

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

May 2001  
Number 382

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - April 7, 2001

## A True Believer's Guide to UFOs

Cal Tech professor's 'scientific' book is long on hope, short on skepticism

### THE SCIENCE OF UFOS

By William R. Alschuler  
St. Martin's; 256 pages; \$23.95

Reviewed by Jenn Rossmann

Scientific research is as susceptible to trends as high fashion, and it is similarly unkind to those practitioners who've fallen out of step. Cold fusion and other momentarily haute concepts are now as laughably out of vogue as last year's pashmina shawl. So it would be easy to forgive William Alschuler, the author of "Are We Alone in the Cosmos?" "UFOs and Aliens" and the new "The Science of UFOs," if he adopted the tone of an apologist.

Instead, as Alschuler says in the preface to this new work, "I believe it is highly likely that extra-terrestrial beings of great intelligence populate our galaxy on many planets and talk to one another across the immense distances between the stars. I am extremely doubtful that they visit one another or that any have visited Earth. But if aliens arrived on my doorstep I would be thrilled."

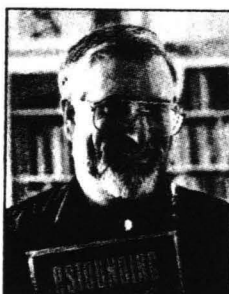
Alschuler is an astronomer by training, and a science professor at the California Institute of the Arts. But those expecting a book called "The Science of UFOs" to be a thorough debunking are in for a surprise. From the first pages, Alschuler writes in a conversational (sometimes ungrammatical) style, often in the first-person plural. This is not a book that intends to convince. The enthusiastic author believes his readers are already on board, and as hopeful as he that the aliens are out there.

The author examines techniques and phenomena that alien engineers would have to exploit to transport themselves across the distances required to reach our skies: improved fuels; fission engines; fusion. A fusion-driven rocket that could compress hydrogen gas to extremely high temperature and pressure seems promising to Alschuler, but its energy requirements would cripple a spacecraft needing enough power for a long journey.

The National Ignition Facility in Livermore, in fact, is uses lasers to compress deuterium in this way. Ignition requires a space the size of a football field — unwieldy for interplanetary travel. Just when things seem hopeless, though, Alschuler points out that recently discovered planets outside our solar system might be used as refueling sites.

Readers may be occasionally suspicious of Alschuler's unflagging optimism, and of his research materials. The author compares each proposal with the available "data" from UFO sightings, and gives nearly equal weight to the technologies of "Star Trek" and science-fiction novels.

This is necessarily a survey, as Alschuler wants to consider every conceivable possibility. When he does permit himself to spend the time, he is a capable instructor. To illustrate how a warped space might give rise to new patterns of motion, as in a black hole, Alschuler suggests:



William R. Alschuler

"Visualize a sheet of rubber stretched taut inside a frame so that it is flat. Place a bowling ball on the sheet. It will sink into the sheet and create a funnel-shaped slope in the sheet centered on the ball's center. Roll a ball bearing across the sheet and it will not travel in a straight line. It will travel a curve. If you aim the bearing just right it will go into an orbit around the funnel."

Even better, Alschuler knows that this analogy is really "too easy to visualize," because in the real world "matter distorts space all around itself." Still, it's a competent lesson in how a black hole might draw a spacecraft in.

No matter how improbable these new technologies seem, Alschuler is optimistic; he's rooting for the alien engineers. At one point, he considers aliens' "observed" habit of passing through man-made walls, and proposes that this might be some sort of large-scale, ordered, quantum tunneling effect. He concludes that a contraption based on this theory is largely implausible, but that "an advanced alien civilization might, with its long head start on us, have devised a way to miniaturize such a device, and that may be what allows them to walk through walls and drag humans with them."

Alschuler is at his most skeptical when reviewing photographic and videotaped "evidence" of UFOs, highlighting known instances of fakery and photographic arti-

facts misidentified as alien craft. He closes this section with a short guide to making sure one's own UFO photographs are not compromised. This entails shielding oneself and one's equipment from external electric fields: "make a screen or an aluminized plastic film with eye holes cut out, large enough to enclose your head at least, perhaps your whole body. You would put it on as soon as you see the lights."

Surveying the range of spacecraft shapes and alien body types described in eyewitness accounts, Alschuler wonders, "Why would anyone design a saucer-shaped high-speed craft? It is not inherently a particularly low-drag or high-lift shape. It is not inherently stable." Only spin, like that imparted to a thrown Frisbee, will enhance a saucer's lift and improve its stability; this raises the further question of how one pilots a ship that is spinning rapidly.

Alschuler's belated skepticism may be a welcome change for some readers, but others — those who went along easily with his optimistic "we" — may be put off by this tonal shift. Soon enough, though, the tone has changed again: in closing, Alschuler lists his hopes for an alien civilization that, like Hippocrates, will strive to "do no harm."

At the end of it all, Alschuler still wants to believe, and he's not in it to convince anyone else to go along on this hopeful ride. His book might be more successful if he were. In his eagerness, he gets careless with language and with science, which is far worse than falling out of fashion.

San Francisco writer Jenn Rossmann is on the engineering faculty of Harvey Mudd College.

DAILY UNIVERSE, [Brigham Young University], Provo, UT - Feb. 7, 2001

## Y students seeking the truth that is out there

By Angela Pace  
pace@newsroom.byu.edu  
NewsNet Staff Writer

"They're here," say some BYU students who are sharing their UFO spotting encounters on film.

Five BYU media arts studies students are making a film based on the testimonies of BYU students who claim to have had alien experiences.

Kaleb Tracy, 23, junior from Shelby, Mich., said he and his friends are making the film for the next few months as a side project.

"We'd like to do a documentary on people that have seen UFOs and try to tell their story," Tracy said.

The film will be about 15 to 20 minutes long and will feature sightings mostly in Utah.

Seven students have reported UFO sightings, with one claiming to have seen an alien.

"We figured that any collection we could put together would be interesting to other people," Tracy said.

Some may see the stories as controversial, especially at BYU. The team is trying to make the documentary as non-controversial as possible.

"We're just assuming that what they say is true. We're just going to tell their story," Tracy said. "I'm pretty unbiased because I know that there are a lot of things

that go on that are unexplained."

Even though they haven't received opposition during their filming process, not everyone will accept their testimonials as truth.

"There is no good scientific evidence that UFOs exist," said Harold McNamara, BYU professor of astronomy.

Emily Yu, Wilhelm Haydt, Roxanne Woodward and Russel Larson are the other members of Tracy's team. The group has worked on three other projects in the past, including a commercial about Palm Pilots.

The project began two weeks ago when the team began advertising to collect eyewitness accounts of extraterrestrial experiences.

"We work on the film on the weekends and during our free time," Wilhelm Haydt, 24, freshman from Durango, Mexico said.

"We're just making it for the sake of it and because it seemed like a good idea," Haydt said.

For the team, the main purposes of the film are to gain experience and practice their filming skills.

They plan to film on site and they might use props to make the documentary appear more realistic.

For more publicity, they plan to submit their project to film festivals.

"It's just a chance to get your name out and screen it," Tracy said.



Illustration by Brody Larson

Five BYU students are opening a BYU X-file in the form of a documentary film. The film will include testimonials of students who claim to have had extraterrestrial experiences.



Wes Smalling/The New Mexican

The symposium's keynote speaker, UFO researcher Stanton Friedman, stands in front of his UFO books that are for sale and holds up a copy of documents he acquired from the U.S. government through a Freedom of Information Act request that have several pages entirely blacked out with ink by government officials. Friedman said the documents relate to a UFO cover-up.

# UFO HAVEN

UFO SYMPOSIUM IS A FUND-RAISER FOR THE CITY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY WES SMALLING · THE NEW MEXICAN

**A**ZTEC — With the help of *Time Magazine*, the *X-Files*, movies like *Independence Day* and a slew of UFO books, just about everyone has heard of Roswell — the UFO hub in southern New Mexico that many think is the recovery site of a flying saucer that crashed there in 1947.

All right. So how many of you Trekkies have heard of a 1948 flying-saucer crash at Aztec, N.M.?

Some UFO experts will tell you that Roswell is for amateurs, and that serious UFO researchers, often referred to as "ufologists," are sniffing around Aztec, a small town in the Four Corners region, which, they say, could be the next UFO hot spot of Planet Earth.

While Roswellians squabble over which of the formerly six — now seven — crash sites is the "authentic" one (each with a different economic beneficiary), the town of Aztec rallies behind a common cause: its library.

The fourth annual "UFO Crash at Aztec Symposium," which took place March 23-25, is a fund-raiser for the city's public library. That's why whether a flying saucer crashed in the Aztec area on March 25, 1948, is beside the point, said Leanne Hathcock, head librarian and organizer of the annual event. The Aztec UFO Symposium lost \$2,000 in its first running but is

estimated to have cleared at least \$6,500 in funds during this year's symposium, which was held last weekend.

"I think we gained more momentum this year than any other year; not nearly what we'd like to make, but we're getting there," Hathcock said. The amount raised is just a drop in the well considering the town needs \$1.2 million to pay for a new library, but Hathcock, and the handful of volunteers who assist her, hope they've planted a seed that will grow into an out-of-this-world money tree.

"In the new building we'd be about five times as big," said Al Guilford, former president of the library's board of directors. "Right now (the library is so small), when we buy a book we have to throw away a book."

"If we sell everyone (in the country) a T-shirt, we can build a new library," Hathcock said in a speech at the opening banquet at the Aztec Civic Center. The banquet drew a crowd of about 100 people.

**ON THE WEB:** To hear more about the Aztec conference or to dig deeper into the UFO question, log on to [www.aztecufu.com](http://www.aztecufu.com) or [www.caus.org](http://www.caus.org) or [www.rutgers.edu/mcgrew/MUFON](http://www.rutgers.edu/mcgrew/MUFON). UFO skeptics will enjoy [www.nmsr.org/aztec.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/aztec.htm).

Books on the alleged Aztec flying-saucer crash: *Behind the Flying Saucers*, by Frank Scully (1950); *UFO Crash at Aztec*, Steinman and Stevens (1986).

While selling alien trinkets to generate funds is one aspect of the conference, the organizers also hope to add legitimacy to the search for UFO evidence, Hathcock said.

In 1997, shortly after she began working at the Aztec Public Library, Hathcock came across an obscure book called *UFO Crash at Aztec*, by William Steinman and Wendelle Stevens. Hathcock asked around, and nobody had heard of it.

"It was like a little light bulb went on," she said. "I thought: 'Why didn't anybody think of this before?' And not only that, I'm curious. I want to know what happened."

At first, some of the town residents and public officials were skeptical of a plan to lure busloads of Spock-eared UFO fans to their bedroom community of about 5,500 people. But lately most locals have been warming up to the idea although flocks of tourists haven't started arriving in droves just yet for the annual conference.

"Last year the city manager went down to Roswell and said: 'Do you believe in this stuff?' And they said: 'We believe in money,'" said Randy Barnes, a member of the Friends of the Aztec Library.

Roswell's International UFO Museum and Research Center draws about 200,000 visitors annually and, according to the New Mexico Department of Tourism, more than 40,000 made the trek to Roswell for the 50th anniversary of its alleged crash on July 4, 1997.

"We don't want to be Roswell. Roswell is a circus,"

(continued on page 3)

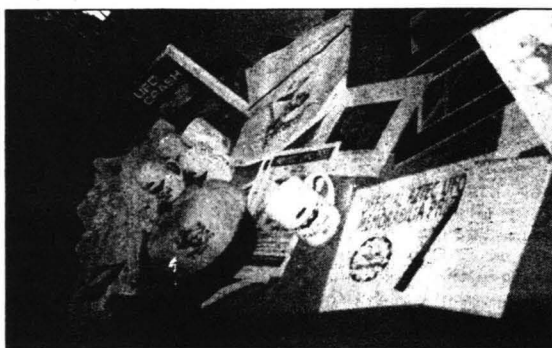


said Guilford, the library board's former director. "Sure, we'll sell you the T-shirts, but our main thrust is the symposium to discuss the ideas, the issues."

This year's symposium featured the biggest name in the UFO community, Stanton Friedman, the co-author of *Crash at Corona* and author of *UFOs: The Real Story* and *Top Secret/MAJIC*. Friedman, the "original civilian investigator" of the alleged flying-saucer crash at Roswell, preaches about a "Cosmic Watergate," which, he says, is a vast conspiracy of U.S. military and government officials who are covering up the existence of recovered flying saucers, and yes, alien bodies.

When Friedman spoke in 1997 at the jam-packed 50th anniversary of the Roswell crash, "you couldn't get a hotel room for 75 miles," he said. "This is not yet at that stage," said the 66-year-old nuclear physicist turned UFO crusader.

While the Roswell UFO museum has attracted almost one million visitors since it opened in 1992, the word isn't out yet on Aztec. Most people who attended the Aztec Symposium last weekend were locals, although a few UFO seekers came from as far



Wes Smalling/The New Mexican

Like the city of Roswell, Aztec hopes to cash in on the sale of UFO trinkets. 'If we sell everyone a T-shirt, we can build a new library,' said Leanne Hathcock, the symposium's creator.

away as Santa Fe and Las Cruces.

"It's kind of a UFO heaven out here in New Mexico," said banquet patron Edwin Protokowicz, a UFO fan who recently relocated from Virginia to Las Cruces. "I don't know how you can't believe in (extraterrestrials). It's pretty narrow-minded and egotistical not to. I don't know. Whatever. I'm still having a good time. I don't care," he said.

Symposium speaker Dennis Balthasar has spoken at each of the four Aztec Symposiums and was involved in the early days of Roswell's

UFO museum and served on its board of directors. "I think Aztec has a potential to develop this as far as they want to take it," he said. He added that it took several years for the world to catch Roswell fever, but the exposure from a Roswell-alien sketch appearing on the June 23, 1997, cover of *Time Magazine* certainly helped to advertise it.

To broaden the symposium's agenda beyond traditional UFO shop talk — part of the organizers' attempts to be the "more serious" UFO convention — the master of ceremonies

was Dr. Eugene Spirit Eagle Beyale, a ninth-generation traditional Indian-medicine practitioner with a Ph.D. in spiritual psychology. "I'm not really a UFO-type guy," he joked in his opening speech that paralleled the imagery of UFO lore with an American Indian creation story.

To bring the sports crowd on board, organizers put together a mountain-bike race on Sunday that drew about 100 entrants who zipped past the "crash site," which is located in Hart Canyon, about 12 miles north of Aztec.

Hathcock is pursuing a national sponsor to create more interest in next year's event — but not too much interest.

"Serious speakers tend to stay away from Roswell because of its carnival atmosphere. What we're trying to do is balance between not losing our speakers and bringing the numbers (of visitors) in to make the money," she said. "Roswell offered Stanton Friedman \$5,000 to speak at theirs, but he turned them down. He (and the other speakers are) doing this for free," although the library picks up the check for their travel expenses.

The convention's manageable attendance is just fine

with Aztec City Commissioner Jack Scott.

"If we can get the interest going, people will eat at the restaurants, shop in the stores and some stay in town at the lodging facilities, that would be great," Scott said. "And if it doesn't happen, it's still fun and good for the community all-around. We want to be different (from Roswell). I think we're probably always going to be smaller. But more quality."

So what exactly — if anything — fell from the sky 12 miles north of Aztec on March 25, 1948? The world might never know. Unlike Roswell, there are no known same-day newspaper accounts describing a flying-saucer crash there and very few locals had even heard of an Aztec UFO crash before the symposiums began four years ago. Nevertheless, the convention's speakers urged those in attendance to put feelers out in the community and to come forward with any information or artifacts — such as a piece of the "99.99-foot" diameter spaceship that someone might have held onto for the past 53 years.

"We may get some deathbed confessions, which would be nice," Friedman said.

## WAY-BACK MACHINE



Jim Albanese

# A tale of the Salinas 'X-Files'

It was sometime in the 1970s — I don't remember the date and haven't been able to find any newspaper accounts to be more precise — that two mysterious people came to Salinas and claimed to be extraterrestrial prophets.

They called themselves "The Two," a reference to the two witnesses in the biblical book of Revelation. They had come to Salinas to proclaim the doom of the Earth and salvation to anyone who wished to join them when the mother ship arrived.

They announced a town meeting at Central Park, at which time they would share their peculiar gospel and be prepared to welcome new converts to the fold.

As I recall, a few hundred people showed up to see what would happen. The unearthly visitors made their pitch but found no takers and were last seen heading for Visalia to look for like-minded people there.

Who were these mysterious strangers?

Following the mass suicide of 39 people in the Heaven's Gate cult on March 26, 1997, in Rancho Santa Fe, certain facts emerged about the sect's leader, Marshall H. Applewhite. It seems that he and a woman named Bonnie Nettles traveled throughout California in the 1970s spreading the word that the world was in imminent peril and that a spaceship would come and rescue the faithful before it was too late. Individually, they called themselves Ti and Do. As a team, they called themselves "The Two."

It is only on this circumstantial evidence that we can speculate that the Central Park Two and the Heaven's Gate cultists were one in the same, but it's an interesting footnote to one of recent history's more gruesome chapters.

The visit of The Two was not the first time something decidedly unearthly was witnessed by Salinas folks.

Sometimes people see things.

What was it they saw in the sky over Salinas on Dec. 12, 1952? A meteor? A wayward weather balloon? Swamp gas?

Whatever it was, those who witnessed the object's flyover that cool Friday morning were in agreement that it didn't belong there.

That particular Friday was not unlike so many late fall days in Salinas. It was cool that morning, in the low 40s. But after the fog burned off, the temperature almost scraped the 70-degree mark on the thermometer; and the sky was perfectly clear.

The object appeared shortly before noon. It first was spotted by a work crew at the Spreckels Sugar plant.

People in town saw it, too. Virgil Wallace told the newspaper that the object was the size of "an automobile headlight."

Witnesses said it passed over Salinas heading south. Then it was observed hovering motionless for about seven minutes over Mount Toro.

Although no military report

was ever released to the public, the Army at Fort Ord apparently noticed the object as well. Witnesses said a small plane, the kind used by the Army for scouting and artillery spotting, approached the craft over Toro's crest.

Whatever the object was, the military plane apparently scared it off. It vanished from view in a matter of seconds as the airplane approached for a look-see.

This was Salinas' first recorded "close encounter," but, unfortunately, if there was a follow-up investigation, the results were never disclosed to the public, nor does the Salinas sighting appear in any of the standard UFO sighting lore.

It didn't even cause that much of a stir here. Salinas was preoccupied with more terrestrial matters on Dec. 12, 1952, and not even a visit from E.T. could shift the city's focus. The Hartnell College football team was en route to Pasadena that day to play in the Junior Rose Bowl that coming Saturday. Hundreds of fans from Salinas were on the road and rails as well.

The game, by the way, was a classic. Hartnell marched 99 yards in the closing seconds, scoring a game-tying touchdown after time had expired (due to a defensive penalty) to tie Bacone, Okla., 20-20.

And no one in Salinas was in the mood, really, to expend the brainwork to figure out what was in the sky that day. Darth Vader himself could have come to town, and no one would have noticed.

But after almost 50 years, questions linger. Was this a spacecraft from some other world? Was Wallace's description of the object as a "headlight" his way of putting a large, distant object into perspective, or was it really that small? Did the Army investigate further? Was this sighting connected in any way with a rash of radar-verified UFO visitations over Washington, D.C., earlier that year?

The truth is out there.

JIM ALBANESE is the Ag Monday editor for The Californian. Contact him at jalb@salinas.gannett.com or 754-4213.

TIMES. Farmington, NM - March 22, 2001

## DAILY TIMES EDITORIAL

# Aztec UFO fete a real freak-out

Aztec has always seemed just a little out of this world, but never more so than during its annual four-day UFO Symposium, beginning today.

