

UFO

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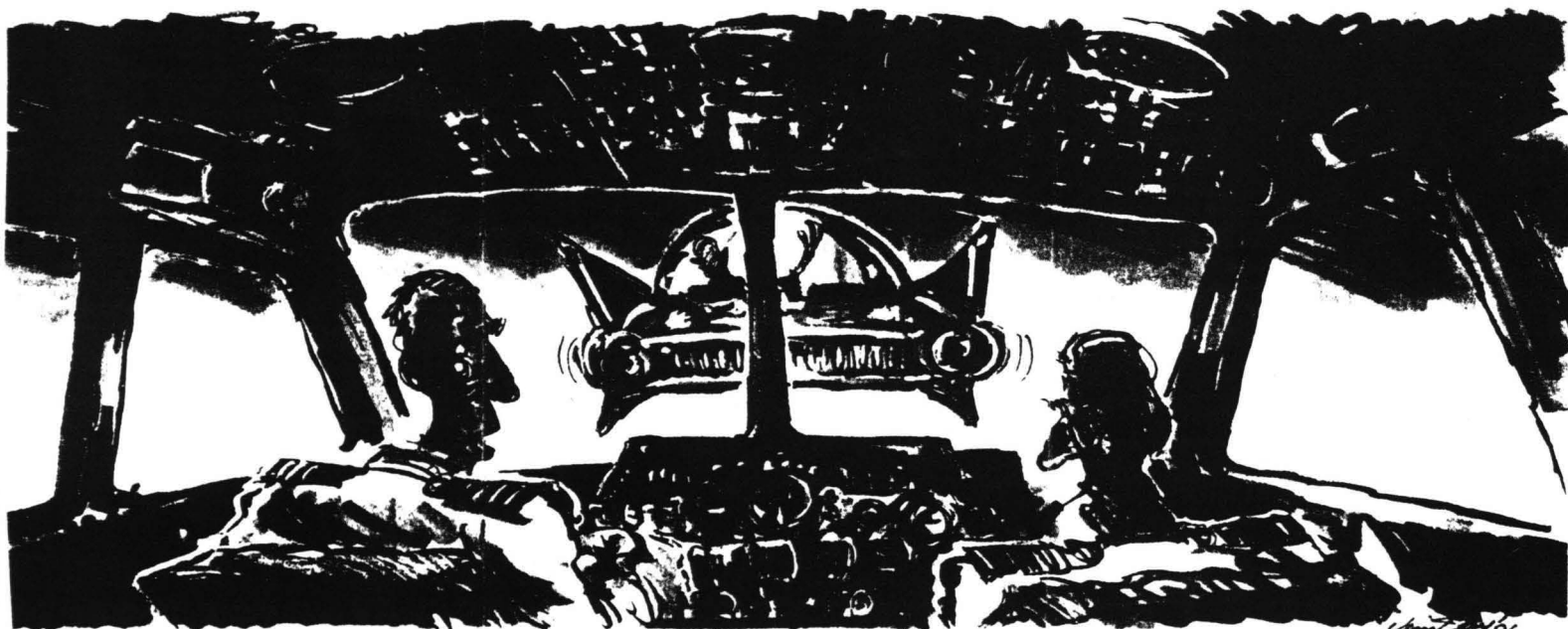
#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

June 2001
Number 383

REVIEW-JOURNAL Las Vegas, NV - May 13, 2001 CR: T. Good

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



Commercial pilots bugged by UFOs

By LESLIE KEAN

SPECIAL TO THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

In January, Agence France Presse reported that a Siberian airport was shut for 1 1/2 hours while a luminescent unidentified flying object hovered above its runway. Although it's hard to imagine such an event taking place in the industrialized United States, a compelling October 2000 study by a retired aerospace scientist from NASA-Ames Research Center shows that similar incidents have occurred in American skies over the past 50 years. "Aviation Safety in America — A Previously Neglected Factor" presents more than 100 pilot and crew reports of encounters with unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) that appear to have compromised aviation safety.

Author Richard F. Haines, formerly NASA's chief of the Space Human Factors Office and a Raytheon contract scientist, is chief scientist for the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP), a research organization founded last year. In stunning detail, pilots and crew describe a range of geometric forms and lights inconsistent with known aircraft or natural phenomena. Bizarre objects paced aircraft at relatively near distances, sometimes disabling cockpit instruments, interrupting ground communications, or distracting the crew.

The data include 56 near-misses. Impulsive responses by pilots to an approaching high-speed object can be hazardous; in a few cases, such violent evasive reactions injured passengers and flight attendants. However, Haines states that there is no threat of a collision caused directly by UAP "because of the reported high degree of maneuverability shown by the UAP."

While flying over Lake Michigan

Reports of sightings by aircrews are now ridiculed, suppressed

in 1981, TWA Capt. Phil Schultz saw a "large, round, silver metal object" with dark portholes equally spaced around the circumference that "descended into the atmosphere from above," according to his handwritten report. Schultz and his first officer braced themselves for a mid-air collision; the object suddenly made a high-speed turn and departed.

Veteran Japan Airlines 747 Capt. Kenju Terauchi reported a spectacular prolonged encounter over Alaska in 1986. "Most unexpectedly, two space ships stopped in front of our face, shooting off lights," he said. "The inside cockpit shined brightly and I felt warm in the face." Despite the Federal Aviation Administration's determination that he and his crew were stable, competent and professional, he was grounded for speaking out.

In 1997, a Swissair Boeing 747 over Long Island just missed a glowing, white, cylindrical object speeding toward the plane. According to an FAA Civil Aviation Security Office memorandum, pilot Philip Bobet said that "if the object was any lower, it may have hit the right wing."

Ground-systems operators have also been affected by UAP. "The element of surprise means a decrease in safety because it diverts the attention of air-traffic controllers that should be focused on landing planes. That is a danger," says Jim McClenahan, a recently retired FAA air-traffic-control specialist and NARCAP technical adviser.

"Aviation Safety in America" does not attempt to explain the origin of these mysterious objects. But Haines writes that hundreds of re-

ports, some dating back to the 1940s, "suggest that they (UAPs) are associated with a very high degree of intelligence, deliberate flight control, and advanced energy management."

In the 1950s, pilots and crews reported seeing flying discs, cigar-shaped craft with portholes, and gyrating lights, all with extraordinary technical capabilities. Documents show the unexplained objects were considered a national security concern. By order of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commercial pilots were required to report sightings and the unauthorized release of a UFO report could cost them 10 years in prison or a \$10,000 fine.

To keep this information from the public, officials ridiculed and debunked legitimate sightings, angering some pilots. According to the Newark Star Ledger in 1958, more than 50 commercial pilots who had reported sightings, each with at least 15 years of major airline experience, blasted the policy of censorship and denial as "bordering on the absolutely ridiculous."

These pilots said they were interrogated by the Air Force, sometimes all night long, and then "treated like incompetents and told to keep quiet," according to one pilot. "The Air Force tells you that the thing that paced your plane for 15 minutes was a mirage or a bolt of lightning," he told the Star-Ledger. "Nuts to that. Who needs it?" As a result, many pilots "forget" to report their sightings at all, one pilot said.

According to a 1952 Air Force Status Report on UFOs for the Air Technical Intelligence Center, pilots were so humiliated that one told investigators, "If a space ship flew

wing-tip to wing-tip formation with me, I would not report it." The vast majority of sightings by American pilots are still not reported. The media perpetuate the censorship and ridicule, handicapping the collection of valuable data.

In contrast, other countries are openly investigating the impact of UAP on aviation safety. A 1999 French study by retired generals from the French Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense and a government agency with the National Center for Space Studies examined hundreds of well-documented pilot reports from around the world. The study could not explain a 1994 Air France viewing of a UAP that instantaneously disappeared as confirmed by radar and a 1995 Aerolineas Argentinas Boeing 727 encounter with a luminous object that extinguished airport lights as the plane attempted to land.

"Aeronautic personnel must be sensitized and prepared to deal with the situation," the report states. They must first "accept the possibility of the presence of extraterrestrial craft in our sky." Then, "it is necessary to overcome the fear of ridicule."

In 1997, the Chilean government formed the Committee for the Study of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena (CEFAA) following publicly acknowledged observations of unidentified flying objects at a remote Chilean airport. Both the French group and Gen. Ricardo Bermudez Sanhueza, president of the CEFAA, have made overtures to the U.S. government for cooperation on this issue, with no response. Gen. Bermudez, and air force Gen. Denis Letty,

chairman of the French group, said in recent interviews that the Haines study has international significance and should be taken seriously.

Brian E. Smith, current head of the Aviation Safety Program at NASA-Ames, agrees. "There is objective evidence in pilot reports of unexplained events that may affect the safety of the aircraft," he says. "Yet getting people to take an objective look at this subject is sometimes like pulling teeth."

Indeed, the Airline Pilots Association, our largest pilots union, and the Flight Safety Foundation, describing itself as "offering an objective view of aviation safety developments," ignored NARCAP requests for a response to the study. In recent phone interviews with this reporter, representatives dismissed the report out of hand after glancing at the executive summary.

However, such dismissals may soon lose ground. Next Wednesday, John Callahan, former division chief of the Accidents and Investigations Branch of the FAA, will disclose FAA documentation and subsequent CIA suppression of the Terauchi encounter over Alaska. Callahan will be joined by more than 20 other government and military witnesses, and dozens more on videotape, at a National Press Club briefing to challenge official secrecy about this subject.

Retired United Airlines Capt. Neil Daniels, whose DC-10 was forced into a left turn because of magnetic interference of cockpit compasses by a brilliant UAP, is among the many who want change. "The energies out there are absolutely profound," he says. "I think we need to know what they are."

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VISUAL ART

Alien Abductions

They float earthward cloaked in pure light, bringing the assurance of worlds grander and more lucid than anything for which our puny, benighted human experience could possibly prepare us. Seven hundred years ago, Giotto would have painted them as angels. But now those beings are aliens, bringing the greetings of space civilizations, wielding futuristic technology and acting on their own capricious predilections to heal or destroy.

It's odd that the Enlightenment's seeds of cool-headed rationalism have yielded fruits of sheer weirdness in the form of UFOs, alien abductions and vengeful visitors from other planets. Humankind, apparently, needs a Deus, and in this machine age, we are more than willing to put him in machina.

The Riverwest Art Center, continuing a string of well-conceived exhibitions, is again among the most exciting art venues in town with its new group show, "UFO." The exhibition (curated by Marilu Knode from UWM's Institute of Visual Arts) features paintings, drawings, photographs and installations by a dozen regional artists on the theme of outer space.

