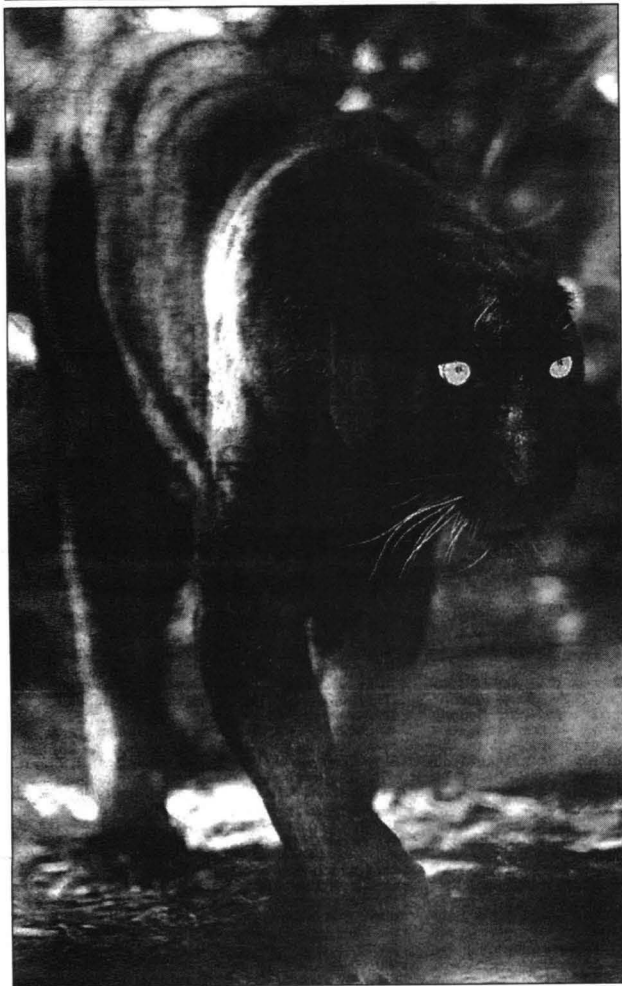
Many users are astronomy buffs or have interests in science fiction. They generally believe there is life in outer space, though many acknowledge it could take a few generations or longer to establish that.

Bill Fuller, 56, a computer consultant near Magdalena, N.M., understands SETI may never find alien life, but it's worth the effort: "If you don't look for the things you don't expect to find, you don't find them."

## Intrigue over black beast caught on video

# Big cat mystery deepens

HAS A CREATURE LIKE THIS CROSSED YOUR PATH?



**Black cat:** this leopard lives at Melbourne Zoo.

**HAS** the mystery big cat that has haunted Victorians for decades finally been captured on video?

A video of a big black cat has raised the eyebrows of some hardened sceptics, including the Melbourne Zoo.

But the remote location where this big cat was captured on video and the man who taped it are being kept secret.

The animal is said to have been tracked down following the latest reports of mauled sheep.

Two months were spent attempting to film the animal by following the kill sites.

Melbourne Zoo director of conservation and research Peter Temple-Smith said the video footage was intriguing, but he would expect to see more evidence.

"The chap who took the footage seemed genuine," he said.

"If I was in his position I would be trying to get some more information, camping out there and looking for other signs."

Thousands of sightings of the creature have been reported over the years.

Kyneton Guardian editor Don Gunn said the video was the strongest evidence he had seen of the cat's existence.

"It's out there somewhere," he said.

The cat story is shrouded in myth, mystery and half-truths.

Tales of the legendary black feline date to the 1880s.

One theory suggests it is the descendant of six young pumas smuggled into Australia by US servicemen during World War II.

When their secret was discovered, the US air-

**By NATALIE SIKORA**

men, based near the Grampians, are said to have set them free rather than destroy them.

Mr Gunn said sightings had ranged from the Kyneton area through to Castlemaine, up to Maryborough, down to Ballarat and around to Daylesford and Macedon.

Recent reports include:

**A METCALFE** woman claims she has a large black cat on her property. She says it lazes in the sun near her dam.

**BALD HILL** motor mech-

anic Richard Murray said he saw a large animal behind his house about five months ago.

**KYNETON** electrician Kevin Marshall saw a cat-like animal near Malmsbury Reservoir.

**NORTH** Drummond horse trainer Russell Robinson last November discovered his 31-year-old horse had his rug ripped off his back and was left with back wounds, torn skin and scratches.

Malmsbury police officer Sen-Constable Bob Sheridan said dozens of sheep had been killed in

the area over the years, many going unreported.

"It's out there and it takes sheep now and then," he said.

"The sheep have been ripped apart in such a way that it's not done by dogs."

"Local farmers have been putting up with it for years. There's nothing they can do about it. They just bury what's left."