What started four years ago as a fund-raiser for the Aztec Public Library has grown into a community-wide event. Authors will be on hand to sign books, an out-of-this-world banquet will be held at the civic center as well as a space week costume contest.

Star gazing will be available, as will tours of the UFO crash site, lectures and other events aimed at piquing the interest of those in attendance.

Beyond that, the Alien Run Hart Canyon Mountain Bike Competition will be held, featuring three categories of contestants ranging from amateur to experienced racer.

In addition, there will be a UFO art show, star gazes and a play written and produced by Aztec resident Charles Pike, "Stardust — The true story of the great Aztec UFO crash of '48."

More than just another weekend outing, this is an opportunity for people to support their community. The main idea behind the UFO Symposium is to raise money to build a new library and that is still the main purpose.

Those promoting the UFO symposium agree the purpose — to build a new library — is an important one. In a free society, the library is the center of the community. It represents freedom and everything that is good in a community.

It is this freedom of information and speech that made Librarian Lee Ann Hathcock address the UFO issue. She and the library's benefactor, known only as Mr. X, believe in focusing on the building of a library.

For a schedule of symposium events, visit the UFO Web site at [www.aztecufo.com/library](http://www.aztecufo.com/library).

It is a great time to bring the family to Aztec for some out-of-this-world fun.



Object pulling  
car backwards.  
Light flooding  
the car.

Drawn by  
Mona Stafford  
after hypnosis

left: drawing by Mona Stafford, described in Jerry Black's handwriting  
below: site of the abduction, Stanford, Kentucky, 1976



# A close encounter with UFO investigator Jerry Black

by Chris Kemp

Jerry Black is looking for UFOs. A sighting has been reported somewhere over rural Blanchester, about 60 miles southwest of Columbus, and, as the cool fields grow dark, he monitors the sky expectantly. For Black, maybe tonight will be the night. Perhaps, for just an instant, he will see something unusual moving above the tree line, blotting out the clean, bright stars.

More likely, though, like last night and the night before it, he will see nothing.

Balding, soft-spoken, vowels drawn out by living in the country, Black has been investigating UFOs for over 40 years. He even met his wife in 1973 after she claimed aliens abducted her. Together, they have collected thousands of local eyewitness accounts of UFO sightings and other close encounters.

"I'm in the business of researching, scientifically and objectively, UFOs," Black said matter-of-factly. "I just wish I had an answer for you people. I wish I could tell you that UFOs are, you know, nothing to worry about. But they've frightened a lot of people. They've scared a lot of people."

Even so, Black said, there isn't a shred of evidence that UFOs are extraterrestrial, that they have ever landed on Earth, or that aliens have abducted people. In 92 percent of cases, UFOs reported by rattled eyewitnesses turn out to be either aircraft, mistaken celestial bodies and other natural phenomena, or elaborate hoaxes, he explained.

But that still leaves eight percent, and it's these remaining cases that most interest Jerry Black. For four decades, Black has tried to expose the hoaxes, the false claims, and the lackluster investigating, and to focus on the cases that, even after thorough investigation, cannot be explained.

"The industry has kind of gone to pot," 61-year-old Black said wearily. "It seems like everybody out there is more interested in money than telling the truth about UFOs."

Recalling an early investigation, Black says one of his schoolteachers claimed she was seeing UFOs regularly, always from the same window of her house. On visiting the teacher, Black was surprised by what he found. "I saw what I perceived to be the moon, a full moon," he said. Disappointed, Black says he told the teacher that the bright object above the tree-tops was just the moon. "She gets real close," he recalled, "and she whispers in my ear, 'How do you know it's the moon?'"

During the late 1980s, Black researched a much-publicized spate of UFO sightings in Gulf Breeze, a sun-drenched coastal town on Florida's Panhandle, near Pensacola. Beginning in November 1987, Gulf Breeze resident Ed Walters captured images that clearly showed a brightly lit disc suspended in the night sky. Over the next few years, Walters took several other photographs and also claimed he was being abducted by aliens on a regular basis.

"Gulf Breeze cost me \$2,000 to \$4,000, and I didn't even leave my house," Black said. (continued on page 5)

## There's something out there

Whatever the origin of Unidentified Flying Objects, there have been enough sightings of strange objects in the sky for Jerry Black to take them seriously and investigate them properly. "There's something out there," he said. "You can believe what you want to believe, but there's something out there."

And plenty of people agree. To get some idea of the number of UFO eyewitness reports logged each year, one need look no further than the recently published *The UFO Evidence* (Scarecrow Press) by Richard H. Hall. Included is an exhaustive and chronological collection of UFO reports from 1952 to 1995. It's all here: luminous objects outpacing airplanes, scorched landing sites and mutilated livestock; cone-shaped objects, cigar-shaped objects, globes, balls and spheres; silver-suited beings, stocky humanoids with grayish skin; alien abductions, abrupt weight loss, burned skin, and amnesia; secret desert

rendezvous, government cover-ups, conspiracies and interrogations.

Though Hall's accounts date back to 1952, the story really began five years earlier on July 3, 1947, when something strange happened in the arid scrubland near Roswell, New Mexico. According to the U.S. Air Force, a weather balloon crashed in the desert; but almost immediately, rumors surfaced of disc-shaped objects, little men, deep gouges in the ground and a trail of scattered debris.

There in the thin desert air, as confused reports were confirmed and then abruptly denied, the study of UFOs, or ufology, was born. Whatever really happened at Roswell in 1947, the incident and the uncertainty surrounding it still serve as a backdrop of late-1940s American culture. That same year the House Un-American Activities Committee convened to blacklist suspected Communists, the CIA was formed, and the Cold War began in earnest. As a result, government secrecy, conspiracy theories and ufology also were conceived, and more than 50 years later, all three continue to thrive. Today there's even a musical based on the Roswell incident, imaginatively titled *Roswell: The Musical*. It's expected to open for a fifth season this year at the Roswell Amphitheater.

As for Jerry Black, his interest in UFOs began in the mid-1950s, while still attending Hughes High School in Clifton, just east of Dayton. "I was actually researching and investigating UFOs when I was 16-years-old," Black recalled. Fellow students and teachers knew Black was the school's resident expert on UFOs. "I wasn't interested in the Buck Rogers stuff or whatever," he said. "It really leaves me at odds to explain my interest in the subject."

To properly investigate cases, Black has assembled what he calls "a little empire." Its inhabitants include photographic experts, soil analysts, psychologists, other UFO investigators and staff in the air traffic control towers of both Lunken and Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airports who can verify sightings. Black says that, besides collecting thousands of eyewitness accounts, he has thoroughly investigated 15 to 20 UFO sightings or alien abduction claims. In 1988 he had his own sighting of strange luminous objects while driving along a dark highway with his wife.



"I spent four-and-a-half years and almost lost my wife over it, seriously, because I spent so much time and so much money. I became obsessed with the Gulf Breeze sightings."

Black says Walters photographed home-made UFO models and then double-exposed the film to make it appear as if the UFO was flying over the trees near his home. "We found one [of the models] in his home after he moved," Black said. "He took a picture himself of this model, with a light underneath it, and then left it in the camera, went outside, took a picture of the night sky, and there it was—a UFO."

## No reason to believe this is a hoax

The Gulf Breeze sightings and those of Black's schoolteacher represent the 92 percent of cases that can be explained with careful investigation. Whether by untangling well-wrought hoaxes or trying to make sense of confused eyewitness accounts, most of Black's other cases have been resolved too. But in 1976, after 20 years of researching UFOs, Black finally worked on a case that couldn't be solved, a case that still baffles him today.

On January 6, 1976, at about 11:15 p.m., driver Louise Smith and passengers Mona Stafford and Elaine Thomas were traveling along U.S. Route 27 in Stanford, Kentucky, about an hour south of Lexington, when they claim they were abducted by aliens.

"The women in Kentucky were driving down the highway in 1976 coming back from leaving the Redwood restaurant," Black explained quietly. "They were leaving the restaurant in a very happy mood because they had just celebrated Mona's birthday."

"All of a sudden they saw this object in the sky which they perceived to be an airplane on fire," he recalled. "The object appeared to be red in color and coming, dropping from the sky. They assumed this was an airplane on fire and were bracing themselves to see if it was going to crash somewhere near there."

"All of a sudden, the object stopped on a dime—that's one of the characteristics of UFOs that we don't have [with human technology]."

## Before the whole earth shakes

The abduction claims of Louise Smith, Mona Stafford and Elaine Thomas are unusual, says investigator Jerry Black, but not unique. "There's still thousands of people on this planet, sincere people like yourself, like me, like anyone walking out on the street today, who sincerely believe they were abducted," he said frankly. "Thousands of women, sitting in their home, housewives looking out the window, see this strange object in the daytime approach the house. And all of a sudden the next thing they remember, the food on the stove is burning or the kids are home from school and they can't account for the lost time."

When investigating a case, Black likes to polygraph his subjects to determine that they are being truthful. "I believe in the use of a polygraph test in nationally known cases," he said. "That doesn't mean that if you come to me and say, 'Jerry, I'd like to meet you at Frisch's, I want to tell you about some lost time I had back 10 years ago.' No, I'm not going to polygraph you."

And scientists probably wouldn't polygraph you either. Recent research has provided them with several other credible explanations for UFO sightings and abduction stories, most of which involve some kind of psychological disorder or neurologically problem. According to a 1993 paper published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, UFO witnesses are either "psychologically or psychosocially disturbed" or "fantasy-prone individuals who...confuse their vivid imaginings with external happenings."

Researchers also found that 81 percent of alleged abductions occur at night and, according to victims' accounts, almost 60 percent are linked with sleep, either occurring as they fall asleep, while they dream, or when they are waking up. In light of these results,

With the disc-shaped UFO clearly visible through the side windows of Smith's 1967 Chevy Nova, the car began to accelerate, Black says. Although Smith took her foot off the gas pedal, the car continued to go faster, reaching speeds of 85 miles per hour; as Smith struggled to control the car, the women never lost sight of the brightly lit UFO, keeping pace with them over the treetops.

"It hung right above the trees less than, you know, less than 100 feet in the air. So the women were terrified," he said. "It went behind the car, revolving lights going 'round—these were yellow lights—took the car, pulled the car backwards."

According to Black, the women later recalled that when the car was pulled backwards: "We could feel these bumps in the road, like at a Frisch's or whatever."

"They saw a blue light come into the car," said Black, "and Louise, the driver, said, 'Oh, it's the Highway Patrol.' But as it turned out, it wasn't the Highway Patrol. The blue light was a UFO. The next thing they remember was back on the highway, riding in the car, they were quite hot just like they had been subjected to extreme heat, or put under a sun-lamp or whatever."

And, he added, "When they got back home they realized they had lost an hour and 25 minutes worth of time."

The women, burned and shaken, immediately went to a neighbor's house, says Black, and the neighbor told them to draw what they had seen and write down what they remembered about it. "We came into the case several months later," he recalled. "We contacted the women, they were reluctant to talk to us and we finally convinced them with my wife coming down."

Black says his wife believes she was abducted by aliens in 1973 and, by relating her own abduction experience to the women, she gained their trust. During the investigation, Black subjected all three women to lie-detector tests, or polygraphs, and they all passed.

"Under hypnosis all three women claimed that they were taken aboard this object and given a physical examination," he said. "Elaine was put in a glass cubicle, it was pretty dark, but she could see the figures of small beings walking around the glass outside. She had a skin scraping taken off of her chest."

scientists think many accounts of alien abduction are just descriptions of sleep paralysis, an episode of total body paralysis that occurs just prior to sleep or upon awakening.

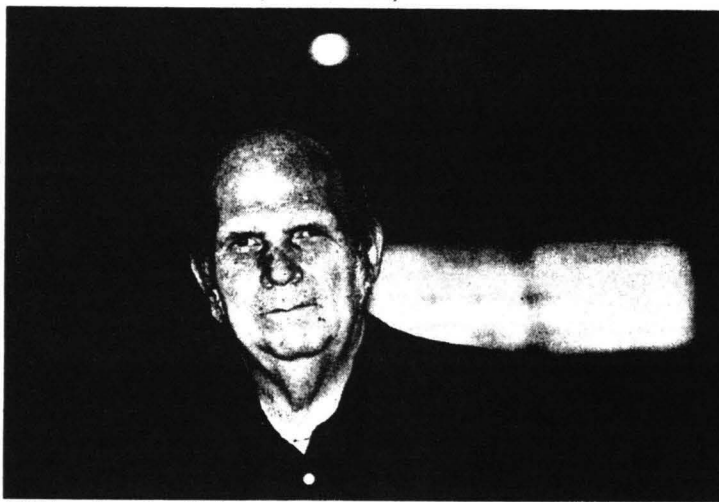
Then again, some studies claim that alien abduction experiences are really fetal memories stored at the moment of birth. Other findings suggest that the temporal lobes of the brain might be responsible. Located on either side of the brain, where its surface crowds into ridges and deep grooves, the temporal lobes organize sensory information as it first enters the brain. Acting as a gate to all kinds of incoming information, especially sound and smell, the temporal lobes tell us a lot about our surroundings; when they stop working properly, patients suffer visions, hallucinations, and altered behavior, and often have intense religious experiences.

Armed with these findings, researchers believe temporal lobe damage probably accounts for a lot of UFO sightings and alien abduction claims. In other words, after ruling out psychological problems, neuroses, sleep paralysis, fetal memories, mistaken natural phenomena and hoaxes, scientists think faulty temporal lobes could explain almost all remaining UFO phenomena, including the people who allege they are carrying alien probes and the women who claim aliens have impregnated them.

"There are many women out there who claim to have been impregnated by aliens," Black confirmed. "I'm sure you've heard these stories, but not one story has ever been authenticated. Period. Not one story. There's always a hitch."

If a woman claims she is carrying an alien fetus, Black says, it's important to check her medical records to make sure she is either pregnant, recently suffered a miscarriage, or had an abortion. "Some women won't even let you do that," he said. "So, if they're not even going to let me verify that they were even pregnant, then I'm out of there."

But the psychological and neurological



UFO investigator Jerry Black

—Matt Borgerding/CityBeat photo

Mona had her eyes actually removed from her sockets, she claims, laid on her cheeks and replaced again."

The women claimed their arms and legs were twisted in a very painful manner, he says, but when they were asked if they felt like they had been tortured, they all said no. "We've got eight hours of tapes of hypnosis of these women and, believe me, they're not pleasant to hear," Black said. "Most of it, they're crying. To this day I have no reason to believe those women were perpetrating a hoax."

According to Richard H. Hall's *The UFO Evidence*, which includes a report of the incident, all three women suffered eye inflammation, excessive thirst, abrupt weight loss and skin burns that took weeks to heal. Following the women's experience, Louise Smith's watch, alarm clocks, and car malfunctioned and in 1978, two years after the incident, Elaine Thomas died of unknown causes.

Although he investigated the case almost 25 years ago, Black still keeps in touch with the two surviving women. As each year passes, he says he believes less and less that UFOs could be extraterrestrial in origin. If it wasn't for the Stanford, Kentucky, abductions, Black says, he might have stopped believing altogether.

explanations for UFO phenomena don't explain every case. For one, they do nothing to address UFO sightings that involve whole crowds.

Michael Persinger thinks he has the answer there. A professor of psychology and neuroscience at Laurentian University in Ontario, Canada, Persinger believes UFOs, or "luminous anomalies" as he calls them, are generated by movements or stresses in the Earth's tectonic plates. Persinger has been studying the link between earthquakes and UFOs since the late 1960s, and says there is often an increase in the number of UFO sightings in the six-month period leading up to an earthquake.

"I didn't even begin looking at UFO phenomena," said Persinger. "I'm primarily interested in luminous displays as predictors of earthquakes, which are very difficult to predict."

Appearing as strange lights, luminous displays can move around, change color, rotate and change shape, Persinger explained, but they are not UFOs; instead, they are little pockets of electromagnetic energy produced when energy that has built up in the Earth's crust is released through natural fault lines.

"Their color reflects their temperature," Persinger said. "If they rotate, different areas will have different temperatures and different colors which, to the naïve eye, may be perceived as a craft or whatever."

In a paper published in the journal *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, Persinger writes that the short pulses of energy that cause strange moving lights in the sky might also be powerful enough to affect the temporal lobes of the brain, triggering an imaginary abduction experience.

"The movement of these phenomena follow local fault lines or other strain release mechanisms," he said. "That's why you often find them along riverbeds and, of course, very often riverbeds became paths, paths became trails, and trails became the highway. Very

often, you find these luminous displays moving along with cars and the way they interact with cars simply reflects the dielectric and conductive characteristics of a car as it travels."

Lights like these are seen often in California, where there are lots of fault lines, and also were reported in the Yakima Indian reservation before the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington state. Beginning in November 1981, and continuing for several years, residents of Hessdalen, Norway reported sighting hundreds of luminous displays, which also were accompanied by audible underground rumblings. Most recently, after the Turkish earthquake in August 1999 that claimed over 7,000 lives, Persinger received a glut of reports describing similar events.

"Afterwards, our lab was inundated with requests from scientists in Turkey," said Persinger, "pointing out that, for two weeks before the big event, fishermen were reporting their nets being burned and bizarre lights in the sky and strange vibrations and all kinds of odd things going on." Persinger hopes one day his research will be used to predict earthquakes, allowing those in danger to evacuate the affected areas ahead of time.

Meanwhile, as night cools the dusty fields and the yellow rows of corn, Jerry Black will continue to search the sky over Blanchester for anything unusual. He says it's a good place for a UFO investigator to live, away from the city lights and the highway, where the sky is clear.

He'll continue to collect reports of UFO sightings too, adding to the thousands he has already managed to accumulate over the last four decades. It's possible that some of them were just luminous anomalies, caused by the slow cooling of the Earth, and maybe others were imagined by psychologically disturbed or fantasy-prone individuals, or products of faulty temporal lobes misfiring as they relay information around the brain. And then again, maybe some of them weren't.

# DO YOU BELIEVE? THIS MAN DOES

By Debra Mayeux/Staff writer

**AZTEC** — He is a nuclear physicist, a well-rounded and studied man, who believes in flying saucers and life on other planets.

He's the original civilian investigator of the Roswell UFO crash, and now Stanton Friedman has decided to look into the story behind the 1948 crash of a UFO in Hart Canyon near Aztec. He is one of the main speakers at the fourth annual Aztec UFO

Symposium.

Friedman, who has given more than 700 lectures worldwide on the flying saucer phenomenon, decided to come to Aztec because of new evidence that has surfaced.

"There is beginning to be some new information, solid information that indicates maybe something did happen here," Friedman said.

"Knowing how much of a cover-up there was in Roswell, despite the press involve-

## TODAY

**10:30 a.m.** Stanton Friedman booksigning and reception, Hardback Books, 200 S. Main St. Aztec. Free.

**11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Space Week Costume Contest, a walk from Park Avenue School to the Aztec Civic Center. Free.

**6 p.m.** Out-of-This-World Banquet at the Aztec Civic Center. Tickets: \$20.



Marc F. Henning/  
The Daily Times

Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, a world-

renowned UFO expert, will be speaking at the Aztec UFO Symposium on Saturday.

TIMES, Farmington, NM - March 22, 2001

# Spinning the tale of a UFO crash in Aztec

By Debra Mayeux/Staff writer

**FARMINGTON** — The preservation and interpretation of history is one of the themes of this year's Aztec UFO Symposium.

Charles Pike of Aztec presented his interpretation of the area's history Wednesday in an unforgettable performance of his original play "Stardust — The True Story of the Great Aztec UFO Crash of 1948."

Pike premiered the play Wednesday evening at San Juan College as a kick-off to the five-day symposium.

"This is part of our oral history, the performing arts," said Leanne Hathcock, event organizer. "Charles is documenting our history in a popular culture sense, in the form of oral history."

The play focuses on the lives and times of the

people of Aztec in 1948, stories told through the eyes of a coal miner/preacher who grew up in the area.