Like the best shows of its kind, the work hangs together loosely but definitively, demonstrating not only the variety of approaches possible, but the underlying connections between humankind and the cosmos. "UFO" doesn't deal with the veracity of the proposition of alien life, but rather the many ways in which people respond to the concept. In other words, the ways they respond to revelations of the divine.

The show's most striking works are Lee Grantham's enormous reverse-painting-on-plexi pieces, which come direct from the Jim Nutt school of Chicago Imagists. "Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof" shows a trio of rampaging robots drawn from '60s sci-fi. With their bright colors and flattened, cartoony images, it's clear they are meant in the campy spirit that makes early "Star Trek" so endearing. Grantham's meticulous hand and the vitrine-quality of the plexiglas turns the huge paintings into semiprecious objects, images from a past when we knew less than we do now.

Walter Fydyck's odd drawings on photo paper take a similar approach, as do the alien photographs by Mary Maier. But their informing reference is '80s new-wave fashion, that futuristic look of heavy eye-shadow, shiny pants and hair moussed into gravity-defying whorls. Fydyck's drawings, with their figures' portentous stares and hovering saucers, wouldn't have been out of place on an A Flock of Seagulls record cover, and Maier's space girls hang out in a suburban setting, doing all the boring things the rest of us do. They don't threaten because they are locked in a more naïve moment, one rooted in the time before Ridley Scott demonstrated how scary space could be.

Only a couple of the artists take a dystopic view of aliens. Mark Lawson's large installation, featuring a headless space suit and murky lighting, is notable in this respect, as are the weird drawings of Gene Evans. Evans makes crude pastel pictures on dark grounds (with more than a hint of black-light posters) that show cartoon figures gone berserk.

Much of the exhibition's most interesting work uses conceptions of space travel and alien life as the basis for abstraction. Curtis Whaley makes obtuse, incredibly fine drawings with latex paint on paper. His biomorphic forms, with their pale, fadeaway palette, hint at digestive tracts, paramecia and ovaries. Whaley treats

TRIBUNE, Portland, OR - May 8, 2001

PhilStanford



ON THE TOWN

Flying objects, identified and otherwise

In case you haven't noticed, we've always had our fair share of weirdness in this part of the country. As a matter of fact, the first UFOs — flying saucers, as they were called at the time — were spotted just 100 miles north of Portland. The day was June 24, 1947, and a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold saw them near Mount Rainier: nine shiny, boomerang-shaped objects that he said seemed to skip like saucers as they sped through the atmosphere. When he landed, he told reporters that he estimated their speed to be about 1,700 mph, which was considerably faster than any known aircraft was capable of doing at that time. News of the first flying saucer sighting was flashed around the nation.

Hardly more than a week later, on July 4, 1947, scores of flying saucers were spotted over Portland. Two police officers, Walter Lissy and Robert Ellis — both World War II vets and civilian pilots — saw the first ones above Oaks Park: fast-moving, silvery discs, traveling in formation, they said. The Portland police force immediately went on full alert.

The same day, Thomas Berry, who lived on Northeast Killingsworth Street, spotted something, too. So did M.A. Deaton, who lived on Northeast 32nd Avenue. Deaton said it was a disc, flying due east "faster than an airplane." Downtown on Broadway, in the Oregon Journal's Jackson Tower, International News Service employees reported seeing a "fly-by" of discs. Three sheriff's deputies assigned to the harbor patrol spotted a cluster of discs at about 10,000 feet. Another policeman, Earl Patterson, radioed in from his car at Southeast 82nd Avenue and Foster Street with another report of flying discs. He said they were aluminum or eggshell in color, traveling at a high rate of speed.

That evening, more strange discs were spotted by the pilot, co-pilot and stewardess

of a United Airlines flight en route from Boise to Portland. Nine of these flying saucers, which they described as bigger than an airplane, cruised along with them for 15 minutes. The next day, no less an authority than The Oregonian reported that despite the numerous sightings of these unidentified flying objects, no damage to the city had occurred.

Whatever it was, it was catching. The next day, sightings of these flying discs were reported in 23 different states. Weather balloons, sun glares, hoaxes or visitors from outer space — who knows? If you looked at it all very coldly, there was a certain lack of hard evidence that anything had occurred at all. "The whole thing," offered Dr. Frederick A. Courts, a psychology professor at Reed College, "could be the result of a general semi-hysteria due to the nervousness of the public over reports of atomic warfare and guided projectiles." The Rev. Jessie Palmer, of Portland's Assembly of God, took it as a portent that the end was near. "The Bible," he noted, "says the Second Coming will be preceded by wars, great disasters and heavenly displavs."

The heavenly displays abruptly subsided. Then, almost three years later, on May 11, 1950, another unidentified flying object was spotted over a farm outside McMinnville. It was a gray, overcast evening, about 7:30 p.m., and Evelyn Trent was out feeding the rabbits when she saw it: a large, metallic-looking disc, hovering in the sky. She called for her husband, Paul, to come quick and bring his camera. As the two of them watched in awe, the disc, which they would later say was 30 feet in diameter, with a little oval-shaped bulge in the center, came within a quarter-mile of where they stood. It hovered above them for a long time. Then it tipped an edge, and, gathering speed, disappeared in the west. The saucer made no noise. It just glided, they said, creating a breeze as it flew.

But of course, what made this sighting different from so many others was that the Trents had a camera with them. Before the strange disc-like craft disappeared from view, Paul Trent managed to click off two shots. It wasn't as if the Trents were looking for publicity. The photographs weren't published until almost a month later when the Trents' banker took a copy of the snapshots to the McMinnville paper. Since that time the photos have been analyzed by experts. As a 1969 Air Force report found, the sighting by the Trents is "one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated — geometric, psychological and physical — appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object ... flew within sight of two witnesses."

Whatever it was — or wasn't — the McMenamins Hotel Oregon in McMinnville is celebrating its 51st anniversary with a party and speakers this Friday night. If I were you, I'd bring a camera.

Contact Phil Stanford by phone at 503-546-5166, or by e-mail at pstanford@portlandtribune.com.

them like simple design elements, hollow and schematic and without portent, but his exquisite line is so engaging that one wants to decipher their meaning, or lay one onto them as they hint of things inevitable, of biology as destiny.

Denis Sargent, on the other hand, puts the human directly into the cosmic with his depictions of galaxies made of hundreds of tiny images of people, swirling in a starry whirlpool. His "Cosmic Drama" series of digital collages deny a grandeur greater than or separate from the human.

Finally, James Pintar, Andrew Rubinstein and Douglas Holst broaden their base of references to focus on the ways in which people have responded to the potential of growing knowledge. Pintar's saucer shapes, isolated in monochrome, and Rubinstein's images, which look like chromosomes in mitosis, point out the

relation of our ideas of inner and outer space. Holst's clean, precise geometric paintings humanize the history of aesthetics, playing on visual elements from the age of Sputnik to hint at the histories of hope engendered in humanity's switch to placing faith in technology after eons of placing it in God. Whether that hope is naïve is debatable, of course, but as Holst records it, it is also inseparable from the rise of Modernism in art.

And that's a point that bears repeating. Culture, and art in particular, can be the best mediator between the real and the divine. Better than the church and science, which largely discount individual experience, art is the best way human beings can approach divinity. At the very least, the making of art has a strong parallel with divine acts of creation.

—Nathan Guequiere

Sights in Skies Defy Explanation!!!, Are they back?

By Stuart Shapiro

Something really strange is taking place here in Belleville. At least 20 people have recently observed lights in the skies that defy normal description. All of the observations have been in the sky to the west of Belleville and some in a west by north west trajectory. The lights have been pretty uniformly described. There is one central bright whitish colored light, which seems to disappear in the western horizon. Then there are extremely fast moving red, blue and white lights that dart in different directions away from the big light that almost looks like a beacon.

Several people have brought the phenomena to the attention of the *Recorder*. When we discussed the lights they sounded somewhat familiar to those sightings that occurred back in 1986. Back then for a several month period, unexplainable lights and shapes were observed around the Belleville area. These sightings of unidentified flying objects got a lot of attention and gave rise to a fun celebration first held a few years later called Belleville's UFO Day.

The sightings were anything but fun though for the witnesses at the time. The media picked up on the story and soon it was all over the country and beyond. Channel 21 (WHA) in Madison even did a documentary. There was a hearing of sorts held at the high school to try to sort out the information and make some sense of it.

For those people who had been the chief witnesses, life was made miserable by well meaning but often lacking in common sense enthusiasts who believed in UFO's and wanted more information.

One individual got calls in the middle of the night from countries around the globe. It got so bad that this person found his only refuge in refusing to talk about the incident after a few weeks. In another case a caravan of cars filled with UFO enthusiasts, pulled up to one of the observers' homes on a Sunday and really made pests of themselves.

At the Recorder office we can attest to the same kind of thing. We have had calls from almost every corner of the country about the sightings. Usually in October around the time of our UFO Day we can expect a rash of these calls. They have come from Sacramento, New York, Vancouver, Dallas, Denver, Wheeling and a host of other cities. Many are from people legitimately interested in UFO phenomena, but then there are the calls from the crackpots as well, and they seem to take twice as long to respond to.

Because of the many strange telephone calls associated with announcing the sightings of unexplained sights back in 1984 we agreed to not use any of the names of the people we talked to.

The sightings took place during the week of March 4th on at least three separate nights. They also repeated themselves several time during the evening. In all cases the people watching the strange lights were not alone. In fact in one case a family of five and a visitor witnessed the sight.

In another case one of the observers had brought his camcorder along. He excitedly tried to get out of the car while the car was still moving to record the incident. This was not the best judgement and by the time he pulled himself out of the ditch and made

sure no bones were broken, the lights had disappeared.

In the case of the family each person watching said the smaller fast moving red and white lights were in our atmosphere. Yet there were no sounds of engines, no roar as if from a jet. The speed at which they moved was also hard to believe, and the other thing which made the sight strange is that they were basically in the same area.

One of the observers who has a military background and has done considerable traveling by air said the sight was "not something you could understand." This conclusion was reached after watching the lights dart back and forth for a considerable time.

One of the other observers reported that the object traveled west to northwest and was very bright with red and blue lights, which seemed to be floating side to side and up and down. The object had 5 or 6 very long and sharp pointed arms it seemed. The red and blue lights were around the center.