For many years, residents in the Macedon-Lancefield area have maintained the existence of a big cat in their area.

NEWS, Skagway, AK - Nov. 10, 2000

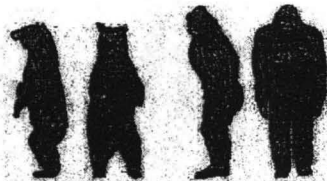


Illustration from John Bindernagel's Web site

## Calling Mr. Sasquatch

Lots of NW sightings, no physical evidence

One of the most curious sessions at the Skagway Paranormal Symposium was: "Yukon Sasquatch: myth, legend and realities of this mythical (?) creature."

David Leverton, director of the Northern Lights Space and Science Center in Watson Lake, Yukon, led the program. Leverton has been collecting stories of Sasquatch sightings for development of a show to present at the center.

No stranger to Skagway - he frequently visits here with his partner-artist Anne Doyle - Leverton presented summaries of four interviews with Yukoners who had witnessed "Bigfoot sightings." None of those mentioned had actually occurred in the Yukon. But Dr. John Bindernagel, a B.C. wildlife biologist connected by speaker-phone, did say that there have been 12 reported sightings in the territory.

Leverton's accounts were as follows:

- A woman driving near Tete Jaune Cache, B.C. in 1990 encountered a tall, slim black object that came into their lane as they slowed down. The creature then put its hands or paws on the hood and pushed down three or four times before leaving. Her husband slept through the event and refused to go look for the creature after his wife woke him up. Bindernagel commented that Sasquatches are usually more curious than threatening.

- A similar incident occurred in 1991 on the highway near Chetwynd, B.C. A woman reported waking up to screams by her boy friend, as they watched something sitting with its legs dangling off the side of the road. It then got up out of the ditch and ran. It was seven-to-eight feet tall, "definitely not a bear," and orange colored. The boy friend said he made eye contact but still refuses to talk about it.

- Another sighting from a further distance, 700 meters, was reported by a driver near Chetwynd in 1988. The witness said the animal was tall, brown and had a long gait. "If there is such a thing as a Sasquatch, I saw one," he said.

- The coastal event, witnessed by fishermen in remote Summerville Bay near Prince Rupert, B.C. actually was heard, not seen. One of the men said they were baffled by a screaming noise, "like nothing we've ever heard," for about 15 minutes.

The only thing close to physical evidence are footprints which biologist Bindernagel and his wife found in 1988 - about a size 20 shoe size, and 30 percent wider than human. See photos on his Website: [www.island.net/~johnb](http://www.island.net/~johnb).

There's also the famous 1967 Patterson-Griffin film in California that some regard as a hoax. Bindernagel believes the film is valid, because the gait of the creature is consistent with many eyewitness accounts. To date, however, there has not been enough hair or scatological evidence to do D.N.A. testing, and no skeletal remains. Although it's believed the creatures live in caves, none have been found.

Bindernagel said he believes we are in a period similar to the 1890s when elusive gorillas were just rumored to be a species in Africa. Until physical evidence was confirmed, they remained the stuff of legends.

"Who knows?" Leverton added. "To me, they're great stories. We just need more evidence." - **JEFF BRADY**

## Coastal residents jolted by mysterious booms

**WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)** — Mysterious booming noises that have shaken the Cape Fear coast from time to time returned last week, prompting calls to meteorologists and earthquake specialists from concerned residents.

The National Weather Service received several phone calls concerning houses shaking and unexplained loud noises about 11 p.m. Thursday.

"I thought we were having an earthquake and ran to get my children," said Sarah McKenzie who lives in an apartment complex in Wilmington.

The National Earthquake Information Center in Boulder, Colo., detected no major earth movement in the area, said Richard Anthony, the National Weather Service's head meteorologist for the Wilmington area.

The center received calls from an area stretching from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington campus all the way to Bladen County.

"I have experienced the shakings and I have heard the noises," Anthony said. "They can be traumatic, but no one really has a good explanation for

them."

Meteorologists told callers it might have been the "Seneca Guns," referring to a folk legend about the mysterious seasonal booms that irregularly rattle the shoreline along the lower Cape Fear.

The legend dates back to the 19th century. After finding no explanation for the strange sounds, area residents concocted a myth about the Seneca Indians being edged out of their land when European settlers arrived. The sounds are the Indians supposedly returning for revenge with the white man's own weapon.

More modern theories include jets breaking the sound barrier, the shifting of the continental shelf, or a patch of air suddenly becoming hotter than the air surrounding it and exploding like a balloon.

During World War II, the sounds were blamed on a missile program at Topsail Island.

UNC-Wilmington geologists and others are researching the noises.

Meanwhile, some area residents remain a little shaky.

"I wish someone could tell me what it is," McKenzie said.