Pike creatively weaves the stories of Aztec's history throughout the play — taking the audience on a journey through Aztec and the old town of Rosa, which now lies at the bottom of the Navajo Reservoir.

It's also a journey through folklore and the legend of an alien visit with the backdrop of outer space.

Pike, a true talent and pleasure to watch, plays all of the roles, easily slipping in and out of different characters.

"Stardust" takes the actor and his audience on an emotional roller coaster ride, as Pike's characters tell war stories and touch on the politics of the day, while bringing religion into the mix. Pike proves he did his research through the accuracy of his presentation.

There is a limited use of props in the production, with Pike simply using the changing of a hat to

become a completely different personality.

Adding to the play are the musical talents of ET3 — a musical trio of Keith Cochran on keyboard, James Tuttle on bass and Devon Heath on drums. The musicians brought a professionalism and ambience to the production.

The play is a new addition to this year's symposium. Hathcock says there will be more art and culture this year with the making of a documentary and an art contest.

Interest in the symposium is growing, Hathcock said.

"Preregistration is up," she said. "This is history in the making."

"Stardust" will be presented again at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Aztec Presbyterian Church. The symposium runs through March 25 in Aztec. For a complete schedule of symposium events visit the UFO Web site at [www.aztecufosymposium.com](http://www.aztecufosymposium.com).

Debra Mayeux can be reached at: [debra@daily-times.com](mailto:debra@daily-times.com).

ment, certainly it's feasible that that was done up here too. I thought what the heck let's find out."

Friedman says he is always looking for new data and hopes that some people with information about Aztec will come forward after his lecture here. "Who knows what will happen," he said.

## The saucers are real

Friedman, who was a classmate of Carl Sagan, has been studying flying saucers for 43 years. He believes that they are real and that many of the crafts are manned by extraterrestrials. He outlines four of those points in his lecture "Flying Saucers are Real."

"The evidence is overwhelming that planet earth is being visited by extraterrestrial spacecraft, which means some UFOs are alien spacecraft, most are not, and I don't care about those," Friedman said. "Second, the subject of flying saucers represents a cosmic Watergate meaning few people within major governments have known since July of 1947, when at least one flying saucer crashed in New Mexico."

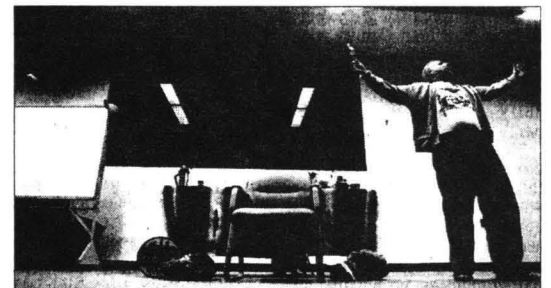
"The third conclusion is none of the arguments made against the first two by a small group of noisy negativists, as I call them, stand up against the first two when you look at the evidence."

He brings in his nuclear physicist background, pointing out that if the aliens started studying and developing interstellar travel approximately 10,000 years ago, they must be ahead of us. "We expect they know some things we don't know," he said.

"Think of what they know. Look back 100 years and it's incredible what progress we've made, technological progress, not sociological progress."

## We're earthlings

This is where Friedman becomes philosophical. He



Benjamin Chrisman/The Daily Times

Charles Pike of Aztec presents his interpretation of the Aztec UFO crash of 1948 Wednesday night at San Juan College.

addresses humans as earthlings and describes why he believes society's viewpoint needs to change by moving in a planetary direction. "I think we all ought to start thinking of ourselves as earthlings, and we all do have something in common, and governments don't seem to like that," he said.

"I'm concerned the best hope for the future of the planet is an earthling orientation," he said. "We've all come to recognize it's just one dinky little planet."

So why would the aliens want to visit? Friedman has a theory, and it all points back to Roswell.

"They're concerned about their own survival and security. That seems to be a reasonable assumption," he said. "In that case you have to keep tabs on the primitives. But only close tabs on those primitives who show signs of being able to bother you. You mess up your own planet that's your problem, but out here forget it, we don't want you."

Friedman says that "earthlings" showed signs of branching out into space at the end of WWII. Those signs were scientific advancements all being studied in the southeastern area of New Mexico. "Nuclear weapons — the control of nuclear energy — easy to spot, pollutes the atmosphere; powerful V-2 rockets, which go up and down, they aren't just little

toy rockets; and powerful radar which has a signal that goes out.

"This is a bigger story than nuts and bolts and crashed saucers and aliens," he said. "To me it's a message of hope. Either you learn to live in peace with your neighbors, anybody you can reach, or you get clobbered. Because growing technology means control of energy to be used for good or for evil. If aliens are coming here they didn't get clobbered, so maybe we can get through this period of too much technology and not enough sociology. To me that's being an optimist."

Friedman says this could be the biggest story of the millennium, when one realizes that aliens and their spacecraft have been visiting earth. And he has penned two books outlining his theories and presenting documents that he says prove the Roswell crash and the alien occupants are real.

Friedman will be signing copies of his books at 10:30 a.m. today at Hard Backs Books in Aztec. He will be speaking at the symposium banquet at 6 p.m. today at the Aztec Civic Center and is slated to speak during the symposium at 1 p.m. Saturday at Aztec High School.

**Information:** The Aztec Library, (505) 334-7658 or on the Web at [www.aztecufosymposium.com](http://www.aztecufosymposium.com).

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - April 10, 2001 CR: D. Perkins

# UFO festival in Roswell set for July

**ROSWELL** — The Little Green Men are landing in Roswell again this summer.

Roswell opens its annual UFO Festival on July 5, with the theme of Roswell 2001 Odyssey.

The festival, which runs through July 8, includes alien-costume contests for various ages, a trade show and vendors, a carnival,

UFO lectures, presentations of the musical *Roswell Live*, two concerts by a Dallas group called Little Green Men and a screening of the movie *Six Days in Roswell*.

Downtown businesses are being asked to decorate their storefronts for the event.

The Associated Press



# Who believes in UFOs?

**Symposium looks at possible crash from both sides**

By Debra Mayeux/Staff writer

**AZTEC** — When it comes to UFOs, people either do or don't believe.

This weekend, there were more believers than skeptics at the fourth annual Aztec UFO Symposium. Many were ready to share their close encounters with anyone willing to listen.

"I've never been a disbeliever, and with the experiences of what I've seen in the sky, that's helped me to believe," said Michael Padilla of Aztec.

Padilla said he has had several close encounters, in this area and overseas.

"The first one I saw as a kid, in 1966," he said. "It was a UFO that flew from the north-

east to the southwest over Aztec. I'd always remembered that happening."

His next experience came in October 1974, while with the U.S. Navy on the Diego Garcia Island in the British Indian Ocean.

"It was about 7 in the evening, and there was a group of us sea bees walking to a hamburger stand," Padilla said. "We saw a gray object, what appeared to be an aircraft, riding 10 to 15 feet above the water, and it went from one end of the horizon to the other, which was approximately 1,100 miles, in a matter of three to four seconds. And this aircraft had no sound. Eleven of us saw it, and we can't all be crazy."

Another area resident, Rick Sherman of Farmington said he saw a UFO in the late 1960s in Utah.

"We were driving down a canyon in Utah, and we saw a large spotlight beaming in the canyon, just hovering there, about 100 to 200 feet high in the sky," Sherman said. "As soon as we got closer, it shot up in the sky just like a rocket. Then it blinked off. It was the brightest spotlight I have ever seen."

These are the stories that keep the curiosity alive. They are the reason for the UFO symposium, said organizer Leanne Hathcock.

"We want people to tell us their experiences with UFOs," Hathcock said. "It's history in the making, and it's part of our oral history project, where we are documenting Aztec's and the area's history."

A significant part of Aztec's and Farmington's history deals with UFOs.

The symposium was born out of a book published in 1950 entitled "Behind the Flying Saucers" by Frank Scully. The book tells of a March 25, 1948 UFO crash in Hart Canyon, 12 miles northeast of Aztec.

Most people in the area had never heard of the crash, but when Hathcock read about it, she thought about holding a symposium to raise money for the Aztec library. She knew a UFO-theme would draw crowds because it had worked in Roswell.

However, she never dreamed the symposium would continue for four consecutive years and grow with each year.

"We've been getting speakers because we're not commercializing it, we're doing this for the library," she said.

That's how the symposium convinced world-renowned UFO expert Stanton Friedman to come this year.

"It's for a new library," he said.

Friedman, who has been in the flying saucer business since the 70s, also likes to listen to people's stories. He puts credence into what they say, and even asked people at the convention to let him know if they have a piece of alien wreckage.

While most at the convention wholeheartedly listened to Friedman, there was one man, who doesn't think a case can be made for an Aztec crash or a 1950 flying saucer armada over Farmington.

"I really don't think there's a UFO cover up," said Dave Thomas, a skeptic from Albuquerque. "I don't buy this argument that the government is afraid that we would freak out."

Thomas says that if there are UFOs, there sure hasn't been any evidence of their existence.

"After 50 years of this stuff a UFO has never landed on a skeptic's or anybody else's head," he said.

Thomas' argument against the Aztec crash is a dozen newspaper articles documenting a connection between Scully and Denver oil promoter Silas Newton, who was charged with fraud in the 1950s for trying to sell pieces of a flying saucer.

Newton had spun the tale that three saucers had crashed in 1948, and one of those was the Aztec saucer, Thomas said.

However, those who believe in UFOs say that Thomas' evidence is nothing. Top secret military

documents received through the Freedom of Information Act prove that the Aztec UFO must have been the real thing, they point out.

One of these men is Ted Loman, the host of an Arizona television show on UFOs. Loman, who did some investigating of his own, said that Scully's story pans out.

The crash was caused by radar, and Loman has documents that prove microwave radar stations existed in this area in 1948.

"The document said the radar was to plot UFO traffic," he said. "And it eludes to the fact that the radar systems were knocking them down."

Loman says the microwaves were set up in a triangle, and put there to protect places such as Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia National Labs.

This directly correlates with a theory from Friedman that military testing caused the Roswell crash. There were different types of tests going on in southeastern New Mexico: nuclear weapons, V-2 rockets and radar signals. These things brought the aliens here, he said. They wanted to see what we were doing.

Loman believes the saucer got caught in the radar beams and dragged down.

The stories are out there, and so is the truth — whether locked in a classified military vault or lost in the mind of the first storyteller who saw an unusual object in the sky.

Different people have different beliefs and each will come to his own conclusion.

As the illustrious Mr. X, the library's benefactor said: "I think as long as it's kept educational, keeping an open mind and keeping it credible, with quality research as our main goal, we'll someday soon find most of the truth."

In the meantime, the Aztec Library will continue to raise money for a larger facility, so that people can read and reach their own conclusion.



Marc F. Henning/The Daily Times  
**Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman (left) talks with Phil Morin (right) and Wayne Mietty about the possibilities of extraterrestrial life during an intermission Saturday at the 2001 Aztec UFO Symposium.**

# UFO enthusiasts to gather for local conference

Event to feature unique array of guests, and a trip to the home of 'Mothman'

by Tina Canon  
STAFF WRITER

CLARKSBURG — Fact or Fiction?

You be the judge as UFO enthusiasts from around the United States converge on Clarksburg, for the 2001 Gray Barker UFO mini-conference at Waldomere.

The event centers on the library's 600-plus collection of books and papers of UFOlogist Gray Barker, who contributed to the creation of popular mythology such as Flying Saucers, Men in Black, and the Mothman.

The second annual event will run from 9 a.m. Saturday and conclude with a field trip to Point Pleasant on Sunday, the home to the legendary Mothman.

The conference is free and open to the public.

The host for the day will be James Moseley, Florida, who has appeared on radio and television shows throughout the United States. Moseley has lectured as an expert on UFOs to many colleges around the country. He is the publisher for a *Saucer Smear* UFO trade journal.

An open panel discussion held Saturday afternoon will include: Moseley, Antonio

Huneus, international coordinator for the Mutual UFO Network; Tom Benson, former MUFON director for New Jersey, and Rick Hilberg, author of the Northern Ohio UFO Casebook.

Longtime Barker friend and confidant Jim Moseley once created a bogus film of a flying saucer by using a small plaster UFO shaped object. The saucer is on display in the Barker Room at Waldomere along with photos of Barker.

Whispers from Space, a film about Barker's life and times, will be screened during the conference weekend and a circulating video copy is available at the library.

Bob Teets, publisher of the West Virginia UFO Journal and author of West Virginia UFOs: Close Encounters in the Mountain State, and John Sherwood, a prize-winning journalist who began his career while still in high school writing for Gray Barker's Saucerian Press are expected to attend.

"Barker played with the idea of flying saucers," said David Houchin, curator of the West Virginia Collection at Waldomere. "He would take material that other people have seen, claimed they



David Houchin, curator of the West Virginia Collection at Waldomere, promises an unusual experience for those attending this weekend's UFO mini-conference. Staff photo

have seen, claimed they knew; and used that as material. He would add to it to create his entertaining stories," he said.

"We promise the event will be completely unusual," said Houchin.

For more information call the Clarksburg-Harrison Public

Library at 627-2236. Staff writer Tina Canon can be reached at 626-1404 or by e-mail at: tcanon@exponent-telegram.com

## Rough Draft

### UFO Believers Sighted Here!

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A group of people who believe in UFOs held a news conference yesterday morning that established beyond the shadow of a doubt—that reached levels of credibility as high as to constitute actual proof—that there really do exist people who believe in UFOs.

This was the big day for the Disclosure Project, an attempt to incite the government to admit that unidentified flying objects are piloted by creatures from another world. The organizer, Steven Greer, a Charlottesville emergency room physician, announced that this was a moment of historic, indeed planetary, significance.

"This is the end of the childhood of the human race. It is time for us to become mature adults among the cosmic civilizations that are out there."

He arranged an impressive venue, the main ballroom of the National Press Club. Upward of a hundred people were there, along with more than a dozen TV cameras. At a long table up front sat 20 witnesses, most of them gray-haired men who'd served in the military.

As they took turns at the microphone, it quickly became apparent that this was a rather old-fashioned event—a return to the fundamentals of ufology, the discussion of aerial anomalies. At one point a witness flashed two black-and-white photos of a saucer-shaped craft. The tales were set, for the most part, in the '40s, '50s and '60s; there was no talk of alien abductions, or an alien-human hybridization program, or the implantation of alien fetuses, or any of those extremely intimate Close Encounters that have dominated the UFO mythology in recent years.

These guys were from the hardware wing of the movement. They'd seen things in the sky they couldn't explain and that suggested, to their minds, extraterrestrial visitors. They'd seen objects. Lights. Radar blips moving at extraordinary speed. What they didn't see, in almost every case, were any actual aliens.

Only one witness, Clifford Stone, a retired Army sergeant, told of having directly seen aliens. He'd seen them both dead and alive at the scenes of crashed saucers. Asked if he could describe their appearance, he said, "I could, but it would probably take a whole lot of time." He did stipulate that there are 57 alien species, including three types of "grays." Many aliens are humanoid, and, indeed, are indistinguishable from members of our own species. Some can touch an object in a dark room and tell its color.

There were a few other unverified bombshells. One speaker claimed that George Bush the elder, when director of the Central Intelligence Agency, refused to give newly inaugurated President Carter the top-secret files on UFOs. Greer, meanwhile, assured the audience that the military has already developed spacecraft that can travel faster than the speed of light.

The Disclosure Project is part of a long—and so far unsuccessful—effort to incite congressional hearings on the UFO issue. Greer says he has conducted interviews with 400 people with intimate knowledge of the alien phenomenon and the government "coverup." Many, he claimed, are afraid to come forward without congressional immunity.

"We know lethal force has been used to keep this secret," he said.

There was nothing presented at the news conference that could be considered forensic evidence. Instead, the audience heard what is known as the Argument from Authority. The evidence on the table was essentially in the form of résumés. The witnesses vouched for their credibility and said they'd like

to tell their stories to Congress. Maybe that's not as impressive as someone coming forward with an actual alien tentacle, but you have to start somewhere.

If nothing else, this was an interesting glimpse of the corrosive side effects of government secrecy. The witnesses have been burdened by suspicion for decades. Some said they were told by superiors to stay silent about what they'd seen.

"Such things do exist. Please believe me," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Charles L. Brown, who once analyzed UFO sightings and saw, just two years ago, "two inexplicable objects."

Graham Bethune, a retired Navy pilot, told of seeing a glow near Iceland that turned into a circle of lights with a dome. This was 1951. He's ready to testify under oath.

Robert Salas, a retired Air Force captain, said a "bright, glowing red object" hovered outside the gate of a nuclear weapons site in Montana in 1967. The weapons suddenly went into a "no go" condition. Did the aliens disable them?

The UFO narrative has innumerable subplots, some of which emerged yesterday. There are people who believe that the Bush administration wants to build a missile defense shield as part of its covert war with the aliens. There is a rumor that Big Oil wants to suppress knowledge of a secret, stunning energy source that can be harvested from the quantum soup all

around us. If we know the truth about the aliens, our energy crisis will be solved. "It will cause such vast and profound changes on this planet that there is nothing to equal it in human history," Greer said.

Who's running this coverup? Greer said that's a complex matter. He said there are compartmentalized elements of a secret government operation in multiple intelligence and defense agencies and throughout corporate America.

The bad guys are everywhere.

We live in a world of lies.

(Are you sure the Apollo astronauts really went to the moon, and not just to a Hollywood back lot?)

Scientists who work on "exobiology" endure the stigma of being experts in a field with no known subject matter. They'd be thrilled beyond words to find a tiny fragment of alien life. They'd like to know if extraterrestrial life is carbon-based, if it uses oxygen in its metabolism, if it stores genetic information in the form of the DNA molecule. They'd like to know the evolutionary history of an alien biosphere, so they could compare it to the history of life on Earth. Now we hear that all the scientists need to do is start poking around in government freezers.

When the news conference was over, rational observers were faced with two scenarios:

■ Intelligent creatures have piloted spaceships across trillions of

miles to visit our planet. They have the ability to elude detection by scientific investigators and mainstream news organizations, but have also been seen by thousands of people. Secret forces within our government have masterfully covered up the alien presence for half a century, although sometimes the coverup is imperfect, which is why, at Safeway, you can buy Chef Boyardee Flying Saucers & Aliens canned pasta. People like Steven Greer, the crusading emergency room physician, have seen through the lies and are going to help us enter the era of cosmic brotherhood. ■ Some people believe in things that aren't true.

Your call.

*Rough Draft appears once in a blue moon at washingtonpost.com. To get the story of the news conference directly from the organizers, go to www.disclosureproject.org. For a scientific approach to the question of extraterrestrial intelligence, try www.seti.org.*

Mark McCandlish looks at his rendering of a UFO at the National Press Club.



BY KEVIN CLARK—THE WASHINGTON POST



# Government is covering up UFO evidence, group says

By Julia Dulin  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. government has been covering up evidence of extraterrestrial visits for more than 50 years, an array of 20 retired Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration and intelligence officers said yesterday.

They demanded Congress hold hearings on what they say is longstanding secret U.S. involvement with UFOs and extraterrestrials. Calling it the "greatest secret of the 20th century," the officials, who termed themselves "witnesses" of UFO-related events, described a series of military investigations they said they saw: crashes of alien spacecraft, bodies of alien beings, secret government documents, even James Bond-style "erasures" of people who knew too much.

"The individuals who have these sightings range from airline pilots and military pilots to police officers, some of the people your lives depend on, on a daily basis," retired Air Force Lt. Col. Charles Brown told a roomful of skeptical reporters.

"They are very reputable, dependable people," he said. "The field is filled with hoaxes and scams," said Dr. Steven Greer, director of the Disclosure Project, which had gathered the witnesses. "But it doesn't mean all of it is."