A plausible explanation is that Venus could have been the big light that disappeared in the horizon. We called the UW Space Center and they confirmed that they had been getting many calls about the one big light. Venus was very close to the earth for most of March. It became more obvious in the early morning sky. A planet also would have given the impression of a stable or very slowly moving object. Because it's orbit around the sun brought it very close to the earth's orbit it would also be very bright.

That theory doesn't help explain the smaller lights that were darting about at closer distances though. No one has come up with a plausible explanation for those. For sure there are things that defy explanation and those darting lights probably do much to support the sightings of years ago. Someday, hopefully we will find an answer to the sightings of these mysterious unidentified flying objects.

There is a web site that several of the observers used for reporting their sightings and getting information about unusual observations. That site is www.ufocenter.com. The Belleville observations are currently posted on that website.

POST-CRESCENT, Appleton, WI - Dec. 21, 2000 CR: R. Heiden

National UFO exhibit whimsical and weird

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KRT) - It's not surprising that Gerry Riggs, curator of the Gallery of Contemporary Art at CU-Springs, wanted to bring a national exhibit on UFOs to the gallery. In 1968, when he was 18 years old, Riggs says he saw a pair of UFOs buzz Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Riggs says he was one of 350 people who watched one of the large, silvery discs hover by a water tower for three or four minutes before zig-zagging off at unbelievable speed. "It was clearly some sort of gyroscopic device," he says. "Hovering, it didn't spin as fast, and you could see windows."

Wright-Patterson was the center of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's famous investigation into UFOs - a project closed down a few months after the incident Riggs witnessed.

The experience didn't turn Riggs into a UFO fanatic, though he does point out that "it would be stupid of us to think we're alone in the universe."

Fanaticism also is only intermittently present in "The UFO Show," first exhibited earlier this

year at Illinois State University - ironically, in the town of Normal. This show of UFO-inspired works by 19 artists (plus three local artists that Riggs has added to the mix) is comprised as much of whimsy and weird science as of X-Files-style, "the-truth-is-out-there" earnestness.

One thing that's clear is that Americans aren't the only ones fascinated by the thought of visitors from outer space. Works are by Belgian conceptual artist Pan-armarenko (notebooks filled with quasi-scientific scribbles), Ionel Talpazan from Romania (UFO doodles) and Mariko Mori from Japan.

The star of the show is the famous saucer shape.

It can be ominous, as in Ken Weaver's "Abduction Series" paintings. These beautifully modeled paintings are executed almost entirely in blue and white, with a murky, indistinct feel reminiscent of single frames from a cheap, hand-held video recorder.

Other saucers are just plain fun, such as Sharon Engelstein's 6-foot-in-diameter, sequin-covered version, or a pair of large, cartoony UFOs by Jeremy Kidd.

Close Encounters of the Eagle County Kind

Vail resident keeping eye on the sky for UFOs

By Randy Wyrick

Daily Staff Writer

It's not every day people see UFOs. Then again, maybe it is.

Vail resident Bob Fiske spent 10 years as a Chicago police officer, so UFOs are just some of the strange things he's seen. As part of his research, Fiske is putting together a book, "UFOs For Dummies." (Sic) But we are all dummies if we continue to let the government conceal the truth about UFOs from us.

Fiske cites statistics that indicate more than 109,000 worldwide sightings since 1947.

"That's more than 2,000 a year, and these are just the reported sightings," Fiske said in his manuscript.

Some of those unidentified objects are flying right through Eagle County and the surrounding area. Most sightings don't get reported, said Fiske, adding that either people don't know who to tell, or are afraid of ridicule.

"I'd guess we hear about 10 to 15 percent of what goes on," said John Schuessler, international director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). "People generally don't report them to any authorities."

Sightings don't repeat in a given area too often. Schuessler said there might be a rash of sightings in a year, then nothing for a year or two.

"When sightings hit an area, we can have several in a matter of hours or days," he said.

Certain areas seem to get more activity than others, and the Central Rockies are just about at Ground Zero.

"They tend to like unpopulated areas best," said Schuessler. "We tend to get better reports from places that are more open."

Fiske said the San Luis Valley is Colorado's most active area. Marfa, Texas is another of the nation's hot spots. Fiske said lights appear so often on the Texas plains, six miles out of Marfa, that an observation area has been built to accommodate onlookers.

As an exercise of curiosity, Fiske drew a straight line from Marfa to the San Luis Valley. It ran right through Roswell, New Mexico.

"I figured out to the square inch that line would go right over the spot where... hmmm?" said Fiske. "I'm sure this is just a coincidence, aren't you?"

Fiske said 1947 could be called the year they made contact the hard way when one craft crashed at Roswell.

"What most people don't realize is that Roswell was not just an isolated happening," said Fiske. "The first big wave of sightings had begun some weeks, or months before."

Tabloids love this stuff, firing out screaming headlines, "President Clinton Meets Alien" (not true), or "Dennis Rodman is an Alien" (possibly true). Fiske calls it the "Absurdity Factor."

MUFON has about 3,000 investi-

gators worldwide, all volunteers. They get calls on several sightings every day. To get their attention, witnesses must be credible and never cross from the merely strange to the absurd.

"About 90 percent of the calls can be explained," said Schuessler. "A lot deal with a light going across the sky. To us, that's not an unidentified object. It's just a light going across the sky."

"In our definition, a UFO remains unidentified after an investigation," said Schuessler. "It's not unidentified because you don't know what it is."

If an event has a credible witness and is sufficiently strange, it warrants an investigation.

"A light across the sky is not a strange event," said Schuessler. "An object hovering over an occupied automobile, bathing it in light is a strange event."

Schuessler is referring to a Tucson, Ariz., man's experience on May 29. Schuessler said the gentleman was driving his car through an intersection when an object appeared above him, hovering within 50 feet and bathing his car in light. He went home, threw a couple cousins in the car and sped after it. They finally caught up to it and got a good, long look at it before it flew away.

Some of the most credible sightings come from airline pilots, and military and law enforcement personnel, said Fiske, who has seen a few over his lifetime. Schuessler has never seen any, but has been part of several investigations.

One of Schuessler's first cases was in 1967. An Ozark Airline pilot was asked to check out an object floating in the air over parts of Missouri. The pilot turned north and headed toward Cookville, Mo., where he observed it. Others on the plane who saw it were a flight attendant, a co-pilot and seven University of Missouri professors. When the pilot shined a bright light on it, it began to move away, finally disappearing.

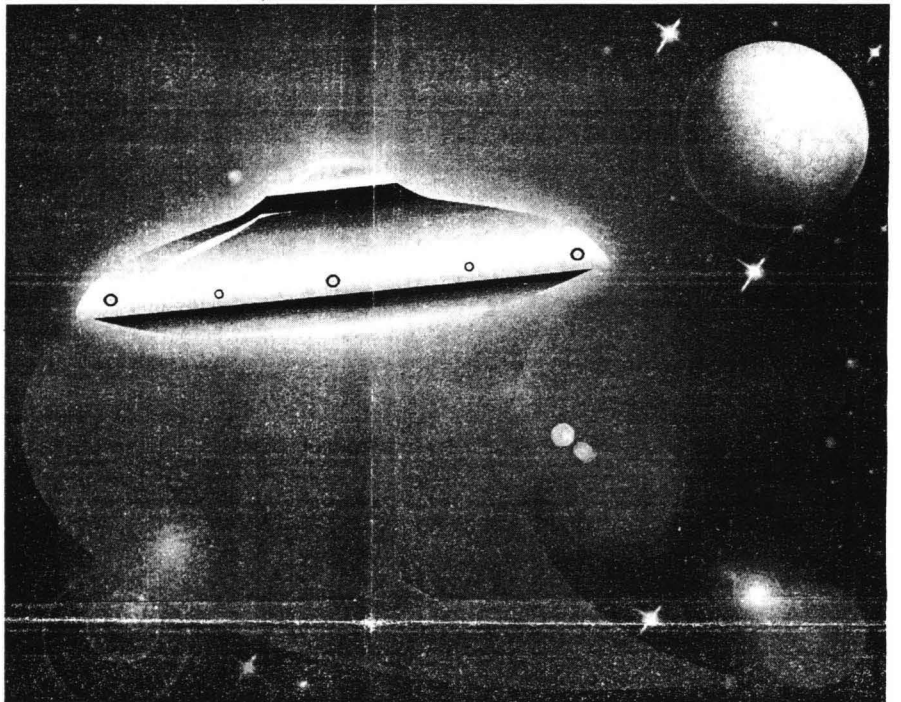
Schuessler said MUFON still has to deal with the silly side of things, as well as the skeptics who refuse to listen to anything.

Among the most skeptical is the United States Air Force.

Senior Master Sgt. Cathy Segal, a public affairs officer with the U.S. Space Command, based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, has heard every tale, every breathless description. She listens patiently and politely.

"The Air Force doesn't investigate UFOs," said Segal. "We usually refer people to their local police departments."

Schuessler said the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" is based on sightings reported by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a consultant to the Air Force for 22 years and a Northwestern University pro-



Don't be altogether surprised if you see something like this in the sky over Eagle County, says Vail resident Bob Fiske — and don't be afraid to tell someone.

Vail Daily photo illustration/Dawn Beacon

fessor of astronomy.

"He did a lot to eradicate the silliness from the subject," said Schuessler.

Schuessler said MUFON gathers all the information it can, much of which is presented at the organization's annual symposium. He said among the organization's research specialists are 200 people who hold masters degrees, and 20 more who hold Ph.D.s.

Part of the trouble gathering information is that the subjects of the research, the UFOs, aren't exactly sitting down for interviews and psychological profiles.

"You cannot predict an event," said Schuessler. "We've tried tying it to everything you can scientifically tie it to; earthquakes, sun spots, weather patterns, tornadoes, anything. You can't do it. It's a completely random event."

Americans, though, seem to believe. Schuessler said Gallup polls taken over the last 50 years indicate that more than half the Americans polled believe UFOs are real.

The Freedom of Information Act has helped make some government information available. Leaks are also valuable.

"Leaks drive the intelligence agencies crazy," said Schuessler.

Fiske suggested that UFOs be investigated with the same vigor that Woodward and Bernstein investigated the Watergate scandal during the Nixon administration.

"That a cosmic Watergate exists there can be little doubt," Fiske said.