The 20 witnesses, he said, were a fraction of the 400 people who are willing to testify under oath—and under congressional immunity—about a secretive portion of the government they say has gone out of control.

UFOs have long fascinated Americans, including several U.S. presidents. Webster L. Hubbell, a former associate attorney general under President Clinton, has described in an autobiography his unsuccessful quest to determine government involvement in the topic.

John Callahan, a former FAA division chief of accidents and investigations, said he was directed by CIA officers to cover up a Nov. 18, 1986, incident involving a

UFO and a Japanese airliner near Anchorage, Alaska, to President Reagan's staff.

"We were all sworn to secrecy that this event never happened," he said.

Michael Smith, a former U.S. Air Force air traffic controller stationed near Klamath Falls, Ore., in the 1960s and early 1970s, reported seeing a UFO hovering at 80,000 feet one night.

"It was told you keep it to yourself," he said. "NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command] called me one night to say there's a UFO coming up the California coastline. I asked them what to do. They said nothing, not to write it down."

After he was stationed at another military base in Michigan, UFOs were so close to one landing strip, he said, that two incoming B-52s had to be steered around them.

The Disclosure Project, a Crozet, Va.-based research organization that has been gathering government witnesses for several years, says its reason for going public is because the U.S. government has long had information on anti-gravity propulsion systems. These have been retrieved from downed spacecraft, such as those from a purported crash in Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

These propulsion systems, which would use electromagnetic and "zero point energy state" technology to produce vast amounts of energy without any pollution, would drastically change the world's oil-based economy. Such energy sources would not require damming the world's rivers or building power plants, transmission lines or other expensive infrastructure needed to produce electricity for the world's 6 billion inhabitants.

Such electro-gravitic technology would also allow people to travel totally above the ground, rendering roads obsolete. Several witnesses talked of incredible speeds demonstrated by these crafts, estimated by radar technicians to be more than 10,000 miles an hour. The fastest known speed of a man-

made aircraft is 3,000 miles an hour.

But information on extraterrestrial speeds is never made public, said Daniel Sheehan, counsel for Project Disclosure. Even the Vatican Library, he said, has hidden information on UFOs.

Donna Hare, a NASA design illustrator with secret clearance, said UFOs were routinely photographed out of high altitude photos of the Earth before being released to the public.

"We always airbrush them out before we release them to the public," one technician told her. Curious, she began asking around the agency.

"A guard told me he was asked to look at them," she said. "And there was another guard guarding them, watching him burn the photographs. He looked at one and it was a picture of a UFO in the head, immediately was hit in the head and had a big gash in his forehead."

Apollo astronauts, she said, had

spotted UFOs, but they "are told to keep this quiet and not to talk about it," she said. One of them, Edgar Mitchell, who walked on the moon as part of the Apollo 14 team, is a witness for Project Disclosure.

Karl Wolf, an Air Force sergeant who was assigned to the National Security Agency, said that mysterious structures were discovered on the far side of the moon when the United States was mapping its surface before the 1969 lunar landing. Those photos too were culled out of the public record.

The Pentagon does not comment on UFOs, except to say they do not exist and that such objects really are high altitude balloons, swamp gas or military aircraft.

Despite the government's refusal to discuss the issue, several witnesses have also told of being stationed at military bases or near silos containing nuclear missiles when a UFO swung by. Afterward, military officers would discover the missiles had been temporarily deactivated.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - April 30, 2001

## Don't fear extraterrestrials

The Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs always exposes attendees to the truths regarding unidentified flying objects. This year, speaker Timothy Good shared one of these truths with attendees: If there is anything to be feared regarding UFOs, know that it can be found only in a few human beings on earth, not in the extraterrestrials who are here.

JEAN WHITEHEAD  
Little Rock

ECHO, Ligonier, PA - April 5, 2001

## Pennsylvania residents baffled by mysterious encounters, strange events, during past year

UFO Sightings, Bigfoot encounters, strange falls from the sky, mystery booming sounds and a strange depression in a field, are just some of the strange events that crossed the desk of researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg last year.

Since 1959, Gordon has been researching the unexplained, and today he continues to pursue these ongoing mysteries that are reported from across Pennsylvania. Gordon, who in past years founded and directed three volunteer UFO investigating groups in the state, today continues to investigate and document these cases as an independent researcher.

Since 1969, the researcher has been taking calls from the public who wanted to report UFO sightings. Gordon's UFO Hotline is still very active with reports of odd events which occur across the Keystone State. The Greensburg man keeps in contact with various other researchers, organizations, and agencies to keep aware of the most current information.

Gordon maintains a high-tech electronics communications center, which keeps him updated on a daily basis with the latest news on such matters from around the world. During the last 41 years, Gordon has been involved with the investigation of thousands of strange incidents which were reported in Pennsylvania.

This researcher maintains that most sightings of UFO's and even other strange events, are commonly found to have a natural or manmade explanation. Some encounters, however, remain unexplained. These incidents are reported every year by individuals of various age groups, and backgrounds. Some sightings are reported by trained observers such as police officers and pilots.

Many UFO sightings; each year, are determined to be misidentifications such as that of bright stars and planets, luminous meteors, fights on aircraft, and searchlight beams. During 2000, reports of unusual events came to Gordon's attention from 36 counties in the commonwealth.

While Gordon is interested in recent events, he also maintains records of UFO sightings from the state which go back as far as the late 1800s. The researcher is still accumulating information on the reported Dec. 9, 1965, UFO crash incident near Kecksburg. He asks that anyone

who may have taken photographs at the scene that day, or others who have information on the case, to contact him. Gordon is still looking for evidence that could resolve this mystery.

There were many interesting Pennsylvania events reported during 2000. Many UFO sightings were reported on the PA UFO Hotline, as well as to the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC).

Reports of triangular shaped objects were reported from various sections of the state including the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas. Bright discs, and multiple light sources maneuvering in the sky were commonly reported. In June, in a suburb of Pittsburgh, a witness watching late night tv saw the backyard of the house illuminate like daylight. Moving overhead, at about 2,500 feet, was a craft of unusual configuration, with eight large lights.

Alleged sightings of Bigfoot creatures have been reported in Pennsylvania for many years. Hundreds claim to have seen these hair-covered creatures which science has yet to explain. On June 9, a woman driving on Route 30, between Jeannette and Greensburg, claims to have seen such a creature standing on a side road which was surrounded by woods. The hairy manlike creature was estimated to stand about eight feet tall and was covered with long black hair.

Eric Altman, director of the PA Bigfoot Society, reports that there were a number of alleged incidents in Clearfield County. Altman reports that in September, a school bus driver at about 7 a.m. saw a large hair-covered creature walk out of some woods and cross in front of her bus, then watched as it moved across a field and into some other woods.

In May, near Delmont, a strange depression was discovered in a field of tall grass. The grass was flattened to the ground in an area about 30 feet across in an irregular oval shape. There were no signs of tracks going in or out of the affected area. Whatever caused this condition occurred during the afternoon, since the field was normal in the morning. There were no apparent weather conditions that could have contributed to this event during this time.

Fayette County researcher Jim Brown investigated a strange incident reported near Uniontown in August. Five wit-

nesses observed what they described as an alien "glide" across a field. The being was about five feet tall with long slender extremities. It was carrying a brown staff which was about five feet long. It was observed for about a minute from a distance of about 250 feet. The creature appeared to glide about six inches above the ground.

To report a UFO sighting or other strange incident, call Gordon's UFO Hotline (24 hours) at 724-838-7768. Gordon can also be reached by writing him at P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. His e-mail address is: [paufo@westol.com](mailto:paufo@westol.com) and his website is [www.westol.com/~paufo](http://www.westol.com/~paufo).

## LOOKING BACK

### 2 Pilots Quizzed on Report of Craft Flying Sideways

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 22--(INS) —Air force officers today questioned a Mid-Continent Air Lines pilot who reported seeing a mysterious plane that he said can fly sideways and reverse its direction without turning around.

The pilot, Capt. Larry W. Vinther, of Mission, Kan., spotted the mysterious aircraft over the Sioux City (Ia.) airport Saturday night. His story was confirmed by his co-pilot, J. F. Bachmeier, of Kansas City, Kan., and an unidentified civilian employee of the air force of Omaha, Neb., who also saw the strange craft.

Capt. Vinther told of seeing a mysterious light west of the Sioux City Airport after taking off. He said the control tower asked him to investigate the light. He continued:

"At about 8,000 feet we could

see a red light circling the field to the left. The light started to blink.

"It began approaching us and it changed to a brilliant white light, similar to a landing light but without glare. It came within 200 feet of us.

"As it reached our left wing we could see the plane had a fuselage like a B-29 but about one and one half times as large. The wings were straight and there were no engine nacelles (housings).

"We were doing 120 miles an hour, but instead of the plane passing us, it stopped opposite our wing and then began going in our direction, apparently without even turning. We tried to follow it but lost sight of the plane."

Co-pilot Bachmeier said "the plane had a cigar-shaped fuselage. We saw no engine, no tail surface, no evidence of exhaust.

"Outlined against the sky, it appeared like a giant cigar. It was unlighted as it came towards us sideways and there were no portholes."

# LOOKING BACK

Oct. 5, 1953

## Marine's Book Charges Air Force Is Hiding Proof of 'Flying Saucers'

WASHINGTON (INS) — Retired Marine Maj. Donald Keyhoe of Alexandria, Va., contended today that "flying saucers" have come from outer space and that they may mean the inhabitants of another planet are getting ready to invade the earth.

Keyhoe declared that the U. S. Air Force has evidence to support his contention, and that the evidence is being suppressed at a risk to the national security.

The Marine officers' views were set forth in "Flying Saucers from Outer Space," published today by Henry Holt & Co. of New York.

Some of his arguments in the new book center around the so-called "Utah Pictures," taken with a motion picture camera by Air Force Warrant Officer Delbert C. Newhouse at Tremonton, Utah, on July 2, 1952.

Keyhoe said the pictures showed saucers maneuvering at speeds of more than 1,000 miles an hour, and that an Air Force intelligence examination proved that they could not be man-made objects.

He said the films and the results of the study were suppressed.

The Air Force has denied suppressing the pictures. The Air Force said the films are the property of Newhouse, and that he is free to release them at any time he chooses.

Keyhoe lists more than 40 verified cases of so-called saucer sighting, including mysterious radar "blips" indicating that the objects not only were moving at speeds of more than 5,000 miles an hour but that they joined a "mother ship" and moved off at 9,000 miles an hour.

Aug. 3, 1952

### Los Alamos Ground Crews See a 'Saucer,' 3 Jets Don't

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—(P)—The air force said today an "unidentified object" has been seen flying over Los Alamos, N. M., site of major atomic energy installations.

An air force spokesman said the sightings were reported last Tuesday, about noon.

Observers on the ground reported watching, through binoculars, something shiny and apparently metallic in the sky for 30 minutes. They said the object was traveling at high but erratic speed.

Three jet fighters were sent to investigate. While the planes were in the air the same object or a similar one was observed from the ground for about two minutes, but was not seen by the fighter pilots.

A ground observer said the object made a 360-degree turn to get in the rear of the fighters.

#### And Over Mojave Desert

LANCASTER, Cal., Aug. 2—(P)—Now it's "flying saucers" over the Mojave Desert.

The sheriff's office here says more than half a dozen persons reported sighting two round red-shiny-white lights moving in the sky shortly before midnight last night.

Sergt. I. L. McCaleb said Deputies T. M. Morrissey and W. D. Malette spotted them first.

"They appeared above the horizon to the west," McCaleb said the deputies told him. "At first they settled toward the earth, then hovered. Finally, while one stayed motionless, the other took off in a southerly direction, passing behind a hill.

"It reappeared on the other side and finally disappeared. The other then began swinging like a pendulum. It finally dropped below the horizon."

McCaleb said C. A. A. men in

an airport tower at Palmdale, a game warden and several residents of the area also reported the lights and agreed on their description. The lights were visible about 15 minutes, he said.

#### 'Message' From Houdini

NEW YORK, Aug. 2—(INS)—Flying saucers have captured the interest of the "spook" world. Henry Roberts, author and self-styled psychic, excitedly reported today that Houdini's spirit appeared before him last night and gave him the real dope on the "saucers."

Joseph Dunninger, mentalist, magician and close friend of Houdini, a stage magician who died many years ago, told International News Service that he received a phone call this morning from Roberts who said that Dunninger must tell the world of the ghost's warning.

Roberts said Houdini told him the flying saucers were a warning to mankind to cut out wars, atom bombs, and "general dissension that exists on the earth plane," Dunninger related.

Aug. 2, 1952

### HIDE AND SEEK IN THE SKY

## Air Defense Tells Of Saucer Search

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (P)—The nerve center of the nation's air defense admits today to being involved in the flying saucer situation.

Headquarters of the Air Force air defense command, located at Ent Air Force Base here, reported there has been a flurry of reports of saucers and other unidentified objects for the last two weeks.

So seriously are the reports viewed that fast interceptor planes are kept on the ready to jet aloft to find out what goes on—if possible.

"We've really been scrambling," and ADC spokesman said. "Those planes are kept loaded and ready to go and their pilots are never more than a few feet away. They're in the air within seconds of a report that seems definite enough."

The ADC, which commands and co-ordinates the three regional air defense commands in New York, Missouri and California, said that its radar equipment has been picking up a lot of unexplained blips.

"For the last two weeks," the ADC reported, "headquarters has received a number of reports of unidentified airborne objects in its area through the normal detection channels of the ADC."

#### Flying Saucers Sighted Over Korea and Japan

SEOUL (P)—Those "flying saucers" have popped up in Korea and Japan.

A Canadian destroyer recently reported sighting two such objects and recorded them on its radar, it was learned here today.

A Navy report said 40 officers and crew members of the destroyer Crusader saw the "saucers" the night of July 10. All had the famil-

iar qualities of the puzzling flying discs.

#### Saucers Give TV Good Old Brush, Fail to Show

WASHINGTON (INS)—Washington newsmen know today that "flying saucers" can't be coaxed, cajoled or scared into showing up—not even for a television debut.

Mysterious lights—the source of latest "flying saucer" reports—showed up near Dayton, O., Friday, but stayed far afield of Washington National Airport where reporters searched the skies in a chartered DC-3.

The hour-long Washington search was sponsored by the NBC and the "We the People" television show which had hoped to turn up a few unidentified objects for TV audiences.

All clippings on pages 10 & 11 are from Cleveland, OH papers (PRESS, NEWS, PLAIN DEALER) unless otherwise indicated.





BILL NELSON, 326 Bryant St., a student of Spanish at the Berlitz School, sends us a translation of a flying disc story to top all flying disc stories from La Hora, a responsible newspaper published in Quito, Ecuador. Almost incredible, the account tells of a fighting two-foot-tall figure driving the disc—a figure encased in clothes of armor or metallic cloth. Nelson sent along a clipping with his translation.

La Hora claims that a small flying disc crashed on the Laredo, Texas, Airport April 16th, mortally injuring its diminutive pilot. The story asserted that federal authorities at Laredo prevented general publication of the crash.

A director of civil aviation at Laredo is quoted as saying: "For several days the discs have been seen on both sides of the Rio Bravo. Before crashing, the disc deliberately buzzed the field at several thousand miles an hour. Then it circled the field six or seven times, each time more slowly, finally diving into the field, to narrowly miss the largest hangar."

"Following the crash, airport personnel and firemen are reported to have hurried to the scene of the wreck. From the crushed disc, measuring only a couple of yards across, they pulled the pilot, a figure not more than two feet tall. . .

"Local firemen administered oxygen and the tiny man revived suddenly and started fighting. Leaping to his feet, the paper reports, the tiny figure jumped upwards and struck National Guard Sgt. Joe Jena in the face, felling him. As the others drew back, the tiny man gasped for breath and fell unconscious, apparently unable to breathe our air."

"Oxygen was again administered and the visitor again came to fighting, displaying a strength that made it impossible for the guardsmen and firemen to hold him. Within seconds, he again lapsed into unconsciousness."

"Three more times they revived him only to have him fight free of the mask and restraining hands and pass out. Further attempts to revive him were without avail."

One of the police officials was quoted as saying that several men were momentarily stunned by some sort of a ray pistol at their first approach to the craft and it was taken from him when they pulled him from the wreck. It was reported that the little man weighed about 300 pounds, despite his small size and was wearing a helmet equipped with an antenna.

The disc, made of an unidentified metal, was apparently a one-man flyer. The interior of the tiny cabin or control cockpit housed only a few pieces of equipment, the paper said, adding that it was probably "their" equivalent of radio and radar.

As to means of propulsion, it was reported a series of jet openings, possibly rockets, rimmed the thin edge of the aircraft. Although La Hora did not reproduce a photograph, it reported a U. S. newspaper has a very clear picture and added for the benefit of its readers that the story was either of paramount importance or a gigantic hoax perpetrated by the other newspapers.

According to La Hora, the remains of the flyer as well as the body of the pilot were gathered up by guardsmen and police under the direction of a member of the FBI and flown to Washington.

July 29, 1952

## U. S. PROBES MYSTERY

# 'Scores' of Saucers Tracked by Radar

WASHINGTON (INS)—The government radar station at Washington National Airport today recorded "scores" of unidentified objects traveling at speeds of 90 to 120 miles an hour and the air force sought a new way to solve the 1952 "flying saucer" mystery.

Civil aeronautics officials said the radar sightings lasted three and a half hours and that as many as 12 objects showed on the screen simultaneously.

But because no visual confirmation could be obtained, jet fighters, on a 24-hour "flying saucer" alert, were not sent aloft to investigate.

The Air Force disclosed it turned to a new type camera when 600-mile-an-hour jet planes were unable to catch up with the strange objects sighted in eastern skies in recent days.

### Jet Pilots Alert

Jet pilots have been told to "shoot down" the fantastic objects "if they ignore orders to land" but so far no plane has come within shooting distance.

The CAA said that one commercial pilot today was routed directly over the spot where an unidentified object showed up on the radar screen but that he sighted nothing.

Today's unidentified objects were reported moving "from northwest to southeast, at a 60-degree angle from the prevailing wind"—indicating they were not wind-borne unless there were unrecorded air currents.

The incident marked the third time mysterious objects have shown up on the airport radar-scope. However, on the two previous occasions, pilots and some

Washington area residents reported sighting flashing lights and fast moving discs.

An Air Force spokesman said a new-type camera may be able to bring the mystery to an end. He said the camera photographs "luminous phenomenon." It uses the principle employed by astronomers in determining the composition of stars.

Meanwhile, as new reports continued to pour into the Pentagon of more sightings of mysterious objects the Air Force summoned several "saucer" specialists from Dayton, O., for a conference today.

### Flooded by Reports

The Air Force said it is receiving new reports of "flying saucers" at the rate of 100 a month.

The Air Force contended that its intensive investigation of more than 1,000 "saucer" reports has convinced it that they are not being sent over the United States by an enemy.

The Air Force added that its investigation indicated also that they are not being controlled by "a reasoning body."

July 18, 1952

## 15% of Saucer Reports Are Labeled Mystery

DAYTON, O., July 17—(UP)—Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, head of the air force's investigation of "flying saucer" reports, said today that about 15% of approximately 1,000 reported sightings in the last four years cannot be explained.

Jet fighters equipped with radar have been sent up into the skies but have yet to make contact with a saucer, Ruppelt also said.

Ground radar meanwhile has tracked some unexplainable aerial objects believed traveling at speeds of from 1,500 to 2,000 miles an hour but these were not reported to have been seen by any human being, he said.

Capt. Ruppelt declared that none of the sightings, mostly reported around atomic bomb centers, resulted from atomic bomb blasts or cosmic ray and guided missile research.

### Reports Lately Increasing

The captain is the project officer for the air force's "Operation Bluebook," which is investigating all flying saucer reports from its headquarters at the near-by Wright-Patterson Base.

The project officer has spent thousands of hours tracking down reports, which are coming in at an increasing rate the last few weeks. He found that many of them had natural explanations.

(The Associated Press today said the reports of flying saucers throughout the nation now were almost double the number reported at this time last year.)

Of the thousand, 38% were meteors or other heavenly bodies, 13% were balloons, 22% birds and

aircraft, 2% were hoaxes, 10% were too nebulous to classify or confirm an actual sighting and 15% were unexplained.

The air force officer said no physical trace, such as a piece of wreckage, ever had been found following the receipt of a reported sighting.

The investigation started in 1948 but was dropped for a short period the following year. It was revived, however, when more reports came in during late 1949 and kept going as a routine investigation at the Wright-Patterson headquarters.

Capt. Ruppelt said the project would continue until all sightings could be satisfactorily explained.

"We are firmly convinced that persons making these reports actually see something in the sky."

In the last two weeks, about 60 reports of flying saucers were received. Capt. Ruppelt said the increase had no connection with the start of around-the-clock airplane watching by civilian spotters.

The two latest reports to be added to the long list were "eight glowing red-orange discs" noticed by American Airways pilots W. B. Nash and W. H. Fortenberry near Norfolk, Va., and an "ice cream cone-like object" seen by amateur astronomer Roy Ellis of Dayton, both sighted last Sunday night.



STATESMAN, Delhi, India - March 19, 2000

## COVER STORY

by Philip McAiney

# Alien experience

ALMOST 36 years ago, on 30 September 1964, *The Statesman* carried an interview which has to be one of the most unique and mindboggling in its very long history. It concerned 27-year-old Eduard Albert of Switzerland who reluctantly talked about what still seems as astounding as it did then — flying saucers. He hadn't only photographed these most elusive UFOs, but continued to do so, over and over again — different types, in different countries, at different ranges. Which poses the tantalising question: did the occupants of these alien ships see him and approve?

The results of his pictures, now noted as the finest in the world, prove by logic that the intelligences steering these UFOs not only approved of what he was doing but even encouraged him. One might even conclude, by examining the clear, sharp photographs so distinguishable from the usual fuzzy, blurry shapes of these lightning-fast objects, that the extra-terrestrials might even have "posed" for him. This wasn't all. He said he was allowed to board the ships, to undertake flights in them around earth and even to travel to distant planets. It was all under the strictest code of secrecy, but he was told he would be allowed to talk about it one day and to write about his experiences so that people would learn one of the things these extra-terrestrials came to teach — that humankind is not the only thinking species in the universe.

Who was this man? How did he manage to do the impossible over and over? Has history shed any light on his claims? What's happened to him since 1964? Almost 36 years later, it's time for an update.

Although the original interview gives the impression that Albert was claiming the impossible, even the unimaginable, the saga does not begin with his coming to India in 1964 to study meditation at the Asoka Ashram in Mehrault under a teacher called Bhante. It began when Eduard Albert — or Eduard Albert Meier, to give him his full name — was five years old.

It was 1942 and he saw his first spaceship while he was standing with his father beside their home in Bulach, Switzerland, near the German border. The boy asked his father what that huge, silver circular craft, noiselessly darting over their village for several seconds, could possibly be. His father's reply: Hitler's latest weapon. But to the boy, something didn't seem right about the answer. Somehow what he'd seen seemed familiar. It was a portent of things to come.

A few months later, he spotted another spacecraft when he was alone in a forest clearing. Shaped like a large silver pear about five metres in diameter, it hovered for a while and then disappeared. Several months later it returned, and this time it landed. Eduard was invited aboard by what looked like a kind, 90-year-old grandfather. Once inside, the boy

saw, on television-like screens, the curvature of the earth. The pilot, a man called Sfath, said he was from the stars and explained that the World War then on would end with the deployment of a new weapon similar to the one that was used on Sodom and Gomorrah. It would also mark the beginning of even greater danger for mankind. Eduard was to realise later that this new weapon referred to was the Atom Bomb.

Sfath explained that when these bombs were dropped on Japan on 6 and 9 August 1945, earth's orbit would be pushed from its natural path around the sun, creating climatic changes and polluting the atmosphere for centuries. Sfath said the earth scientists suspected some of these consequences but in their lust for power they wouldn't restrain themselves from splitting the atom, thereby commit-



Swiss mystery: Eduard Albert Meier (left) and one of many photographs (above) he's taken of alien craft

ting a crime against nature. Eduard Meier has since said the last real weather earth had was back in 1947.

For 11 years, Meier and Sfath communicated. The young boy took on knowledge and wisdom far beyond his years under Sfath's tutelage. It was a time when ancient knowledge and future concepts were slowly revealed to him. His usual teachers had no explanation for how he knew so much. Some of them took offence at being corrected and beat him. Eduard was unable to tell anyone of his contacts so the beatings had to be endured. And the young boy got to see the dark side of humanity.

When he was 16, Sfath told him it was time for a new contact phase to begin with a different extra-terrestrial. Because Sfath had taught him everything he knew, Sfath also sounded very tired and old. Meier never heard from him again. But almost immediately after Sfath's departure in 1953, new contact began with a lively young woman called Asket. She wasn't from the area in the stars Sfath was from, which was Pleiades, but from another universe entirely — what she referred to as DAL-Universe, a parallel or counter to our own.

Asket was dark-haired and about five feet tall. She would now teach Meier, she would lead him to travel to 44 countries to learn about specific people, places and things. In every instance, he had to find the means to travel on his

own, to work and earn his way so that he developed self-reliance. Interestingly, he says, one of his countless jobs in his travels was as a bodyguard to the late Indira Gandhi.

Asket told Eduard to travel to India to study a specific type of meditation which he did in 1964. By then, Asket's own period of tutelage (11 years) was over and in a flurry of farewells she swooped low with her ship before leaving Eduard and India.

Asket was the one who told Meier the time was at hand for him to start writing down his experiences, though he wasn't to make them public yet. She said she possessed a "memory assist instrument" which she would use to stimulate Meier's mind so that he'd record the conversations they'd had, word-for-word. This, she explained, was necessary for future generations to eventually learn the truth about the things the extra-terrestrials wanted people to know. Meier's work was to grow to over 14 volumes of *Contact Notes*, of 200 pages each. The 80 photographs he had during the interview in *The Statesman* in 1964 were all he had left from 300 such, because these had been confiscated by border policemen in his travels from Greece to Jordan to India. One wonders if some of them are moulding away in some bureaucrat's cabinet somewhere, precious evidence of life on other planets.

Eduard Meier's pictures now number over 800, some taken as

recently as a few months ago. He also has seven short 8-mm films on UFOs in flight, sound recordings of their engines and several samples of the metal used in building spaceships. One such sample was analysed by a top scientist at IBM who held 32 patents working with crystals. His conclusion was that the combination of metals and crystals could not have been put together by any known earth technology. Dr Marcel Vogel was also fortuitous enough to do his analysis live for a video camera so that his examination of the metal sample with his equipment could be preserved for posterity.

After Asket's departure in 1964, Meier was left alone for the next 11 years to digest the tremendous amount of information he had amassed in his travels. But in January 1975, the extra-terrestrials came calling again, this time from Sfath's race. Indeed, it was Sfath's granddaughter who touched down in a hidden forest enclave in the highlands of Zurich that afternoon. Her name was Semjase and she was about five feet, five inches tall and had very long amber hair. She would be Meier's new teacher and he was to have a new name — "Billy", because she said it would be a name that over the centuries the entire world would hear.

Part of Semjase's mission was to have Eduard, now "Billy" Meier, take the clearest pictures of spaceships ever taken by anyone on earth. Not just once but again and again. In the freezing cold winter winds of Switzerland's mountains, Billy would take his camera and tripod and sit for hours, sometimes taking roll after roll of breathtaking photographs to add evidence to his story in the

*Contact Notes*. It was and still is without compare.

Naturally, as word of the *Contact Notes* became public at last in 1975, a small group of friends began to form around Billy to help him catalogue, organise and bind so that he would be free to do his writing. They call themselves the Free Individuals who formed a Group to learn about UFOs — or, simply put, FIGU. Besides the 14 volumes of *Contact Notes*, Billy has written more than 15 books on various topics, from instructional children's stories to life existing elsewhere in the universe. It is in the early *Contact Notes* that his travels in space are described in such mesmerising detail that they make the offerings of Steven Spielberg and George Lucas pale in comparison.

Anyone interested in seeing these pictures and reading the small amount of information that has been translated into English from Meier's original German, is free to check with FIGU's website — [www.figu.ch](http://www.figu.ch).

Since all the contacts took place in Meier's native German, as also his writing, there's an urgent need for translators who are German-born to help translate his works into other languages, including Hindi. Publishers are also eagerly sought.

Those without Internet access could write to: Billy Meier, Semjase Silver Star Center, CH — 8495, Hinterschmidrueti/ZH, Switzerland.

As one who has met Billy on several occasions and has spoken to him, I must clarify that he is no guru, nor does he seek special status. He is completely anti-materialist and wishes only to have his writings given to people who wish to inspect it. He is no missionary or cult figure wishing to start a new religion.

The Semjase Silver Star Center in Switzerland is open every Sunday and anyone can drop in to ask questions, pour over the many volumes of photographs, or read the innumerable booklets on all kinds of topics offered either free or for a small fee. There are bed-and-breakfast inns in the area for those planning a longer visit.

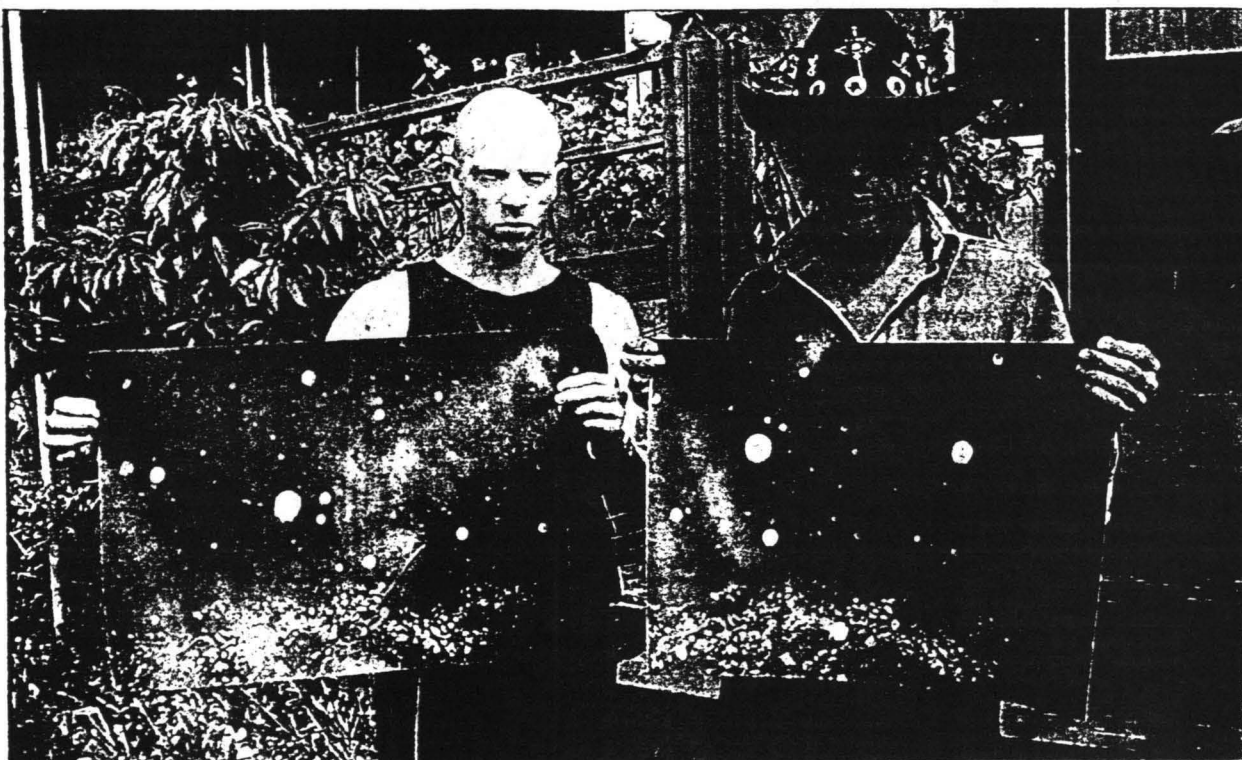
Having read this, there's a free booklet you could send for if you wish to know more. Of all earth's problems Billy Meier was told of, there's one that generates most of the other problems in ever-increasing proportion — overpopulation. Most educated people realise this, but the extent to which our planet is overpopulated is frightening. According to the statistics Billy says he was given by the Pleidian-area ETs — starting from year one in the Christian calendar up to the present century — earth can at most sustain just over one half of one billion people, or 529 million, without being broken down by a polluting and thieving species called humans.

Meier's 40-page booklet, *Overpopulation*, is available for free to anyone asking for it and can be copied and distributed without written consent. For as Asket told Meier on 7 February 1966: "The eternal Truth does forever remain the eternal Truth." ■



# postscript

A medical condition keeps John McConnell at home a lot in Ruskin. That just gives him plenty of time to watch the skies and wait for his ship to come in. Story by Joanne MacDonald.



John McConnell and his son John, Jr., hold up photos they took near their Ruskin home.

PHOTO BY STAFF REPORTER, THE TIMES

## Is the truth out there in Ruskin?

John McConnell is on the phone and he wants to know what's going on. He wants to know why my story about his claims of seeing Unidentified Flying Objects hasn't run yet. A week earlier, he'd grilled my editor, wanting to know if there was a conspiracy. He wanted to know, he told my editor, if the story hadn't run because someone had "gotten" to us.

When McConnell reaches me some days later, I assure him there's no conspiracy. I just haven't had time to do the story. He chews on this information, seems satisfied, and cheerfully signs off, asking me to send him a copy of the picture that's slated to run with the story.

McConnell believes me. He has no reason not to. But as I begin to write this story, it's my turn to reverse the question: Do I believe McConnell and his claims of seeing UFOs?

□□□□

It's easy to see why McConnell thinks there's a conspiracy afoot. Despite his repeated reports of seeing UFOs near his home throughout the last year at the Ruskin Place trailer park at 9960 Wilson St., few people believe him except a few relatives and neighbours. He says the Mission RCMP routinely dismiss his reports and claims he's heard his area of Ruskin referred to as The Twilight Zone.

He's also been disappointed from the response he's received from Canadian military headquarters in Ottawa, to whom he's sent a video of a spaceship. They simply returned his tape via the RCMP, telling him they weren't interested.

McConnell, who's largely confined to his home because he has scoliosis, curvature of the spine, is incredulous such disbelief exists. He says the photos and video he and his family members have taken irrefutably prove that alien creatures have visited Ruskin in their spaceships. Most of the sightings have come from the direction of the Ruskin Dam, located northeast of the trailer court.

In his eclectically decorated trailer in Ruskin, McConnell shows me the video his sister shot one night in his neighbourhood.

Watching the flickering lights, which alternately brighten and sometimes disappear in the pitch-black night sky on his huge screen TV, I'm initially skeptical. But I eventually acknowledge "it could be possible" that the unexplained lights were coming from something like a spaceship.

Next, he shows me what he describes as "startling" photos that his 23-year-old son John, Jr. took one night in Silverdale,

up the road from Ruskin. McConnell tells me his brand new camera inexplicably stopped working after John Jr. snapped only two pictures of brightly lit spheres shooting up from the ground, presumably on their way back to their spacecraft.

Then, in his bedroom, McConnell points to a spot outside the window where he insists a ship once hovered for several minutes. The ship had a figure in it, one that was either Albino or pink-skinned in colour, and had human traits of hair, two eyes, a nose and mouth.

As he shows me his artistic rendering of the streamlined spacecraft that hovered outside the window, I can't take my eyes off the display occupying the top bunk of his bed.

Picture, if you will, a bunk rigged up to resemble a cage in a zoo, complete with vertical bars and a collection of stuffed wild animals loling behind those bars. The cage also has red curtains drawn back on either side.

When I can no longer resist saying to him, "That animal thing on your top bunk...it's really, uh, interesting," McConnell takes a quick break from his UFO spiel, breaks into a smile and responds, "Yeah, it's really neat. It has sound effects and everything."

Later, in his living room, he recounts how, during the sightings, the spaceships appear bright, colourful and visible one second, then disappear from view the next.

"The first time I saw them, I couldn't sleep for four days. I didn't eat. I was like this," McConnell says, holding up a shaking hand. And he couldn't figure out how, with all the military technology there is today, that the spaceships couldn't be seen in Canadian airspace.

"Now I know. They just disappear," he says matter-of-factly.

John, Jr., who's sitting on the living room couch, isn't as convinced as his dad that they're being visited by aliens. But he concedes, "There's something there. It'll start to get active around 9 or 10 o'clock at night with some flickerings, then

you know something's going to happen later. What else could it be, but UFOs?"

□□□□

If you log onto the UFO B.C. website, at [www.ufobc.org](http://www.ufobc.org), you'll see mention of McConnell's sightings, even if they don't refer to him by name.

They're among the various sightings reported to have occurred throughout B.C. and the Yukon.

I'm particularly interested in the Yukon sightings because I lived there for three years in the early 1990s. I notice many, if not most, were reported during the winter months.

Now unless you've experienced the northern lights in a location like Whitehorse and beyond, you'll have no idea how spectacular, how colourful, and how full of movement the aurora borealis can be. Which leads me to wonder if the UFO sightings in the Yukon were real, or the products of some minds working overtime during a cold, clear Yukon winter night?

Which leads me to another question: If the Yukon sightings were the work of the northern lights, then how to explain McConnell's sightings in Ruskin?

□□□□

The 49-year-old McConnell swears he never used to believe in UFOs; such accounts were only the ramblings of people indulging in drugs and/or alcohol. Now he's convinced he's seen the real thing.

He's currently negotiating with some unnamed Americans who've offered him cash and royalties in exchange for his videotape. And he says monetary offers have ranged from \$50,000 for the videotape to \$1 million from a local couple who say they want the whole package: photos, videos and everything else we've got.

As I drive away from McConnell and John Jr., I mull over what I've heard from the two men. And I'm forced to admit that despite his idiosyncracies, McConnell's unbridled enthusiasm makes you want to believe. I want to believe even when McConnell says he eventually wants to sell his trailer and move to the bush because he feels "they're going to come and talk to me."

John McConnell believes in UFOs because he's seen them. I'm a journalist and have to keep an open mind about things, so I'm willing to allow there's a chance alien life forms exist somewhere out there.

Which brings me to my final question: Do you believe?

The (military) simply returned his tape via the RCMP, telling him they weren't interested.

STAR, Windsor, Ontario, Canada - March 2, 2001 CR: G. Conway

### B.C. has most sightings, says Cdn. UFO researcher

WINNIPEG

British Columbia had the most UFO sightings last year, recording almost half the total number for Canada, say researchers.

"I think people are a little more aware of their environment and attuned to what's going on in space," Chris Rutkowski, co-ordinator for UFOlogy Research of Manitoba, said Wednesday.

"That doesn't mean the Martians are really here. It simply means that we

can't explain some of these cases."

Across the country, there were 263 reports of unidentified flying objects, according to the Canadian UFO Survey. Of those, 102 were spotted in B.C.

Not all the sightings fit the stereotype of the lone observer reporting something suspicious seen in the night sky or a deserted road.

In Burnaby, B.C., for instance, five people reported seeing a cigar-shaped object with rotating lights around it.

"Then it suddenly vanished as if a light switch was turned off," Rutkowski said.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Coventry, England - Nov. 7, 2000

### UFO watcher appeals for more reports

COVENTRY people are being asked to keep a watch for alien activity in the skies over the city.

The plea comes from UFO Trek, an information network run by Chris Rolfe from Folkestone, Kent. It aims to investigate possible extra-terrestrial sightings across the country.