County encounters

Fiske said the latest sightings in our area include:

- July 22, 2000: At 10 p.m., a Vail man was walking his dog in East Vail when he looked up to see a silent craft passing no more than a few hundred feet overhead. He described it as being a tennis ball at arm's length, with four white lights on the underside arranged at 90 degrees in a circular formation. Blinking lights appeared on the upper side of the craft as he watched it climb east toward Vail Pass. The witness could hear vehicles on I-70 and engine noise from an aircraft at a much higher altitude, but nothing from the UFO.

- Nov. 4, 2000: A married couple driving along I-70 in Wolcott saw a strangely lighted craft flying about 100 yards off the ground. When the witnesses flashed their headlights at the UFO, it jumped to a higher altitude and began to move west along the railroad tracks. The witnesses described it as being teardrop-shaped, glowing with a bright fluorescent green/white light, with a red light at the pointed aft end, and had multi-colored lights around the perimeter. The object made no noise. The woman reported seeing a dome-like structure on top. As the craft moved west, the witnesses saw two Air Force A-10 jets in pursuit, but the UFO sped up and got away. An Eagle County local law enforcement official reported seeing the jets, but not the UFO.

- Feb. 3, 2001: A married couple driving north of Wolcott along Highway 131 at around 10:30 p.m. saw a bright green light drop from the sky in what was described as a controlled descent. The UFO was about the size of a penny held at arm's length. It disappeared behind a hill north of 4Eagle Ranch.

- May 23, 2001: Two men were camping south of Kremmling, along Highway 131, and watched three brightly lit craft maneuver silently for almost an hour. One was described as a bright white light, the second as amber/orange in color, and the third flashing multi-colored lights. They were about a quarter mile away at their closest point. The lights moved in different directions as the craft surveyed the area. The first two lights moved out of sight after an hour or so, but the multi-colored one stayed around and was watched through binoculars. They saw lights that appeared to be rotating around the exterior. The witness described it as something out of "Close Encounters."

Fiske asks that anyone who has seen a UFO in Eagle County or the surrounding area to contact him at 476-7507.

— Randy Wyrick

RECORDER, Belleville, WI - Jan. 30, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

A UFO Sighting??

A traveler passing through Belleville recently spotted a strange sight in the skies and reported the information to the National UFO Reporting Center. Belleville's history of UFO sightings was relayed to her days later, and she got in touch with us concerning her experience.

According to Suzanne Vinmans, an Albany resident, she and another passenger were traveling east through Belleville on January 23rd at approximately 6:15 p.m. An unobstructed view through the front windshield revealed a single blue spherical light traveling very fast from the far left to the far right raising in altitude. The light took about 30 seconds to travel that distance. According to Ms. Vinmans, the speed was two to three times faster than a commercial jet would move. It then disappeared to the far right of their view. Their estimation was that it traveled at approximately 5-10,000 feet, about the height where private aircraft usually fly. Just the spherical blue light was seen, with no other tail or running lights.

HERALD TIMES REPORTER, Manitowoc, WI

March 25, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

UFO museum set to open April 7

WISCONSIN DELLS - The American UFO and Sci-Fi Museum will open for its third season April 7.

New features this season include the Audiotronix guided tour system, as well as an expansion of UFO exhibits, including a recreation of the alleged 1947 crash of an alien spacecraft in Roswell, New Mexico.

Also featured is an expanded Video Theatre, featuring the latest UFO sightings caught on film or tape.

The American UFO and Sci-Fi Museum is located at 740 Eddy Street, Wisconsin Dells.

For more information, call (608) 253-5055 or visit www.ufomuseum.com.



SUNDAY HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Australia - May 6, 2001 CR: P. Norman

NEWS front

At 3am on December 27, 1980, a report was received of bright lights in a forest bordering a military airbase. Three US servicemen went to investigate. What they found would change their lives forever. It would also convince many that alien life exists. **ADRIAN TAME** opens the Rendlesham files

We have contact!

HAVE we had it wrong, all along, about the phenomena of Unidentified Flying Objects? Could it be that these alien invaders are not from outer space after all, but from our future?

Jim Penniston knows how ridiculous it sounds, but he is in a better position to say than most. During the second of the world's two officially recognised UFO sightings, he made physical contact with a triangular-shaped spacecraft which landed in a remote forest in southern England 20 years ago.

After 14 years of nightmares and other problems linked to post-traumatic stress, the USAF staff sergeant agreed to two sessions of video-taped hypnosis by a psychologist.

During the second of these, Penniston began to talk about visitors from our future, a world of darkness and pollution faced with major problems of survival, particularly reproduction.

Still under hypnosis, Penniston

went on to explain the "visitors" were here to target specific individuals of both sexes, to remove sperm and eggs from them to take back to the future.

If all of this sounds suspiciously like the twisted imaginings of an amateur sci-fi enthusiast, Penniston's background and the events surrounding his "contact" suggest otherwise.

Unexplained lights in the sky, saucer-shaped objects and little green men have for centuries left mankind agonising over the flimsy evidence of alien invasion.

Great civilisations such as those of the Incas and the Egyptians have suspected there may be something or someone out there watching us.

In more recent times organisations have been formed around the world charting the phenomena; their periodicals and books carrying alleged photographs and artists' impressions of visitors from outer space.

But only two sightings have

received official recognition from governments and the military. The first of these happened in a little town called Roswell in New Mexico, US. In July 1947, when a UFO is said to have crashed, scattering alien bodies and debris over a wide area.

OFFICIALS confirm something landed in the desert outside Roswell that night, but stories, and even photographs, of the bodies being removed to a top secret military site have been consistently denied by authorities.

Which makes Penniston's sighting, at Rendlesham Forest in southern England, in December, 1980, all the more remarkable.

Not only have British and American police, the military and defence department personnel acknowledged the landing, official documentation has been released, and US Air Force eyewitnesses, including Penniston, have talked openly about the incident.

NEWSfront

Contact, from the future

LORD Hill-Norton, formerly Britain's Admiral of the Fleet, Chief of Defence Staff, and chairman of NATO's Military Committee, provided the incident with an unimpeachable stamp of authority when he told a British TV documentary: "I have no doubt that something landed. Either large numbers of people were hallucinating, or what they say happened did happen."

Lord Hill-Norton was referring, among other accounts, to an official USAF memorandum written soon after the incident by Lt Col. Charles Halt, deputy commander of the RAF/USAF/NATO airbases where the events took place.

This memo, on official USAF letterhead and sent to Britain's Ministry of Defence, gave Lord Hill-Norton, and other less highly-placed researchers, all the confirmation they needed that something sinister had taken place in Rendlesham Forest.

Halt's memo emerged three years after the incident. It said three USAF personnel entered the forest in the early hours of December 27, 1980, after "unusual" lights were seen in the night sky from nearby RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, one of two airbases in the area.

(Lights in the sky were reported across the UK that night, and during the two nights before. One amateur astrologist even recorded a comet streaking across the heavens in the vicinity of Suffolk.)

Halt's memo describes the three patrolmen entering the forest and encountering "a strange, glowing object, metallic in appearance, and triangular in shape, two to three metres across the base and two metres high".

"The object illuminated the forest with a white light, had a pulsing red light on its top and a bank of blue lights underneath."

The memo continues: "The object was hovering, or on legs. As the patrolmen approached it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy."

The memo details events of the next day when three depressions were found in the forest. Significant radiation readings were discovered in the area. That night further, equally inexplicable, lights were seen in the sky.

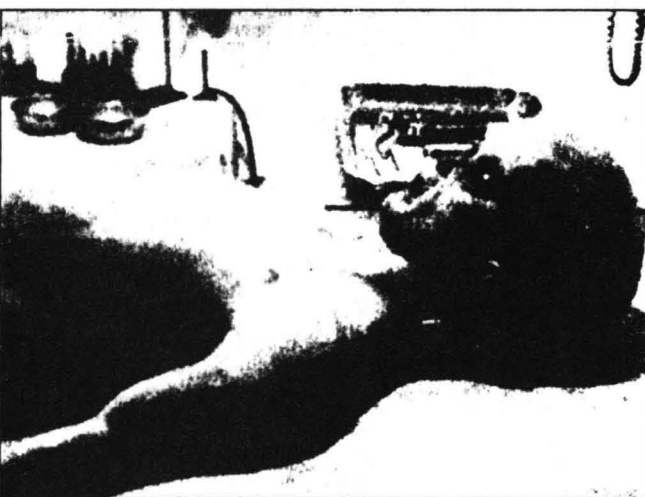
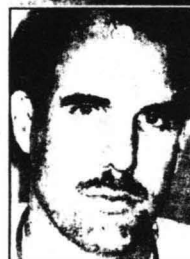
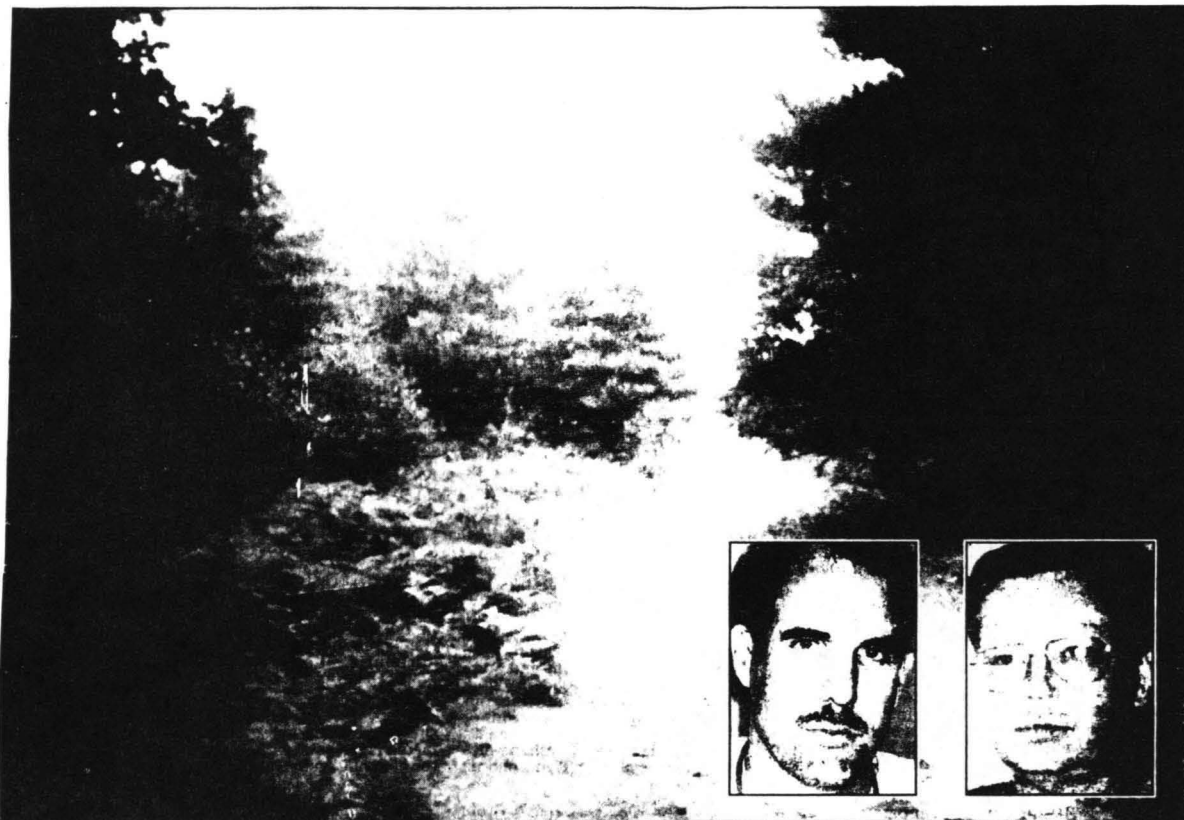
The memo, unearthed by researchers in the US, was the catalyst for witnesses to come forward, USAF personnel such as Jim Penniston, with frightening tales of official cover-ups immediately after the sightings.

More than one spoke of interrogation by special agents, threats that "bullets were cheap", and talk of drugs and hypnosis. Others were provided with new identities. Still, others were never seen again.

Georgina Bruni, a freelance investigative writer who trained as a private detective, has written a book, *You Can't Tell The People*, which describes this cover-up.

The book includes many of the first interviews to appear in public, from witnesses including Halt and Penniston.

Many will say Bruni's book falls short of final proof of the visitation and gives too much credence to conspiracy theories. Equally, few who read the interviews with Penniston and his two fellow patrolmen, Airmen First Class John Burroughs and Edward Cabansag, will not detect a ring of truth about their descriptions.



Ground zero:
Rendlesham Forest,
still spooky today.
Inset: Witnesses John
Burroughs and Jim
Penniston.
Pictures courtesy Christina
Bruni and OPI.

Space invader:
Witnesses say the
aliens in the 1947
Roswell incident
looked like this.

ground and "started manoeuvring very slowly and carefully through the trees".

At the debriefing that followed, Penniston was told to forget what he had seen and not to discuss the incident.

Afterwards, Penniston and Burroughs went off duty and returned to the forest in daylight.

They found broken and scorched branches where the object had come down in the clearing and three distinct indentations in the ground where it had come to rest.

At later debriefings some of the debriefers were from the CIA.

Penniston remained quiet about the incident for years and aborted one attempt, under a false name, to provide details to researchers when they started to compromise his security.

IT was not until his retirement from the USAF in 1994 that he began to detail his experience and underwent the controlled hypnosis that produced the chilling story of futuristic sperm and egg gatherers.

By the time he retired from active duty in 1993, Penniston had been awarded 27 military honours and a letter of appreciation from the US President. He served in Vietnam and the Gulf War and now lives in a small town with his wife and family.

He works as human resources director for a manufacturing company and is described by Bruni as "an intelligent, reliable witness who never changed his story".

Bruni has one final trump card to play in her battle for credibility — a card which gave her the title for her book.

Halfway through her research she attended a private function at which Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was the guest of honour. At the end of proceedings, Bruni approached Thatcher and engaged her in a 10-minute conversation about her findings.

"You must have the facts right and you can't tell the people," Thatcher told Bruni, leaving the author with the indelible impression the Iron Lady knew exactly what she was talking about and regarded the matter with extreme seriousness.

'You Can't Tell The People' by Georgina Bruni. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Distributed by Pan Macmillan. \$30.

The direct involvement of more than 60 witnesses — not civilians, but highly trained military personnel — adds further credence to the story.

Burroughs' handwritten statement, made days after the sighting, describes driving into the forest with Penniston and Cabansag after the white, blue and red lights had been sighted: "We stopped the truck where the road stopped and went on foot. We crossed a small open field that led into the trees where the lights were coming from, and as we were coming into the trees there were strange noises like a woman screaming. Also the woods lit up and you could hear the farm animals making a lot of noises, and there was a lot of movement in the woods."

Burroughs describes tracking the lights through the woods and it includes drawings of the triangular object.

Fourteen years later, Burroughs was interviewed by makers of a TV documentary and spoke of feeling as if he was moving in slow motion at the time and had little or no control over his body.

Cabansag's statement, at the time of the incident, was almost certainly censored and altered by superior officers.

In a more recent interview his description of the triangular-

shaped object tallies closely with Penniston's.

Cabansag speaks of a "blank" in his memory of events. Penniston also discovered under hypnosis 14 years later that he had "lost" 45 minutes and Burroughs reported much the same.

BRUNI poses the question: "If all three men are reporting the exact same phenomenon then we must seriously consider if they were involved in something even more sinister than witnessing a UFO."

"Were they abducted or were they somehow locked in a different time or dimension?"

Penniston provides the most detailed and convincing version. He was the most experienced of the three, having been in the USAF for seven years and been involved in retrieving numerous crashed aircraft.

As he, Burroughs and Cabansag approached the lights they began to experience difficulties with their radios. Penniston and Burroughs moved closer to the lights and Penniston recalls "all around them was the commotion of animals and birds that seemed to be in a terrible frenzy".

Within 50m of the lights Penniston realised he was looking at a metallic object unlike anything he had ever previously seen.

"The air surrounding it was electrifying, causing him to think he was moving in slow motion, and the sensations of his hair and skin gave him the feeling he was surrounded by static electricity," writes Bruni from her interview with Penniston. "The birds and animals had scattered and now everything was deathly silent."

Penniston moved to within 20m and began taking photographs and making notes in a jotter he carried with him.

(His notes and jotter sketches remain intact, but Penniston made the mistake of taking his film to the base photo laboratory. He was later informed his pictures had emerged "fogged", and he never saw them. He doubts this because the camera he used was high-quality military supply.)

Walking closer to the object, Penniston realised there were no seams or openings.

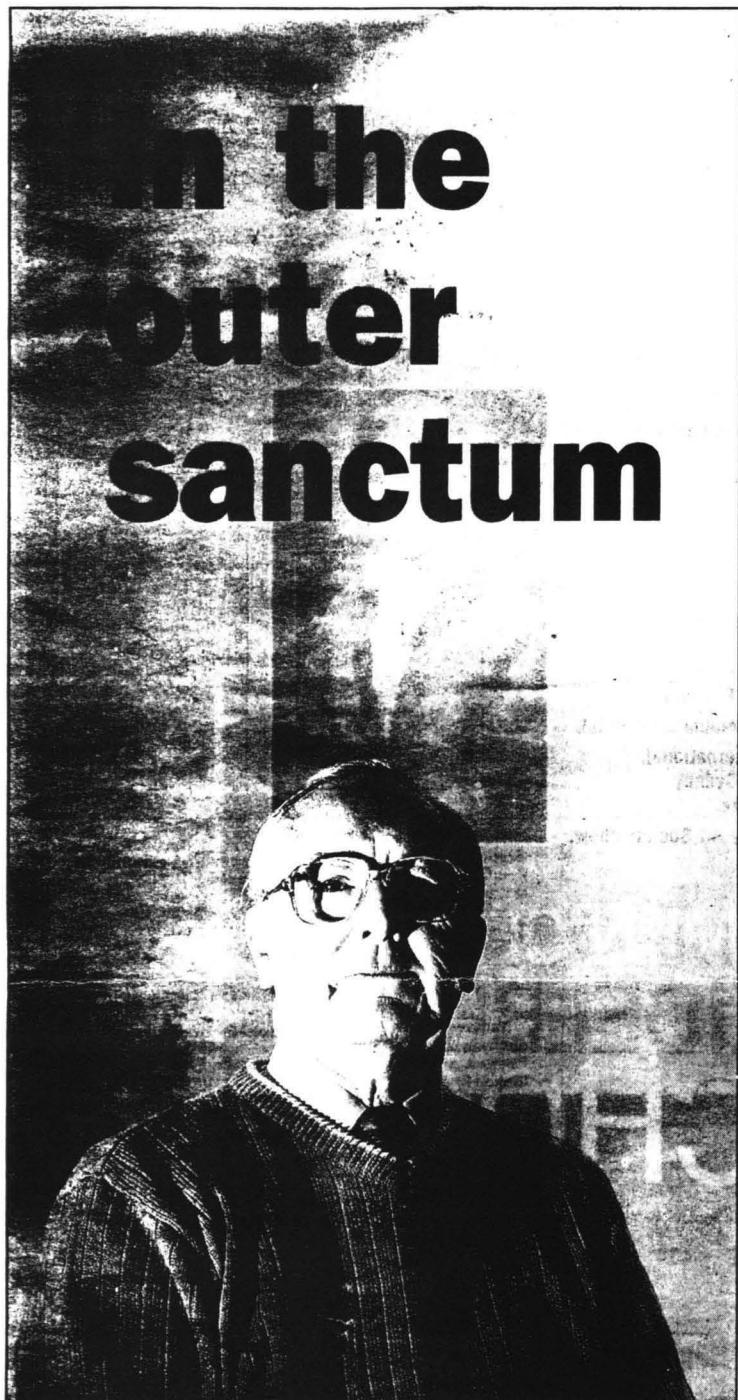
He slid his hand over the surface, which was warm to the touch.

"There were no obvious life forms, but he sensed there was some sort of life presence within the object. One thing is certain — he was sure it was under intelligent control," writes Bruni.

Suddenly there was a flash of light and Penniston and Burroughs fell to the ground, burying their faces. The object then lifted silently to a metre off the

(continued on page 7)

NEWSfront



In the outer sanctum

Denis Plunkett, your average pensioner, is way too normal to be an alien hunter... isn't he? JANE KELLY reports

SUSPICIOUSLY, it all looks terribly normal. An estate in a Bristol suburb, mostly with new plastic windows and porches. In his home, Denis Plunkett, 70, looks like an average pensioner. Neat grey hair, grey sweater, neutral trousers and brown lace-ups.

"Looking normal is all part of a facade," he says laughing. But it is partly true.

Denis (pictured left), who once taught computer skills to the unemployed, has dedicated his life to tracking unidentified flying objects or UFOs. Outer space, to him, is as well charted as his own back garden. He is certain aliens exist and pay us visits. In fact, he is desperate for them to visit more often.