The 41-year-old has been into ufology since experienc-

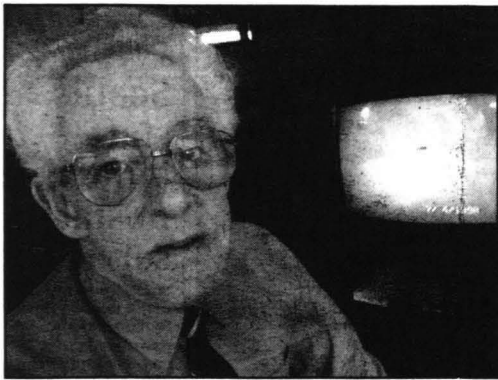
ing a "sighting" when he was a child.

He said: "I was at school and out in the playground with other pupils when we heard jets overhead."

"We looked up and the jets were following two whitish disc-like objects, one of which suddenly veered off, leaving the jets just chasing one."

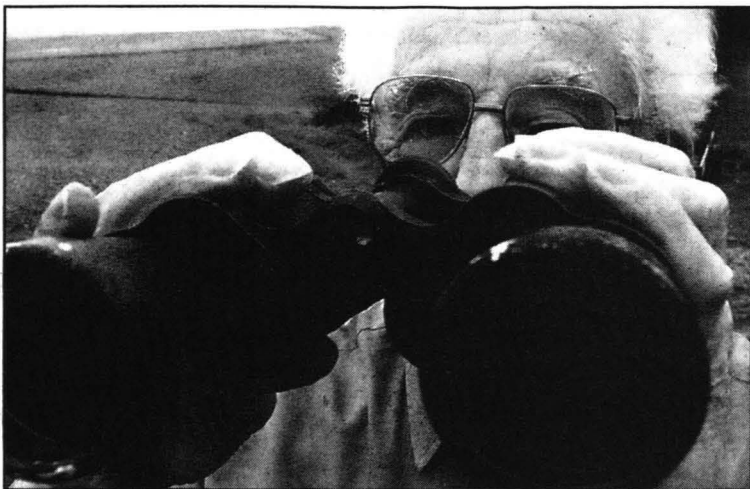
"We haven't heard of activity in the Coventry area as yet so we are hoping local people may give us something to look at."

UFO Trek can be contacted on 07091 020078.



**PROOF POSITIVE:** UFO hunter David Kingston of Martinstown, Dorchester, views video footage of local sightings. Pictures by Len Copland.

**KEEP LOOKING:** David always keeps binoculars handy to search the skies.



## Christmas Island presence

WHILE many sceptics may dismiss people like David Kingston as fanatics he has the credentials to prove otherwise.

He began work in RAF intelligence before he had even seen a UFO and his job involved collating information on possible sightings.

He said: "I first saw a UFO over Christmas Island in the Pacific in 1957 when nuclear tests were being carried out there."

"We had reports coming in from air craft of UFOs near them. We were trained to be very sceptical and have to come in purely on the rational."

"But there was quite a catalogue of incidents built up over the years and more and more military men are coming out and saying they do exist."

"The most sightings do tend to occur where there are nuclear power stations, radio transmitting stations and military bases."

## Watch the skies

IF you want to see a UFO over Dorset the best place to go is Maiden Castle, Dorchester, says David Kingston.

He claims it is the UFO hotspot of the county, but has no idea why alien spacecraft would be attracted there.

He said: "Why that should be a magnet I do not know. Two years ago we had several witnesses there - police, a vicar and a medical consultant."

"These were professional people, who do not like to come forward saying they have seen something."

"I saw something in the skies three weeks ago at Maiden Castle. I checked with the military and civil aviation but they had nothing to report and there were no flares or meteorites."

"It was moving very rapidly backward and forth and then shot upwards and disappeared from view."

## The unexplained

AN international team of experts will descend on Dorchester's Corn Exchange next April for the sixth annual conference on The Unexplained.

Organised by David Kingston the conference covers UFOs, crop circles and Government conspiracies and attracts people from all over Britain and overseas.

It takes place on Sunday 8 April, for more information phone Mr Kingston on 01305 889108.

## Web wonders

DAVID Kingston's University of Life website contains a wealth of information about UFOs and the paranormal.

Since its launch last year it has received more than one million hits. Visit the site at [universityoflife.users2.50.megs.com](http://universityoflife.users2.50.megs.com)

# Flying saucer spotter opens real-life X-Files

THE X-Files' Mulder and Scully have had it easy - they have been chasing the paranormal for only a few years - but David Kingston has spent more than 40 years charting UFOs above the skies of Dorset.

David, aged 63, of Martinstown, saw his first Unidentified Flying Object in 1957 while working for the RAF in the Pacific and estimates having seen 50 to 60 UFOs since then - more than one a year.

He now gets 50 e-mails a day from various UFO organisations and members of the public from around the world.

And when people report strange goings-on in the sky to the police they immediately point them in his direction.

David said: "When people see things they tend to ring the police, but police headquarters at Winfrith have my phone number and give that out to people."

"I then check with air traffic control and I know astronomers who check the meteorites."

"I am not always watching the skies but if I have had

## Report by Tim Edmonds

reports from a certain direction I might get my binoculars out.

"Over the past year I had 300 or so reports and out of that 300 we had about 30 that could not be explained away."

David is also the proud owner of close-up video footage of a UFO in west Dorset which he claims proves their existence.

"I have got video footage over the Ridgeway from two years ago which is the best I have seen, possibly the closest daylight footage we have. It has been analysed in the USA."

"Experts could not explain it away as any kind of conventional craft. It was about 30 metres in diameter. A lot of people saw it and pulled over in their cars and watched it."

"I compared their descriptions of what they had seen with the video footage I have got before showing them what I had on film and they were astounded."

## The truth is out there

THE paranormal has become an increasingly popular subject in recent years with more and more people convinced there is life out there.

David Kingston puts the trend down to the increase in people owning camcorders and being able to capture incidents on film.

He dismisses suggestions that popular TV programmes such as The X-Files have helped bring the paranormal into people's front rooms.

He said: "I do not watch it a great deal but I did when it first started. A lot of the episodes are now bordering on the ridiculous."

"But a lot of the stuff they had in the first ones is true and the Government conspiracy stuff does definitely exist. But there is a lot more information and UFO data being released now."

"It is with the advent of camcorders that the paranormal has become more popular. The subject is ridiculed in the Press to a certain degree but I think some of the tabloids are taking it a little bit more seriously because there has been so much research done."

## Sask. hotbed for crop circles

By Calvin Daniels  
Freelance writer

YORKTON, Sask. — The Canadian Crop Circle Research Network may be based in British Columbia, but it spends a lot of its time in Saskatchewan.

"In Canada, Saskatchewan gets the most by far," said Paul Anderson, director of the research network.

"It's the hotbed." Eleven of the strange geometric patterns that appear mysteriously in grain fields were reported to the research network last year, it said in its report for 2000. Seven were in Saskatchewan, two in Ontario, one in Manitoba and one in Quebec.

That was down from 25 in 1999 and 14 in 1998. "While this was less than may have been anticipated, it is important to keep in mind that the numbers for any given year can vary for a number of reasons such as growing conditions and ruined crops."

Anderson said many crop circles go unreported.

He said the network learned last summer that a farmer from Alameda, Sask., had 20 to 25 rings in his pasture in 1999.

"Cases like this reaffirm our opinion that probably a significant number of formations, mainly single circles or small groups of circles, never get reported at all, and therefore remain uninvestigated, and may be more common than we think."

He said he appreciates that some of the reported crop circles are man-made.

"We know some of these are hoaxes," he said, but added he was concerned that television programs tend to focus on that.

Often there "are some anomalies that seem to go against them all being hoaxes," he said.

"Some of them are just outstanding in the complexity and the size of them."

### Unique characteristics

In other cases, compasses give improper readings within the pattern area, plant stems show deformities, or the grain heads are twisted in a way "you wouldn't get simply from

somebody stomping on them. I think there is good evidence that something is going on."

Anderson said the circles are hard to explain.

"If it was just simple ones ... I'd lean toward it being some sort of atmospheric phenomena," he said.

But even then, questions come up. It's not unusual for a pattern to appear in the same field for two or three years in succession, and Anderson said that seems to run counter to what would be expected from a "random weather" effect.

"So there's no one thing that seems to answer everything."

He admitted that mentioning the possibility of alien creation loses many people.

But there does appear to be some intelligence at work, he added.

"Even the ones in Saskatchewan, they're simple circles, but the perfection is amazing."

He likened it to cutting into the grain with a cookie cutter.

"If it's not people, who, or what is it?"

Anderson said the answer to that question, and the annual discovery of circles, fascinates a lot of people.

He said he's simply one who would "just like some answers."

Anyone discovering a circle in 2001 can contact Anderson and the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network at 604-731-8522, or access the network's website at [www.geocities.com.cropcirclecanada](http://www.geocities.com.cropcirclecanada).

EASTERN DAILY PRESS,  
Norwich, England - Dec. 1, 2000

## What was this bright light in the sky?

PEGGY DACK,  
Hillside, Marham.

I was very interested to read Mrs Shaw's letter about her strange object in the sky. On November 15

at 3.20pm, my husband and I were coming back from taking our dog for a walk on Shouldham Warren.

Coming to Marham via Spring Lane, I looked out to my husband's side of the car. I saw a square-shaped bright light in the sky (it was a perfectly clear day).

Suddenly it went high up in front of our car then it suddenly disappeared, as if someone had switched it off. We both saw it.

But this is not the end of the story. I phoned my daughter that night and before I could say anything, she said: "Guess what mum, Nathan (her 10-year-old son) said he saw a UFO this afternoon in Swaffham. It was like a big car headlight that

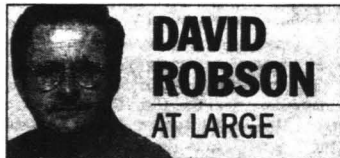
went right up in the sky then disappeared."

When I told her what we had seen she said: "Weird!"



OUR ALIEN CORRESPONDENT VENTURES INTO A SCOTTISH VILLAGE  
WHICH COULD LAND ITSELF THE TITLE OF A WORLD UFO MECCA

# Close encounters of the Forth kind



**DAVID  
ROBSON**  
AT LARGE

**I**T DOES not take much for some people to get totally carried away. Me, for instance. The mention of the words Roswell, New Mexico, followed by the heady excitement of a 45-minute drive up the M80 in a brand new Hertz Rent a Car Ford Mondeo, and I was completely gone. Why else would I have entered Bonnybridge clutching a copy of *The Alien Abduction Survival Guide*?

In my defence, I should say that Bonnybridge, though it looks like your average once industrial village midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh near the River Forth, is clearly not your average village. It is the UFO capital of Britain. Some people have put the number of sightings as high as 8,000. Councillor Billy Buchanan puts it at 60,000. Then that's Billy for you. Billy thinks big. He is the man who has come up with the idea of twinning Bonnybridge and Roswell as UFO capitals of the world.

Roswell, you will recall, is the birthplace of modern ufology: on July 1, 1947, a number of unknown targets appeared on radar screens there, then a glowing object passed overhead and crashed leaving silvery wreckage and five crew members dead. Though the US air force began its cover up immediately, a nurse, whose testimony we believe, described them as beige with large heads, large deep set eyes, concave noses, and thin slit-like mouths. The local funeral home received a call asking for coffins four feet long and hermetically sealed.

Anyway, Billy proposed that these two towns should be as one and the mayor of Roswell is pretty interested. That is why he and Billy were talking together on the BBC World Service on Wednesday night.

You could say that Bonnybridge looks pretty damned normal; a few shops, a pub or two, a couple of churches, new and old houses and roads that run up and down quite steep hills. The folk look pretty damned normal, then so do the kids in that Roswell High show on television. And we know that some of them are space aliens. I would say, as a man who wasn't born yesterday and a trained reporter, that when you come to a place where worlds collide you should have your wits about you.

**B**ONNYBRIDGE Golf Club, for example. At midday, it was the only place where there were any signs of life. Or perhaps, to be more accurate, the golf club car park. It was nearly full but as I looked at the course there was nobody to be seen. And those things masquerading as bunkers, they looked very much like craters. Close your eyes and you could almost see the saucers landing. There is a club house of course — there may be life in there but it is a forbidding looking place and, like the Roswell air base after the authorities cordoned it off, the message is "Private. Members Only".

Across the road was a big white van bearing the slogan: Jesus Christ — The Only Hope. You might think that was a fair expression of how most golfers feel on the first tee. But I can't help wondering if here, where one might be abducted at any moment, it has a weightier meaning.

This strange sense of unease, other worldliness, can really get to you. In town, the Café Du Bonnie offered "Rolls to take away". To take away to where, one wonders. In space nobody can hear you munch. At Barbers Inc there was a notice in the window: "Sorry no prams or buggies in the shop due to lack of space." Is that "buggy", as in "moon buggy"? And why "space" when most people would say "room"? The truth is out there if you can only see it. And I thought I could. The shop next door had a notice about a missing kitten — how spooky is that?

Across the road is the Sunkissed Body Tanning Studio. I looked at the few passers-by. Do they look notably tanned? Even wrapped up in anoraks and various forms of knitting I can assure you these good people of Stirlingshire (if that is their true identity) were as pink as the day they were born. But you can't help thinking that if you were the sort of small being from Elsewhere, sometimes known as a "Grey", a blast of the ultraviolet might be very welcome.

It was in the pub that I had what felt like my first Encounter. It hovered somewhere



between a Close Encounter of The Third Kind (in which "animated entities" often

*'There was a notice about a missing cat. How spooky is that?'*

known as humanoids or ufonauts are seen) and one of the Fourth Kind (in which humans are abducted and asked to interact with them). A group of aliens huddled together at the bar talking in what sounded like Venusian, or whatever they speak in the Zeta Reticuli Star System. I didn't want to get too near but I listened hard. Then the leader spoke; the others stopped jabbering and leaned towards him. This was obviously going to be something major.

"You know what is the biggest sleeping giant in Britain?" he asked. Bloody Hell, I thought. They must have some big craft if they are going for something on that scale. "Yes, the biggest sleeping giant in Britain..." his followers looked at him hopelessly, entreatingly. They had no idea. But what a prize it would be to take back.

"...Cardiff City," the leader exploded and his underlings relaxed. They were not from Venus after all. Just Wales. I hadn't remembered — you don't when you're thinking about UFOs — but Scotland are playing rugby against Wales at Murrayfield today. The whole county is overrun by Taffs. "We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides," as I suspect more than a few citizens of Bonnybridge have said to more than a few aliens. But for me the spell was broken. Those children going home from school might have been alien invaders of the Roswell High kind I suppose but I doubted it. Yet there certainly are a lot of people who

have seen unexplained things in the sky.

Ron Halliday, a serious man who has written extensively about UFOs in Scotland, is in no doubt there is something special about the Bonnybridge Triangle, between the Forth Estuary, the border of Stirling and Edinburgh. Yes, there is a Nato air base, yes there are airports, yes there are motorways with flashing lights along them. Even so, there are too many strange things and too much video evidence.

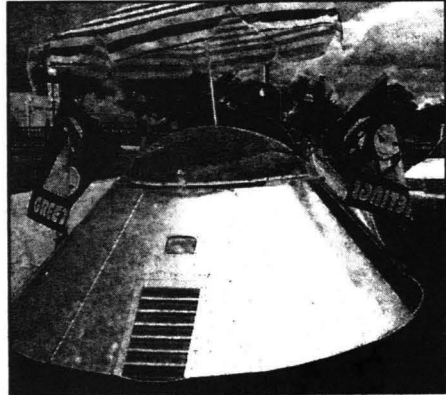
Indeed, he believes there have been abductions. In 1992 Gary Wood and Colin Wright, both in their 20s, had a Close Encounter of The Fourth (or Forth kind). They were driving along the A70 when they were taken from their car and found themselves being examined by tall thin creatures. There were hours unaccounted for. When Gary underwent hypnosis he was regressed and the memories emerged.

I felt comforted to have my Alien Abduction Survival Guide to hand. I flipped past the paragraph headed "I may have had sex with an ET" on to the chapter "controlling the fear": keep writing in your journal; keep a record of your level of fear and anxiety; practise talking to ETs; do not react violently. All sounds pretty sensible to me.

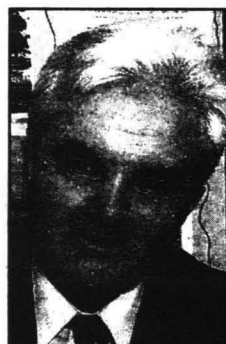
I called Margaret Ross, a 68-year-old great grandmother in Stenhousemuir, three miles from Bonnybridge. She has extensive experience of Close Encounters of the First Kind and is the sort of woman you would believe. Two years ago she was looking out the bedroom window when she saw a bright light in the sky "First it was diagonal lines, then it became like a full moon, then it disappeared. I called my husband Alec who was downstairs and we got it on video.

"I've seen about four occurrences. The last one was a streak of light, like the trail from an exhaust." The video is impressive, though some say she faked it, a charge denied by her son-in-law: "Impossible. She's not clever enough to do things like that."

I talked to Jim Malcolm, who lives near



NEW WORLD: in Close Encounters Of The Third Kind, ETs are seen; such events are marked at Roswell UFO fest, above



**CAMPAIGN:** Councillor Billy Buchanan wants Bonnybridge twinned with Roswell, New Mexico; both places are sites where strange things have been reported

*'Two pals were taken to be examined by tall, thin creatures'*

Bonnybridge. In 1991 he saw objects in the sky going up and down, moving off, then disappearing. He says many locals have seen things but are frightened of coming forward. He has an hour-and-a-half of video footage.

**A**ND so to Councillor Billy Buchanan, the man who thinks Bonnybridge and Roswell should be twinned. He has visions of a UFO theme park. "Millions go to Disneyland to see six-foot-high mice," he scoffs. "Forget about Goofy. Come here." Billy sits as an Independent on Falkirk council and works up his schemes in an office so crowded with papers, files, televisions and things that you can hardly get in. Did I say schemes? He writes books of Bonnybridge history (did you know that the last battle fought on British soil was here? And that when the Stone of Destiny was stolen from Westminster Abbey in 1950 it was hidden here?) Sometimes he dresses in his grandfather's naval uniform and sings war songs for the old folk.

A thick-set, rather handsome man, 52 now and with good white hair, he used to play football professionally in Australia and Hong Kong. Now he has a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. He may exhaust the conventional councillors of Falkirk but I think he is great.

Certainly he is not an alien — they are far too clever to send anybody so unlike other humans. He hasn't seen too much UFO activity but is convinced by what he hears.

The world is full of sceptics saying: "Rubbish, nonsense. And anyway, why Bonnybridge?" Billy has an answer to that: "Well," he says, "Why Bethlehem?"

# Investigating UFOs in Yukon skies

**Ed. note: this new column, prepared by Whitehorse residents, will be published monthly in the Star.**

By JULIUS DEBUSCHEWITZ

Whitehorse hosted the first Yukon UFO conference on Oct. 14, 2000.

Arranged by Martin Jasek and sponsored by the Yukon government Millennium Program, it was attended by 304 Yukoners, there to listen to experts and Yukon eyewitnesses.

Several attendees wished to exchange ideas and discuss their experiences. Some wanted to get involved in UFO investigations.

Last December, Martin Jasek organized a meeting at the Whitehorse Public Library, and a local group was formed to investigate Yukon UFO sightings.

On Jan. 12, 2001, the UFO Yukon Research Society became a registered non-profit organization. Its purpose is to gather and research Yukon UFO sightings, investigate and analyze them as fully as possible and provide information to the public.

It also needs your help. If you are interested and have either a scientific background, investigative skills, interviewing expertise, or a combination thereof, please contact the society.