In 1952, aged 21, he founded in Britain what is now the world's oldest UFO society. Last month he announced that it is closing due to lack of members prepared to turn out to meetings. They would rather join UFO clubs on the Internet than sit in draughty halls watching slides. And, worse still, there is a lack of flying saucers to spot.

"We are in a trough," Denis says. "Sightings are half what they were in the 1960s. They just aren't coming here any more." He means club members and aliens.

He takes me to his "den", a narrow section of room next to the kitchen, where he records sightings. Shelves are crammed with titles such as *Flying Saucers Top Secret*, *We Are Not Alone* and *1956 UFO Arrival*.

There are plastic models of aliens with the huge slanting eyes and tiny noses who rather resemble Ally McBeal, and a few brightly coloured paper spaceships made by some of his six grandchildren.

His phone keeps ringing. As he asks: "Where are you speaking from?" you almost expect the reply to be Alpha Centauri or Sirius, the Dog Star.

While I was there he received distressed calls from Australia, Bolivia, Belgium and Wales. The whole world seems to be distraught that his little group, with its weekly gatherings in a Quaker meeting hall, is about to disappear.

The closing of those hall doors marks the end of an epoch. After World War II, flying saucers were suddenly as common as magpies. They derived their name in 1947 after an American airforce pilot reported "skipping discs" — saucer-like shapes — in the sky.

When the US tested the hydrogen bomb a couple of years later, sightings increased again because — according to ufologists — the blast could be seen from Mars, which alerted our extraterrestrial cousins to look at us more closely.

Between 1950 and '60, particularly during the Korean War, and the later Vietnam conflict, the US Air Force could not handle the thousands of reports of UFOs — more than 100,000 sightings from 140 countries.

"The aliens came as observers over the battlefields," Denis says.

But now the Cold War is over, the terrestrials have buzzed off in their interstellar craft to view better scenes of death

and destruction. Indeed, there seem to be many possibilities why the little green men are now being so stand-offish, or have "reasons for non-contact", as Denis puts it.

"It could be just that their surveillance program has ended," he says. "There might be a communication problem or they're afraid of destroying us."

Denis also speculates that they might also, with good reason, be reluctant to visit Earth in case they catch a disease. "But," he says hopefully, "when the time comes, they'll be back."

He started his UFO group after seeing an advertisement in a British newspaper placed by Al Bender, who ran the International Flying Saucer Bureau in Connecticut. Bender wanted to establish representatives around the world.

Denis answered his request and set up a group, but only just in time. Sinister forces were at work.

"A few months later, Al was visited by three men wearing black," he says. "They could have been aliens or men from the CIA. I don't know why, but Al lost interest overnight."

Denis's branch of the Flying Saucer Bureau carried on meeting — at first in pubs, then in a hall — every Thursday night, \$6 at the door, tea and custard creams inclusive.

FOR 50 years all went well. "We used to have very good evenings," Denis says sadly. "They'd come by bus, even on wet nights, sometimes more than 400 a time. We couldn't get them all into the hall."

"Members were mostly men, between 16 and 80. We did have a few people in duffel coats who'd sit with their hoods up all evening. In the '70s, there was a chap who used to wear cardboard ears to ridicule us. But when he actually saw a UFO he took them off and apologised."

Meetings were addressed by such luminaries as American George Adamski, co-author of the 1953 book *The Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Adamski claimed he was visited by two "space brothers" from Venus, who invited him aboard their craft. "He was the first man to take photos inside a mother ship," Denis says.

Denis says he has seen a distinct change of attitude towards aliens over the past 50 years.

"In the '50s, about 11 per cent of people believed in them and thought they were bug-eyed monsters with tentacles," he says.

"Now more like 60 per cent of people accept they exist, particularly the young, so they have a better image. This is reflected in films such as *Star Wars* and *E.T.*"

Denis has had only one sighting himself. In the summer of 1966 he was going to bed when he saw through his window nine lights hovering for an hour in the sky at the end of his garden, changing position slightly, but so quickly that he could not see them do it.

"I didn't take a photo as I was scared that if I looked away they would disappear," he says. "And I was really quite transfixed."

"I know that there are extraterrestrials and one day I will be proved right."

- DAILY MAIL

Is your head in the clouds?

By BOB BERMAN

SPOTTED a flying-saucer? Before telling the world, it may be wise to answer a few simple questions:

Did you see the object through glass, such as a car window? A simple reflection often solves the mystery.

Does the object have shape? A point of light in the sky could be anything.

On the other hand, a bona fide spacecraft should reveal some distinctive features, especially if it hovers close enough for the crew to invite you in for tea and a standard tour of the ship before probing your internal organs.

If the unidentified object is a point of light, does it really move? Look carefully. Passing clouds can make a fixed light seem to be in motion. One astronomer in New York State recently witnessed a group of cars parked by a cornfield, where several people were staring intently upwards at a strange light. The light turned out to be Jupiter; fast-blowing clouds created the illusion that it was changing position.

If the point of light is stationary, does it flicker and change colour?

People sometimes think UFO when they see the rising or setting of the night's brightest star, Sirius. It normally appears a steady blue-white, but when Sirius sits close to the horizon, its light is refracted by a long passage through the Earth's atmosphere.

Like a prism, the air splits the starlight into a kaleidoscope of vivid colours. If the unidentified light in the sky shines brighter than any star, it is probably a planet.

If the light moves, does it follow a slow and steady path? Then you have most likely spotted a satellite.

Satellites often change brightness dramatically as they orbit, because of their uneven shape or because of sunlight glinting off solar panels. The International Space Station passes prominently through the heavens several times a week.

A brilliant, slow-moving white light or a formation of two or three — especially low in the sky — is usually caused by landing

lights from aircraft headed in your direction. They can remain almost stationary, persist for several minutes, and appear yellow or orange due to light absorption by the intervening air.

Does the light follow a rapid, straight line and vanish within seconds? If so, it is undoubtedly a meteor, a fleck of space rock glowing white-hot as it races through the upper atmosphere.

In the process, meteors may produce exciting surges of brightness and may even explode. A meteor bright enough to cast shadows is called a fireball; one that blows itself to bits is known as a bolide.

Does the light follow long circles or zigzags in an overcast sky?

Searchlights illuminating the bases of clouds can produce this spooky effect.

Ninety-five times out of 100, asking these basic questions will probably turn your UFO into something wholly identifiable — and save your blushes.

- DISCOVER magazine



Flights of fancy: One of many ideas of what flying saucers look like.

Don't tell the CIA but generals have proof ET exists and wants to make contact



CONVINCED: CSETI's Dr Steven Greer

A UNIQUE event will take place in Washington DC next Wednesday. More than 20 witnesses from respected professions are joining forces to reveal to the world's media what they claim to be the deception of elected governments by unaccountable but powerful self-interest groups.

In any other field, such as pollution scares or political scandals, these witnesses - senior military officers from the US, UK and Russia, decorated pilots and astronauts, reputable scientists, and even a Cardinal from the Vatican



By Beverley Glick

- would be taken seriously. People would be clamouring for an open inquiry.

But the subject of this press conference will stretch the imagination of many. The witnesses will claim that not only does life exist beyond this planet, but that there has been contact between us and them. They will allege that this knowledge has been suppressed even though the advanced technologies could benefit mankind.

And they will claim that agencies - operating outside the constitutional chain of command in the US, UK and other countries - have been frustrating the inquiries of elected heads-of-state, leaders of the armed forces and the United Nations. It sounds like a case from The X-Files.

That these claims are taken seriously and properly investigated is the hope of Dr Steven Greer, director of the Disclosure Project, who is hosting the event. Dr Greer is the international director of the Centre for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), a non-profit scientific research organisation that was set up in 1990 to "establish peaceful and sustainable relations with extraterrestrial life forms".

Several years ago, the Disclosure Project invited experts from "military, government or government contractor personnel" who were witnesses to UFO events and projects to make statements about what they know. Around 400 came forward and more than 100 have had their testimonies videotaped by Dr Greer, who says they will establish once and for all that we are not alone.

ONE key witness attending the event is a former Division Chief of the Accidents and Investigations Branch of the US Federal Aviation Authority. In his testimony John Callahan tells about a 1986 Japanese Airlines 747 flight that was followed by a UFO for 31 minutes over the Alaskan skies. The UFO also trailed a United Airlines flight until the flight landed. There was visual confirmation as well as air-based and ground-based radar confirmation.

This event was significant enough for the then FAA Administrator, Admiral Engen, to

hold a briefing the next day attended by the FBI, CIA, and President Reagan's Scientific Study Team. Videotape radar evidence, air traffic voice communications and paper reports were compiled and presented.

At the end of the meeting, a CIA member instructed everyone present that "the meeting never took place" and that "this incident was never recorded".

"At the time I said, 'Well I don't know why you are saying this,'" remembers Callahan. "There was something there and if it's not a stealth bomber, then you know it's a UFO. And if it's a UFO, why wouldn't you want the people to know?" They got all excited over that - 'You don't even want to say those words'. He said this is the first time they ever had 30 minutes of radar data on a UFO. He said if they came out and told the American public that they ran into a UFO out there, it would cause panic across the country.

his investigations, Dr Greer and his team have briefed the Clinton administration, including former CIA director James Woolsey, senior military officials at the Pentagon, and selected members of Congress.

Whether any of these sensational claims are true or whether it's a conspiracy theorist's version of the Hitler Diaries remains to be seen. The provenance of the witnesses will certainly be verifiable.

BUT who is Greer? He is a 45-year-old medical doctor from Virginia who has spent eight years and \$5million of his own money putting together the evidence the Disclosure Project will begin to unveil next week.

It started for him at the age of eight, when he claims to have seen a UFO in broad daylight. His interest further developed when his uncle became a senior project engineer on the lunar module that took Neil Armstrong to the Moon. This gave him the insider knowledge he needed to pursue a lifetime of study into the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

Dr Greer and his small research team have spoken to witnesses all over the world, many of them high-ranking military personnel who have stated unequivocally that they have seen UFOs.

"Sceptics say they are deluded, or liars. But in any other circumstances they would be considered heroes of their country," Greer said.