Also needed are members with computer and administrative skills. Above all, you must be able to interact well with others and deal with witnesses in a sensitive and compassionate manner.

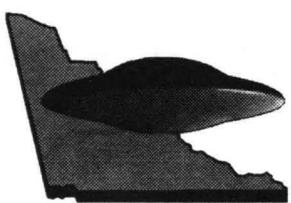
Sighting reports are encouraged, and two dedicated telephone lines were established. Outside of Whitehorse, the toll-free number is 1-866-SEE-UFOS (1-866-733-8367); the local Whitehorse number is 456-2468. These numbers will be listed in the new telephone book.

Names of individuals reporting sightings will be kept confidential, unless release has been permitted.

Should the RCMP receive a report, the society's phone number will be provided to the caller. Once a report has been investigated, it is documented and also posted at <http://www.ufobc.ca/yukon>.

Are all UFOs alien craft? No. Upon

closer investigation, some are revealed as identifiable flying objects or natural phenomena; others are unidentifiable due to a lack of sufficient data.



Nonetheless, some UFOs are certainly not the product of human engineering. It behooves us to find out what they are and why they are appearing.

Some scientists ignore facts and are busy debunking UFO sightings, while others believe the phenomenon worth investigating but are afraid to express their interest publicly.

As lecturer and nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman pointed out at the UFO Conference, "It's time to stop being an apologist ufologist."

Whatever their explanation may be, the Yukon has an abundance of strange accounts. The UFO Yukon Research Society looks forward to sharing these with the readers of the *Whitehorse Star* in the coming months. The following report should serve as an appetizer.

## Woman observes frisbee-sized UFO near Whitehorse

This sighting occurred in the Mary Lake subdivision during the first week of June, 1997, at about 11:20 p.m.

The sun had set, but it was still light enough outside to read.

A woman let her dog out onto the deck of her house. A moment later, the dog scratched frantically at the door, trying to get back inside.

She opened the door and noticed that the dog "was really spooked"; its hair standing on end.

Closing the door behind the dog, her attention was caught by an object flying from right to left at the speed of a thrown frisbee, just beyond the deck railing. Suspecting a reflection in the glass door, she repeatedly opened and closed the door but could not detect one.

Stepping outdoors to look around, she observed an object the diameter of a frisbee hovering above her septic field 50 metres away. It was about 10 cm thick and roughly one to two meters off the ground, very pale green in colour and glowing brightly.

She watched it hover back and forth over the septic field for about 20

minutes, then went inside to wake her husband. Unable to rouse him, she went back outside.

It was unusually cool, and heavy dew covered the deck. Yet, although she was just wearing a housecoat, the woman felt very warm while observing the object.

It seemed to radiate a compassionate, comforting feeling. She watched for another 20 minutes before going back inside.

A skeptic regarding extraterrestrial explanations for UFOs, she felt the object was of earthly origin. She called everyone she could think of for a rational explanation, including the Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd., Department of Renewable Resources, and Environment Canada. Ruled out were electrical discharge from power lines, bioluminescence, and swamp gas.

Unsatisfied, she contacted various North American native shaman. One told her she was fortunate. What she had seen are called "grandfather and grandmother lights" and are actually the souls of their departed ancestors, commonly observed around places of healing.

During investigation, the shaman in question was contacted. He explained that the frisbee shape was unique, since "grandfather and grandmother lights" are usually spherical, the size of a basketball, and often red in colour.

Sights were reported from all over Canada, not just the Yukon, but the green colour is uncommon.

(Investigated by Martin Jasek.)

# Another surprise in the skies above Glenrothes

## Strange objects captured on camera

Report by Mike Delaney

WHEN Glenrothes man, John Paterson, went into his back garden to test his new digital camera, he didn't expect to capture this image of two strange objects in the skies above the town.

He snapped the picture from his Ivanhoe Drive home on Tuesday, September 5 sometime between 2-3 p.m...but didn't realize that it contained anything unusual until a few days ago.

Now, he is appealing for anyone else who witnessed the v-shaped objects—the latest in a number of mystery craft allegedly seen in the area—to come forward.

The council caretaker said: "I was really just mucking about, taking photographs of whatever with my digital camera which is a bit of a new toy for me."

"I was just doing a scenic view with the clouds and the houses around about and I didn't notice anything at the time. My computer went down and I didn't get around to printing the photograph out until it went back up again."

"When I first saw the picture, I didn't know what to think. I was a bit stuck for words and couldn't decide whether it was something on the camera or what. Looking at the objects, if they were black they would look like one of those Stealth planes, but they're white."

"I have showed it to one or two people and they have suggested it might be some kind of new Royal Air Force plane."



The picture which sparked the debate. Inset: a closer view of the two unidentified objects on the sky

John insists that he hasn't tinkered with the image, adding: "I suppose, like most people, I'm a bit of a sceptic when it comes to UFOs, although I believe there's probably something somewhere."

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said: "There was no unusual air activity over Glenrothes that day although we would have had Tornados from RAF Leuchars out, so it's very possible it could have been something like that."

The sighting isn't the first time strange things have been seen in the sky above Glenrothes.

In December 1977, a Thornton man reported seeing a large triangular-shaped object hovering over Stenton Roundabout as he travelled home from work in Glenrothes.

Eleven months later, two independent witnesses claimed to have watched two planes pass within an estimated 100 feet of each other over the town centre. Civilian and military air traffic control

centres had no record of activity in the area in both cases.

In 1996, two Falkland women claimed they and their children experienced a close encounter with aliens on the road between the village and nearby Newton.

The case, in which the woman and the children accompanying them also alleged they saw a strange craft and were haunted by flashbacks in the months following the incident, became something of a *cause celebre* among experts in the field.

Falkland Hill is a popular spot for sky-watches mounted by enthusiasts, including UFO Scotland, which was founded by former Glenrothes man Dave Ledger.

Last July, Rothes Halls hosted Scotland's biggest-ever UFO convention which attracted hundreds of delegates from all over the world. It was also the venue for the town's own dedicated club, Paranormal Sightings and Events, led by local man Andrew Sturrock, which has now relocated to the Lomond Centre un-

der its new title, UFO and Haunting Investigations. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m.





# TRAIL ENDS FOR BIGFOOT'S BIGGEST FAN

## B.C. MAN'S 50-YEAR SEARCH

A disputed film, a few footprints and a beer ad — but no sightings

By MARK HUME

VANCOUVER • René Dahinden, the world's leading authority on Sasquatch, has died after spending nearly 50 years searching for the legendary beast.

He never saw one, but right to the end he believed an ape-like hominoid was haunting the forests of British Columbia — even though a few doubts had started to creep into his mind.

Mr. Dahinden, who was 71, collected hundreds of footprint casts and traipsed all over the Pacific Northwest investigating sightings and interviewing everyone who had a breathless story to tell about a hairy encounter with Bigfoot. He spent "years and years" in the bush by himself, trying to find one piece of solid evidence that would convince the scientific community to take the legend of Sasquatch seriously.

"His quest, his mission, was to have the government put some money into research and to convince the scientific community to do something about finding it and protecting it," Christopher Murphy, a friend of Mr. Dahinden's, said yesterday.

"It never came about, because nobody ever found any proof, other than footprints. He thought most of the footprints were fake, the vast majority, but he believed in some of them. He put faith in the footprints because he said, 'They couldn't be left by the imagination.'"

His pursuit of Sasquatch made him so famous that a few years ago the brewers of Kokanee beer asked him to play himself in a television commercial.

Even then he didn't get to see the Sasquatch. Facing the camera, with the modest trailer he lived in as a backdrop, an off-camera voice asks if he ever used B.C.-made Kokanee beer to lure a Sasquatch.

"Do you think I'm crazy or something?" asks Mr. Dahinden, unaware that behind him a Sasquatch is sneaking into his trailer to make off with a case of beer.

If it had happened as depicted, you can be sure Mr. Dahinden would have poured a puddle of plaster goop on the ground to make a cast of the footprint.

Wherever he travelled, Mr. Dahinden had a collection of footprints with him. They were his touchstone to reality in a world where people armed with little more than absolute faith try to prove the existence of a mythical creature.

Dmitri Bayanov, in his book, *America's Bigfoot: Fact, Not Fiction*, writes that in a 1971 visit to Moscow, Mr. Dahinden was challenged at a public meeting to produce evidence. "Dahinden held up a weighty plaster cast of a huge footprint and quipped: 'If anyone finds this kind of evidence immaterial, let me strike his head with it.'"

The Russian author and Sasquatch hunter wrote that Mr. Dahinden had a considerable impact in Moscow, where he presented a film that purportedly shows a Sasquatch running into the woods near Bluff Creek, Wash.

The film, shot by Sasquatch hunters Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in 1967, was called a fake by many. But Mr. Dahinden, who bought the rights to some of the footage shortly after it was shot, believed in it.

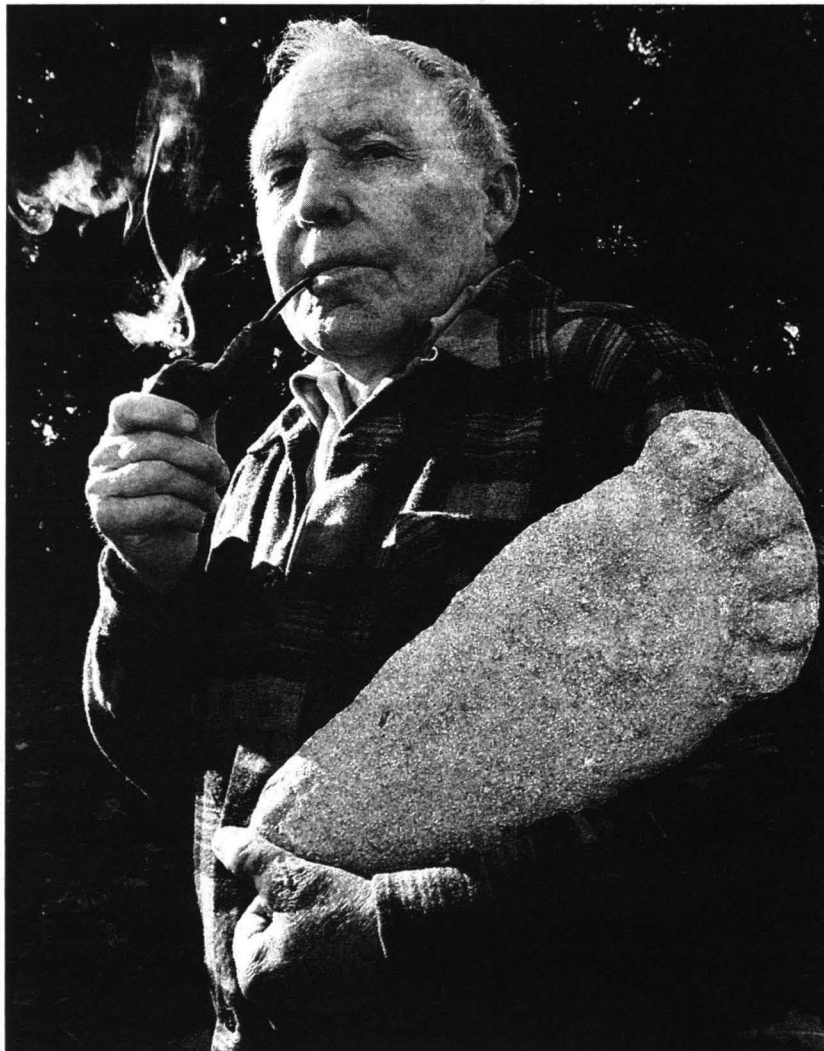
In Moscow, he showed the film in the boardroom of *Izvestia*, the national newspaper, to the Union of Writers of the USSR and to the Central Scientific Research Institute of Prosthetics and Artificial Limb Construction.

"As the meeting at the Institute began, over one hundred scientists and technicians, wearing white coats, assembled to watch the film. In Dahinden's words, 'the whole joint came to a standstill,'" wrote Mr. Bayanov.

Mr. Murphy, who is writing a book about the film titled *Circumstantial Evidence*, said Mr. Dahinden was skeptical of many Sasquatch sightings, but he defended the film, even after it was widely dismissed as a hoax.

"For a long time I was never really able to nail him down on his view of the film. But towards the end he said: 'It's definitely real,'" said Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Dahinden sold rights to the film several times to television producers, and used stills to produce Sasquatch posters, but he never made much money.



EFF VINNICK / NATIONAL POST

When René Dahinden wasn't making casts of suspicious footprints, he was salvaging lead at a B.C. gun club.

To support his Sasquatch expeditions, Mr. Dahinden worked on the grounds of the Vancouver Gun Club, where he collected lead shot from spent shotgun shells.

"He worked really hard," said Mr. Murphy. "He'd go out and salvage the lead. He'd clean it off. He'd end up with hundreds of pounds of lead. He worked with his bare hands ... I don't think it could have been too healthy. He'd put it in bags and sell it back to the people who manufacture shotgun shells."

Mr. Dahinden was born in Switzerland, but immigrated to Canada in 1953. Just a month after he arrived, he heard a radio report about a *Daily Mail* expedition to the Himalayas to search for the legendary Yeti, a hairy beast that supposedly wanders the mountain wilderness, high above the tree line.

Don Hunter, who in 1973 co-wrote the book *Sasquatch*, said that on hearing the report, Mr. Dahinden turned to the Alberta farmer he was working for, and said: "Now wouldn't that be something; to be on the hunt for that

thing? And he said, 'Hell, you don't have to go that far; they got them things in British Columbia.'"

And so the mission began. He promptly moved to B.C. and began his life's quest.

Mr. Hunter said Mr. Dahinden "investigated with an exhaustive thoroughness countless stories of Sasquatch sightings, thousands of

## 'HE NEVER, EVER FOUND ANYTHING WHEN ... ON HIS OWN'

footprints — and not a few Sasquatch hunters themselves. He has badgered every branch of science in North America that could possibly relate to the existence of a hairy bipedal giant hominoid, with little success. For the most part he has met with responses that ranged from vague expressions of 'cautious interest' to the attitude of: 'It can't exist, therefore it doesn't exist.' ... He has never seen a Sasquatch; he

is not easily persuaded by those who say they have seen one ... He says: 'Something is making those goddamn footprints and I'm going to find out what it is.'"

He never did find out — but his unwavering belief inspired others to take up the cause.

"He got calls from absolutely everywhere," said Mr. Murphy. "And, he went everywhere. He spent years and years in the bush," he said. "He never, ever found anything when he was out on his own. But when he responded to others, to reports, he'd scout the area, and he'd find footprints. He'd take statements from people, he'd interview everyone."

"His passion overwhelmed him. But one day he said to me: 'You know, I've spent over 40 years — and I didn't find it. I guess that's got to say something.'"

That's as close as he ever came to admitting defeat.

Mr. Dahinden died last week of natural causes. His memorial will be held at the Vancouver Gun Club, in Richmond, tomorrow.

National Post

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - April 11, 2001 CR: G. Conway

# Case of mutilated horses baffles Calgary police

Attacks dating back two years leave investigators puzzled and sickened

By EMMA POOLE

CALGARY — The mutilation of three horses on a northwest acreage has a Calgary family searching for answers and city police hunting for the person who apparently killed the animals for fun.

Guy Elford made the grisly discovery Monday afternoon. He first spotted Gypsy — a three-year-old registered paint — staggering in a valley.

As he approached Gypsy, Elford noticed the family's 24-year-old Arab, April, hidden in a clump trees, also

writhing in pain.

Both horses had been mutilated, suffering internal injuries, sometime between Sunday night and Monday afternoon.

This was the second time Elford's horses were the target of attacks. On Thursday, the family made a heart-wrenching decision to put down a thoroughbred named Sham. Elford said it was apparent the horse hadn't fully recovered from its mutilation seven months ago.

"[April] was in such distress. I had to actually drag her out of the trees," said Elford, the father of six. "We are absolutely shocked."

Elford fought back tears as he described finding the older horse, then watching her die in his arms. Gypsy, who was worth roughly \$10,000, was put down by a veterinarian Tuesday. The veterinarian confirmed the horse had been mangled internally. "This is it, we're wiped out," Elford said.

Calgary police are also baffled by the mutilations and are investigating them.

Detectives scoured the 28-hectare property Tuesday afternoon looking for clues as to who would attack the horses. There were no signs the mutilations were cult-related, or that the horses were killed for food.

"This is a sick thing," Constable Gor-

don Johnston said. "I couldn't even begin to guess why someone would do this."

This isn't the first time police have had to investigate a horse mutilation.

In 1999, a 16-month-old registered quarterhorse was apparently killed on her owner's northwest property by someone who had used a sharp knife to mutilate the horse's insides.

Police suspect the same type of weapon was used on the Elford horses.

"I don't know what kind of person would do this," Johnston said. "I've never seen this type of thing before. It's just disgusting."

Calgary Herald

## Remarkable results of an experiment into the 'after life'

# Mediums really can talk to the dead, say scientists

By James Chapman Science Correspondent

THE belief in a spirit world where dead loved ones are waiting to be contacted is a comfort to many and a mystery to yet more.

Thousands attend spiritualist meetings every week in the hope of getting in touch with the Other Side.

Recent reports of cases when patients who were clinically dead experienced an 'out of body experience' before being resuscitated have intensified the debate over the question of life after death.

Hollywood has fuelled the fascination with films such as *Ghost*, featuring Whoopi Goldberg as a spiritualist and *The Sixth Sense* with Bruce Willis.

Now an astonishing experiment has offered the first scientific evidence to suggest that it might conceivably be possible.

Researchers at the University of Arizona who have been putting spirit mediums through their paces are convinced that some have an uncanny ability to produce facts about the deceased relatives of people who come to them.

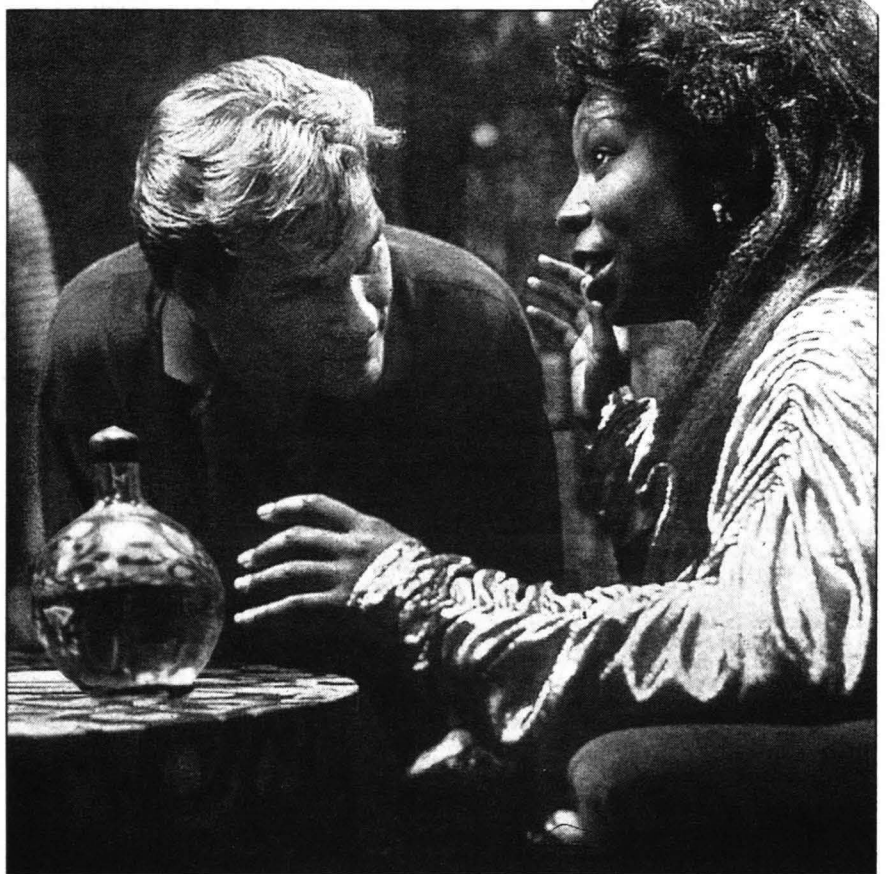
They asked five mediums to attempt to contact the dead relations of two volunteers they had never met before.