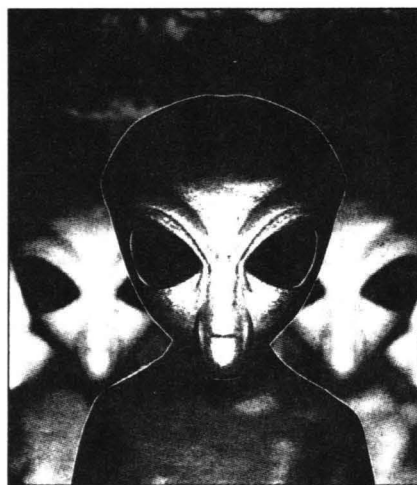
"These are individuals in whose hands rest the nuclear arsenals of the world - launch control officers who we trust with the safety or destruction of our planet. Either these military men were hallucinating, or they saw what they saw."

The chilling truth, as Dr Greer sees it, is that the testimony of his military witnesses will show that the US and other countries have engaged "extraterrestrial vehicles" in armed attack.

"If there is even a 10 per cent chance that this is true, then this constitutes the gravest threat to world peace in human history," he says.

His witnesses are impressive. They include Britain's former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Lord Hill Norton, who states in his testimony, "...that there is a serious possibility that we are being visited - and have been visited for many years - by people from outer space, from other civilisations; that it behoves us to find out who they are, where they come from, and what they want. This should be the subject of rigorous scientific investigation."

The consensus among those in the know, says Greer, is that we



'If only one of these people is telling the truth it's the biggest story in history'

But as far as I'm concerned, I saw a UFO chase a Japanese 747 across the sky for over half an hour on radar. And it's faster than anything that I know of in our government."

Project director Dr Greer claims that "technologies related to extraterrestrial phenomena are capable of providing solutions to the global energy crisis". His aim is to persuade the US Congress to hold open hearings at which a further group of "deep cover" witnesses could testify with official government protection. During

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
April 26, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

Time for another Ring cycle

SOON, with summer coming, it will be time for crop circles. These mysterious patterns, formed by swirled-down areas in wheatfields and other crops, have delighted and infuriated followers for more than 20 years.

And still there are no clear answers to the primary questions. Who or what is making these patterns? Why and how? In 1991 there was a sensation when two elderly jokers claimed that they had been making the circles. They had done them, they said, to tease the UFO enthusiasts. There was no proof of this but the press and media lost interest in the subject, and most people expected the circles to fade away. But still the circles kept on coming, each year more elaborate. Finally, in the summer of 2000, the most wonderful designs ever seen appeared overnight in fields around Avebury, the prehistoric temple of Wiltshire.

The most popular explanation is that there are several teams of hoaxers - or anonymous artists - who somehow create these masterpieces, illicitly, in a very short time and without ever being caught.

Certain people and groups of circle-fakers are known to be active, but their

MYSTERIES



By John Michell

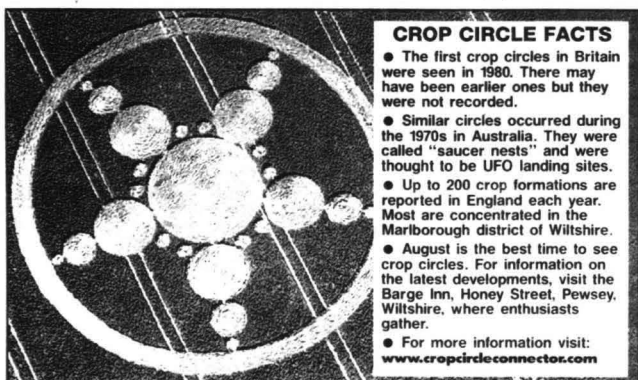
results are not as good as the real thing, and they, too, are puzzled by what is going on. I have studied this subject for years, and once edited a magazine on it, but I still have no firm theory to offer. One thing I am fairly sure of is that at least some of the designs were not done directly in the fields by hoaxers. There is evidence to be found of "action at a distance". Is there someone with a computer, making patterns on the screen and then somehow printing them out on farmers' fields? Or is the answer something even more fantastic?

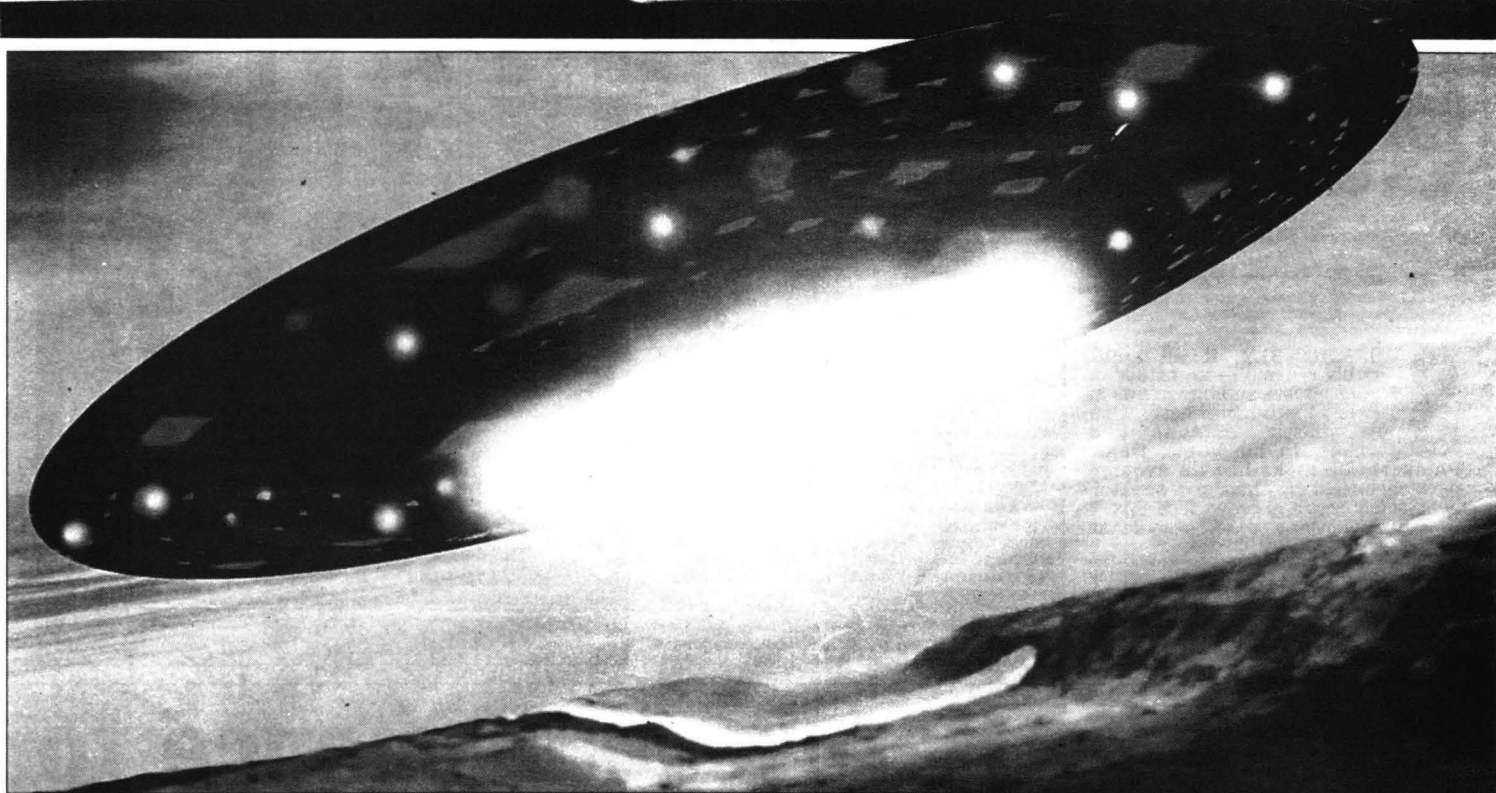
This year will be crucial. The foot-and-mouth outbreak means fields and paths are closed to visitors. Crop-circle-making will be a crime, and this will deter hoaxers. So will the circles continue? The first circles usually appear in May and keep on coming up to September and the end of harvest. I look forward keenly to the coming season.

● For a 24-page colour A4 record of last year's formations with text by John Michell, send £12 cheque to photographer Steve Alexander, 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, PO12 2UG. Crop Circle Calendar 2001: £10 (inc p&p) to: "WCCSG" PO

CROP CIRCLE FACTS

- The first crop circles in Britain were seen in 1980. There may have been earlier ones but they were not recorded.
- Similar circles occurred during the 1970s in Australia. They were called "saucer nests" and were thought to be UFO landing sites.
- Up to 200 crop formations are reported in England each year. Most are concentrated in the Marlborough district of Wiltshire.
- August is the best time to see crop circles. For information on the latest developments, visit the Barge Inn, Honey Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, where enthusiasts gather.
- For more information visit: www.cropcircleconnectors.com





Picture: SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

CONTACT: This flying saucer may be the common perception of a UFO but next week top ranking officials from around the world aim to provide evidence that ET was here

are not facing hostility from extraterrestrials. He is extremely concerned, therefore, about President Bush's announcement that he is going ahead with NMDS, the National Missile Defence System, a hi-tech space defence shield.

"Our visitors may be quite neutral but they may not be so happy about our military adventures," he says.

ACCORDING to Dr Greer, secrecy is preventing the world from entering into an informed debate about NMDS, not to mention environmental and energy issues. And he's talking about levels of secrecy that have even removed presidents from the loop.

"The buck supposedly stops at the Oval office, but it seems like it doesn't. Carter and Clinton were deliberately deceived - it's explosive, but we know this to be the case."

Dr Greer is aware he is making serious allegations. Why should anyone believe him? "I'm a licensed MD in two states. If I were perpetrating a hoax I would lose those licences and my livelihood. We have three attorneys here too - if they were hoaxers they would be disbarred. There's a lot at stake here."

A sceptic, Professor Archie Roy, Professor Emeritus of Astronomy at the University of Glasgow, says that although 80 per cent of UFO sightings can be identified as astronomical objects, satellites or conjunctions of planets, about 20 per cent cannot be explained away. "The whole UFO thing has developed very much but has been muddled by hoaxes," he says. "I'm not saying all cases are hoaxes but the Roswell mythology has made it pretty much impossible to get to the truth now."

So, just as the British Flying Saucer Bureau closes its doors, leav-

ing more than 100 similar UK groups to carry on, some experienced eyes will be turning to the USA this week.

Nick Pope, former UFO desk officer at the Ministry of Defence, says: "Those people who have genuinely been involved in government or military UFO projects undoubtedly have fascinating stories to tell. I

hope people will pay attention and realise that the UFO phenomenon raises some serious defence and national security issues."