In the first experiment, each medium spent an hour with one of the volunteers with a screen preventing any eye contact.

The sitter was allowed to respond to questions from the mediums only with the words 'yes' or 'no'.

Information provided was analysed for accuracy after each session.

Reaching out:  
Whoopi  
Goldberg and  
Patrick  
Swayze in the  
film *Ghost*



Typically, the mediums produced around 80 pieces of information about deceased relatives, ranging from names to the circumstances of deaths. Overall, the mediums were judged to have got an average 83 per cent of facts correct. One achieved a 93 per cent accuracy rate.

In one extraordinary example, a medium recited a prayer that a volunteer's dead mother had read to her regularly as a child.

To counter claims that the mediums were simply making educated guesses, the scientists asked a panel of 60 non-mediums to try to come up with similar information.

Their average 'hit-rate' was only 36 per cent, with the most successful guesser achieving 54 per cent.

Reporting their findings in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, the scientists conclude: 'Highly skilled mediums are able to obtain accurate information.'

Professor Gary Schwartz, who led the research, insisted that all possible precautions had been taken to rule out cheating. 'The bottom line is that there is a class of highly-skilled mediums who are doing something extraordinary,' he said.

'All the data gathered so far is consistently in accord with survival of consciousness after death.' He added that the data suggested 'mediums are in direct communication with the deceased'.

But sceptics said that while the findings were fascinating, they fell a long way short of proof.

Dr Richard Wiseman, a psychologist at the University of Hertfordshire who has investigated the paranormal, said: 'I am not very impressed with what I have seen so far.'

'We know "yes" or "no" answers can offer a lot of clues. You can guess age, accent and how enthusiastic the tone of voice is to particular suggestions.'

'I also think the way they have set their control group is wrong.'

Dr Wiseman, who is conducting his own experiments on the way mediums operate, said it was also misleading to ask volunteers themselves to assess the accuracy of the information provided.

'They say something like, "Your father had walking problems", which is a very ambiguous statement. If you want to believe in mediums you will think back and if he had

a limp in old age or once hurt his leg, you will say that it is accurate.'

Many people wanted to believe in life after death and the possibility of contact with the deceased, and this made scientific research in the area difficult, he said.

'It makes the world more exciting if you think that we survive bodily death,' he added.

'It's an attractive notion. People want to think their loved ones are still with them.'

'The problem with that is that conventional bereavement counsellors will tell you that actually you have to come to terms with the loss and get on with your life without that person around.'

Colin Wilson - Page 13  
j.chapman@dailyemail.co.uk

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, OR  
March 24, 2001

## Leave Bigfoot alone

Does Bigfoot exist? If so, does it deserve to be left alone? What purpose would it serve to capture one?

What a real threat to our forests it would be if their existence was proven and classified. The Endangered Species Act and environmentalists would have a field day with this one. Are some things better left alone? — Curt Hinkle, Medford

## ISU professor featured on TV Bigfoot special

POCATELLO — Dr. Jeff Meldrum, associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, is a member of the scientific team featured in an upcoming telecast about Bigfoot on the Animal Planet television channel.

Listed as "Bigfoot, Episode 1," the show is the first episode of the Animal X series. It will be shown at 10:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12; 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13; 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19; and 11 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20. It also will be shown subsequently on dates to be announced.

According to a news release from Idaho State University, the imprint of what appears to be a large animal's left forearm, hip, thigh, and heel was discovered

Sept. 22, 2000, in a muddy wallow near Mount Adams in the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest in southern Washington state by a Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization expedition.

Meldrum, whose research includes comparative primate anatomy and the emergence of human walking, was asked to supervise the cleaning of the cast and has coordinated its scientific analysis. He first became actively interested in the question of the existence of a North American ape after examining fresh Sasquatch (popularly called Bigfoot) tracks in 1996.

The telecast is the first episode of several that are planned about the expedition and research into the existence of Bigfoot.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - April 29, 2001 CR: J. Fry

## For skunk apes, the proof is in the palmettos

Believing — accepting something as true without total proof — is one thing. Sharing beliefs with the world is another.

Following beliefs can be fatal, history has shown. But conveniently abandoning them in a crisis doesn't guarantee survival either.

Opinions might change, but beliefs stay with you. Especially difficult to shake are those that are based on religion, politics, morals, arts and sciences.

Case in point: the Florida skunk ape.

Haven't heard of the skunk ape? Then prepare for another chilling tale from the homeland of the Fountain of Youth and the butterfly ballot.

The skunk ape often is portrayed as the Pig Pen of phantom primates, smelly cousin to the Sasquatch (also known as Bigfoot) and the Yeti (also known as the Abominable Snowman).

But unlike those myths, the Florida skunk ape is real. Pause to consider these facts as reported recently in *The Tampa Tribune* and some other Florida newspapers:

Late last fall in a rural stretch of Sarasota County, Fla., between I-75 and the Myakka River, an elderly couple snapped photos of what appeared to be a large orangutan hiding in palmetto plants in their back yard.



MATTHEW MARX

The creature left a foul stench and made loud "woomping" sounds. It had been stealing apples off their back porch, according to an anonymous letter sent with the photos to the local sheriff.

See for yourself. The photos are at [www.lorencoleman.com/myakka.html](http://www.lorencoleman.com/myakka.html). Clearly, this is no hoax. It's on the Internet, after all.

My personal theory is that the skunk ape is a gorilla that escaped from a circus and travels the country trying to hook up with its old buddies from the big top.

With the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus performing in town this week, the skunk ape might be walking among us.

Think I'm crazy? Remember, without beliefs, we're no different from the animals. Sometimes all we can do is cling to a belief. Otherwise, we're hiding in a palmetto.

Spouting your beliefs can get you in trouble fast, all right. If you're not careful, you could be branded a zealot. Or maybe just branded.

Watch out for that skunk ape. Anyone else hear that "woomp"?

Columnist John Switzer has the day off.  
Matthew Marx is a Dispatch reporter.  
mmarx@dispatch.com



As scientists confirm that mediums can contact the dead . . .

# Yes, there IS somebody out there

(and if you still don't believe it read on...)



Raising their spirits: After years of ridicule mediums have some backing from the scientific community

**C**AN science be on track for proving the reality of life after death? How much longer can it be dismissed as the desperate imagining of the naive, the crazy or the religious?

I pose the question because of news that a team of American scientists — sceptics all — have announced that there is 'something' in all us that survives the death of the body.

Last month the eminent neuro-psychiatrist, Dr Peter Fenwick, published a study on so-called 'near-death experiences' — people who have apparently gone through physical death then woken to describe a world beyond death.

Writing in this paper, Fenwick, a 'hard-nosed scientist', admitted he was totally convinced by them. Now the team at the University of Arizona seems to confirm his conclusion.

Professor Gary Schwartz and his colleagues selected five reputable 'spirit mediums' who all claimed to be able to contact the dead. Two members of the public took part as 'sitters'.

The aim was to see whether the mediums, under strict test conditions, could produce accurate information about dead relatives of the 'sitters'.

**S**CEPTICS say most skilled mediums can produce accurate-sounding information with educated guesswork and clever questioning (such as 'Did your wife die of cancer?' — choosing a fairly common cause of death).

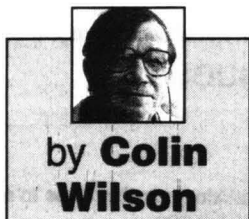
The Arizona team put the medium and the first sitter on either side of a screen, so the medium could not make guesses based on his or her skill in reading facial expressions.

Moreover, the sitter was allowed to answer questions only with either 'yes' or 'no'.

Yet the mediums achieved 83pc accuracy on the subject of dead relatives — except one who scored 93pc.

With the second sitter an additional safeguard was introduced. The mediums were not even allowed to speak directly to him. And still the success rate was remarkable.

So has Schwartz's team conclusively proved the reality of life after death? Unfortunately,



by Colin Wilson

no. Sceptics can still fall back on one powerful argument: that the mediums are simply highly-skilled mind readers who pick up information about dead relatives from the sitters' minds.

Unlike life after death, telepathy has been proved again and again in the laboratory under test conditions.

So how can telepathy be ruled out? A Danish-American expert, Dr Nils Jacobsen, investigated a case in which the evidence is impossible to fault.

In 1928, a man died in America after being crushed against a wall by a truck. Six years later, his brother attended a seance in which the medium said he was in contact with a man killed by a truck, and gave details that convinced the sitter that his dead brother was present.

So far, this could have been telepathy. But then came a startling piece of information. The dead man said he had not died of head injuries as everyone had assumed, but of a complication that 'came from the bone'.

His brother checked the hospital records which showed that the man died from a brain embolism caused by a blood clot from a broken bone.

That, I would argue, is a virtually watertight case. But it raises another question. The dead man had been unconscious from the moment of the accident until he died.

So how did he know the precise cause of his own death? Was he present in the post mortem room when the cause was established? That seems to be stretching credibility rather far.

Yet many paranormal investigators would accept that possibility. The Oxford researcher Charles McCreery recorded the evidence of a girl who had been on the pillow of a motor cycle when it struck a car at speed.

She told McCreery how she had somersaulted through the air and landed on her head.

Then she sat up, surprised to feel no pain, and wondered why people were running towards her. At that point, she saw her own body lying in the road, and

heard someone say: 'She's dead.' Suddenly, she told McCreery, she was terrified. Somehow she knew she had to return to her body before it was moved, otherwise she would die.

She lay down on her body, and suddenly felt the hard road beneath her, and the terrible pain of bruises and lacerations.

But when she recovered, she recalled being able to walk about when her unconscious body lay nearby, and how she felt as if she was still in her body.

Thousands of recorded cases of such 'out of the body experiences' provide some of the most convincing evidence that there is a part of us that gets up and walks away when the body dies.

For example, when the novelist D.H. Lawrence was dying, he told his wife that he had just been floating near the ceiling and looking down at himself lying in bed.

Scientists call such evidence 'anecdotal'. But researchers like McCreery have set out to test it in the laboratory using people who claim to have mastered the trick of leaving the body at will.

**O**NE of the best was an American, Keith Harary. In 1973, he was tested at Duke University, North Carolina, by the paranormal researcher Dr Robert Morris.

Dr Morris used a kitten called Spirit. It was put in a box, and began to mew to be picked up. Half a mile down the road, Harary lay on a bed, with another researcher sitting beside him.

The researcher rang Morris, and they synchronised their watches. 'OK,' said the researcher, 'go and visit your kitten.' And within seconds, Spirit had stopped meowing and seemed to be looking at somebody.

When Harary 'returned to his body' again, the kitten soon began meowing for attention.

Whenever Harary was ordered to visit Spirit, the kitten stopped meowing. Again and again, the kitten behaved as if it was looking at someone when Harary was 'visiting', and did not meow once.

All of which explains why, although the work of Schwartz's researchers at the University of Arizona may not be beyond criticism, they surely deserve warm congratulation for taking a huge step towards proving the reality of life after death.

■ COLIN WILSON is the author of *The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Unsolved Mysteries* (Constable Robinson).

## ATLANTA

### Ronald Bonds, 48, published conspiracies

By Kay Powell  
kpowell@ajc.com

Ron Bonds' intellectual curiosity created a voice for offbeat points of view.

He was fascinated by the conspiracy theories and paranormal possibilities he published through Illumi-Net Press. But more importantly, he wanted everyone to open their minds, to explore other theories of events.

"He was a guy who was extremely interested in things out of the mainstream. He was intellectually very courageous," said Jonathan Vankin of Los Angeles, author of "Conspiracies, Cover-Ups and Crimes," which Mr. Bonds reprinted.

Mr. Vankin added: "To guys like Ron, there are thousands of things that are so much fun to explore. Somehow, he made a living out of it and a business out of it."

The memorial service for Ronald W. Bonds, 48, of Atlanta, who died from internal bleeding Sunday at Grady Memorial Hospital, is 2 p.m. today in the Oak Lawn Chapel at Tom M. Wages Funeral Service Inc. The body will be cremated.

Mr. Bonds attracted people who put forth different ideas and turned them into authors. He discovered conspiracy theorist Jim Keith, known for "Black Helicopters Over America," and pub-

lished Kerry Thornley's popular "The Principia Discordia," a spoof of religion.

Another of his authors, John Keel, has a book being made into a movie starring Richard Gere. "The Mothman Prophecies" is now being edited and due out in about six months, said Mr. Bonds' wife, Nancy R. Kratzer.

"He was very intellectual, very, almost too intelligent, and real insightful," Ms. Kratzer said of her husband. "He knew what would be popular long before it was. He was ahead of his time."

Before the days of the Internet, he was among the first to have a computer bulletin board, similar to a chat room, that drew a large group of followers discussing politics and religion.

Mr. Bonds, who sang and played the guitar and keyboard, had been a record producer and promoter before he became a publisher. His record company was EOD, for Elvis on Drugs, said Sam Rountree of Lawrenceville, his friend of 20 years.

Years ago, sitting around in Mr. Bonds' living room, the two established the Church of Beaver Cleaver. They still get requests for the church's pamphlet and get hits on the church's Web site.

"Ron was entertaining," said Mr. Rountree. "He liked the unusual. He liked the strange. He liked the unique. He sought it out. He wanted to share his enthusiasm for the unique."

Mr. Bonds was responsible for the popularity of some authors, and the renewed popularity of others, said Mr. Rountree.

"Ron Bonds had to be the straightest, most honest guy I've ever met in the publishing business," said Mr. Vankin. "He paid royalties on time and never screwed around on you."

The death of Mr. Keith in 1999 and now Mr. Bonds "is going to spark a lot of conspiracy theories," said Mr. Vankin, adding that is probably something Mr. Bonds would enjoy.

Other survivors include his mother and stepfather, Yvonne and Roey Z. Patterson of Blue Ridge; a stepbrother, D.Z. Patterson of Buford; and a stepsister, Rhonda Patterson of Lawrenceville.

JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, GA - April 11, 2001



Bonds



Artist's impression  
of a yowie

# 24 off to film the yowie

YOWIE hunters will set out this week to capture one of the elusive creatures on video.

And the Queensland hunters say they face an ethical dilemma.

Australian Yowie Research spokesman Dean Harrison said yesterday it could be morally wrong to reveal the creatures and their whereabouts.

But Mr Harrison said the film project "could also add weight to

the argument that logging in yowies' known habitats was endangering them".

The Brisbane-based businessman will lead an expedition into a southeast Queensland state forest to film a yowie, said to be a hairy, powerful ape-like creature.

"We have a team of 24 in Operation Rotation, which begins on April 26 and ends on May 4," Mr Harrison said. He said where the

group would camp was "the hot spot for yowies".

"We've had so many sightings from reliable witnesses," Mr Harrison said. "Our information is that at least two clans or families of yowies live in the area."

Mr Harrison, who has been tracking yowies since 1995, said: "We have no doubt this expedition will uncover the creature and silence our critics." - AAP

USA TODAY, Washington, DC - Jan. 16, 2001

**Washington: Edmonds** — Richard Noll says he has a plaster cast of Bigfoot's bottom. The Edmonds man was part of an expedition last September between Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams seeking films of the elusive creature. They found a spot where it appeared that Bigfoot sat in the mud and left some hair. Tests determined the hair to be from an "unknown primate," he said.

COURIER-POST, Hannibal, MO - April 19, 2001

## Search for Momo continues

By DON KRAUSE  
Courier-Post Regional Editor

An investigative team is in the city of Louisiana seeking possible clues to a monster legend that stalked the community in 1972.

A team from the International Society of Cryptozoology is seeking information on the Missouri Monster, Momo.

A member of the team, Bill Riley, a Hannibal native, reported seeing Momo in 1972. Riley now heads bigfootbusters.com, which is sponsoring the expedition.

"He came to me with this report and I find it very credible," said Richard Greenwell, a zoologist with the International Wildlife Museum and ISC's secretary. "We got to talking about coming back one day and meeting the other witnesses from the 70s. Maybe other witnesses, who have kept it to themselves to avoid ridicule, might be willing to talk after all these years."

Riley, who had kept his encounter with Momo quiet for years, said there are reports of creature sightings going back many years.

"A lot of people do not realize the Momo sightings in '72 were not the beginning, there's sightings that go back into the 1800s around the area," said Riley.

Greenwell said that is often common across the country.

"If you start digging through the newspaper archives you'll find reports going back to the 1800s when there were reports of guerrillas or Wild Men," he said. "There'll be a little article in a paper and then you don't hear anything about it and it gets forgotten."

It was a little different in Louisiana in the summer of 1972.

According to a Courier-Post article, Louisiana resident Edgar Harrison received a call at work from his children on July 10, 1972 about something they had seen.

His 15-year-old daughter reported seeing "a monster about 10 feet tall, standing on two legs like a man, with long black hair all over and holding the body of a dog, still bleeding, in one of his arms."

When he arrived home about 30 minutes later, he began searching for the creature, and only noticed a foul stench like an old mold, a few black hairs and some broken brush. However, he was convinced his children had seen something.

Within a week there were three other incidents involving the alleged monster.

Riley said his encounter involved Momo emerging from a treeline and then following behind him. He said the creature stepped over a fence "without losing a stride."

Although reports of Bigfoot or Sasquatch are often associated with the Pacific Northwest, Greenwell said there are reported sightings scattered across the United States.

"We're getting reports from all over the country," he said, noting reports from Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, as well as the midwest.

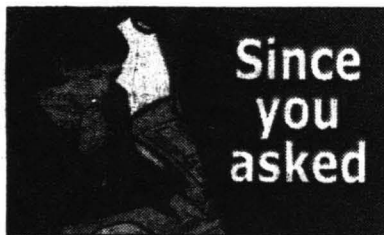
"Regardless of what it is, whether it is a social phenomenon or a zoological one, these reports keep coming in," Greenwell said.

"The Pacific Northwest is the core area where we get most reports, but if this thing exists, there could be remnant populations in other parts of the country," he added. "Of course local people would give it local names, Momo, Skunk Ape, it would all be the same."

While in the area, the investigative team hopes to find some pieces to add to the mystery.

"We hope to uncover some more evidence to add to the archives, and who knows, maybe some evidence that's still roaming around," said Riley.

Greenwell will talk to the public tonight at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Louisiana Middle School. There is a \$3 fee.



## It wasn't a bear, says searcher

I read with fascination the story about Dr. Matthew Johnson, the Grants Pass psychologist, who says he saw Bigfoot while going to the bathroom in the forest. Has anyone asked him if he knows what a bear looks like?

— Catherine N., Medford

Add your name, Catherine, to the list of hundreds of members of the media and the public who have asked Johnson if he thinks it's possible that what he saw July 1 while hiking with his family in Josephine County was, indeed, a bear.

And each time, Johnson says unequivocally, that what he saw certainly was not a bear.

A former Alaska resident, Johnson says he's seen several bears and has even been chased once by a grizzly bear. He knows that black bears are sometimes brown or cinnamon-colored, and that they sometimes stand on their hind legs.

Johnson says that what he saw was about 9 feet tall, was very hairy and stood upright, quizzically looking at his family on the Big Tree Loop Trail at Oregon Caves National Monument. Just before that, his family heard deep, huffing sounds and smelled a stench similar to rotten fish.

The Bigfoot Field Research Organization considers his report legitimate, and more than 100 radio stations, newspapers and television stations have interviewed Johnson and asked about the bear possibility.

Send questions to "Since You Asked," Mail Tribune Newsroom, P.O. Box 1108, Medford, OR 97501; by fax to (541) 776-4376; or by e-mail to youasked@mailtribune.com