Dr Greer hopes that "serious media interest" will provide the impetus politicians need to lobby for an official inquiry.

"All I'm asking is that we spend a fraction of the time on this that we

did on Monica Lewinsky. If only one of these witnesses is telling the truth, it's the biggest story in history."

There will be a live web cast of the press conference from 2pm on Wednesday, May 9 on www.connectlive.com/events/disclosureproject.

● **Additional reporting by Hamish MacKenzie.**

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
April 5, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

Saucerful of secrets

SOME people get angry when I say I do not believe in extra-terrestrials or intelligent life in space. They point out that the universe contains billions of stars and planets. Some of these must surely be like our Earth, able to support life.

And what about those UFO sightings, such as the many reported over the years in the West Country? If they are not part of our world they must come from outside it.

The problem is that beyond our solar system the distances are far too great to allow space travel. These vast distances are measured in light years. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. It takes 1.5 seconds to reach us from the Moon, eight minutes to travel from the Sun, and four years from the next nearest star. So that star is four light years away.

Beyond that the distances become so enormous that, even if we could travel at the speed of light, it would take millions of years to explore other galaxies. But no physical body can approach the speed of light. We can travel the universe in thought and spirit, but never in hard reality.

And if there are extra-terrestrial beings, the same goes for them.

Even so, we are not exactly alone. Like many people I know, I have several times seen UFOs - unidentified flying objects. That is as

MYSTERIES



By John Michell

far as it went - I never met "aliens". But back in 1966, while writing my first book, *The Flying Saucer Vision*, I interviewed several "contactees". Like all the others I had read about, they had been changed from their meetings with other-worldly beings. Some had become psychics, others were mentally disturbed. Their experiences were certainly genuine. But who are these beings and where are they from?

The great psychologist Carl Jung wrote a book on UFOs. He concluded they are signs of coming changes. According to the records of astrology, he said, these changes take place when one sign of the zodiac is giving way to another. Such periods are always marked by "signs and wonders" - strange things seen in the sky.

I agree with Jung. The UFO phenomenon has changed our outlook on the world. But I still do not believe space aliens are behind it. The creatures reported by UFO contactees were quite familiar to our ancestors.

They knew them as "elves, imps, demons or mischievous spirits". We may no longer believe in these things, but we never really got rid of them, and now we call them extra-terrestrials.

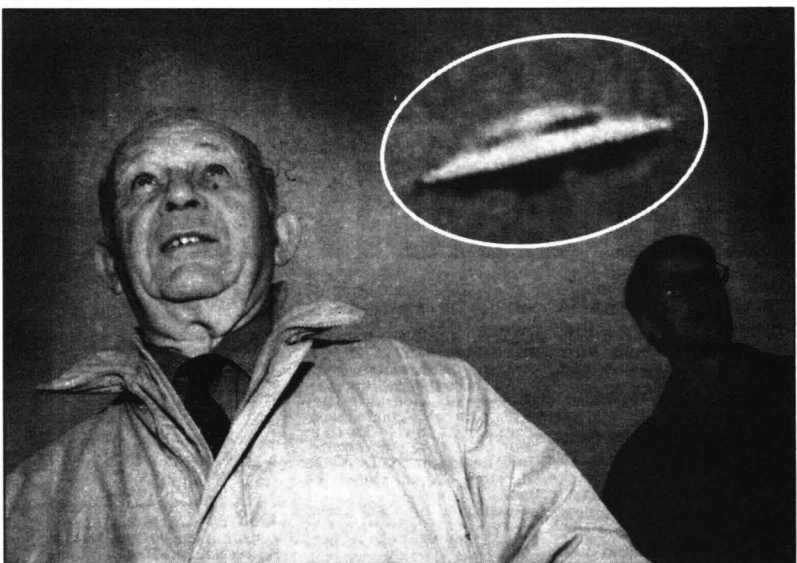


THE FIRST CLOSE ENCOUNTER

George Adamski, a hot dog seller at Mount Palomar observatory, is credited as being the first modern-era contactee with aliens. On November 20, 1952, Adamski and some colleagues went skywatching in the Mojave Desert. Adamski claimed that he had contact with a tall Venusian who wanted to warn of the potential dangers the nuclear age posed to mankind. Adamski achieved fame but his colleagues later retracted their stories.

EVENING ECHO, Southampton, England - May 15, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

SOAPBOX: Up in the air



OUT THERE SOMEWHERE: Ernie Sears, left, and Andy Phillips, with a UFO inset.

Still on the trail of our UFOs

AS public relations officer for the Southampton UFO Group (SUFOG), I have to point out to those interested that media articles and news items suggesting that those enigmatic UFOs have now left the vicinity of earth - can't blame them! - is vastly exaggerated.

The news is really that the Bristol-based British Flying Saucer Bureau has folded due to it disappearing membership! Nowadays, says BFSB founder Dennis Plunkett, people tend to sit at home watching and supporting ufology in comfort and not in some draughty hall listening to speakers!

Readers must rest assured that their local SUFOG is alive and well and currently thriving with a small but definite increase in membership and

still hold their meetings the third Thursday in each month at the same Victoria Social Club in Victoria Road, Netley Abbey.

Up-to-date videos made at SUFOG's local and distant skywatches are viewed, together with the wider range of paranormal phenomena which surviving groups including the leading BUFORA have taken on.

A recent Radio Solent broadcast by myself has drawn interest and the big Dorchester conference which SUFOG founder Steve Gerrard spoke at have increased membership to 60-plus. Some of the group members, including myself, are having encounters of the more spooky kind. Nothing new, and part of an increasing world phenomenon. Our local Royal Victoria Country Park has

provided us with examples!

Meridian TV recently filmed SUFOG members at work handling a replay of the May encounter over Southampton Water last year, filmed from Netley, which various authorities denied while the MOD could find no answer to the ten-minute video.

So, my friends, the enigma remains... although not quite so unsolvable!

Anyone with an inquiring mind or with unexplainable experiences is very welcome to phone 023 8045 6000 or 023 8044 8194 for fuller details. SUFOG, we have found, is the only working UFO group getting to grips with the theory and the actual "out there" reality along the south coast.

ERNIE SEARS, Netley Abbey.

CLOSED ENCOUNTERS

SUSPICIOUSLY, it all looks terribly normal — an estate of Sixties houses and bungalows in a Bristol suburb, mostly with new plastic windows and porches. In his home, Denis Plunkett, 70, looks like an average pensioner. Neat grey hair, grey sweater, neutral trousers and brown lace-ups.

'Looking normal is all part of a facade,' he says laughing, but it's partly true.

Denis, who once taught computer skills to the unemployed, has dedicated his life to tracking unidentified flying objects — UFOs. Outer space, to him, is as well charted as his own back garden. He is certain that aliens exist and pay us visits. In fact, he is desperate for them to visit more often.

In 1952, aged 21, he founded in Britain what is now the world's oldest UFO society. However, yesterday he announced that it is closing due to lack of members prepared to turn out to meetings. They'd rather join UFO clubs on the internet than sit in draughty halls watching slides and, worse still, there's a lack of flying saucers to spot.

'We are in a trough,' he says. 'Sightings are half what they were in the Sixties. They just aren't coming here any more.' He means club members and aliens.

He takes me to his 'den', a narrow section of room next to the kitchen, where he records sightings and organised meetings. Book shelves are lined with titles such as: *Flying Saucers Top Secret*, *We Are Not Alone*, and *1956 UFO Arrival*. This has chapters with headings such as *White Discs At Windsor*, *Crab-like Machine Over Long Island*, *Fish-shaped Object Over England*, and *Flying Bottle Over Kabul*.

There are plastic models of aliens with the huge slanting eyes and tiny noses who rather resemble Ally McBeal, and a few brightly-coloured paper spaceships made by some of his six grandchildren.

As he talks, his wife Maureen, 67, makes coffee. 'I've just lived with it,' she says smiling wanly. 'It's his hobby. I've got my three daughters and their children to see to.'

His phone keeps ringing. As he asks: 'Where are you speaking from?' you almost expect the reply to be Alpha Centauri or Sirius, the Dog Star.

WHILE I was there, he received distressed calls from Bolivia, Belgium, Australia and Wales. The whole world seems to be distraught that his little group, with its weekly gatherings in a Quaker meeting hall, is about to disappear.

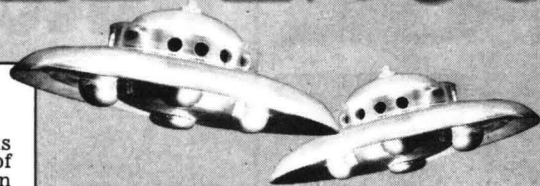
The closing of those hall doors marks the end of an epoch, even if it is one that many of us were unaware of.

After World War II, flying saucers were suddenly as common as magpies. They got their name in 1947 after an American airforce pilot reportedly saw 'skipping discs' — saucer-like shapes — in the sky.

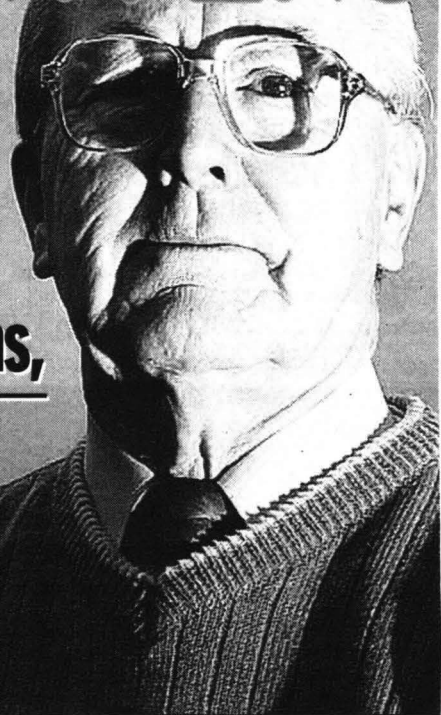
When the U.S. tested the hydrogen bomb a couple of years later, sightings increased again because, according to UFOlogists, the blast could be seen from Mars, which alerted our extraterrestrial cousins to look at us more closely.

Between 1950 and 1960, particularly during the Korean War, and throughout the later Vietnam conflict, the U.S. airforce couldn't handle the thousands of reports of UFOs. There were more than 100,000 sightings, from 140 countries.

'The aliens came as



Or why, after 49 years of dedicating his life to aliens, Denis Plunkett has now shut down the British Bureau for UFOs



by Jane Kelly

observers over the battlefields,' says Denis.

In 1989, especially when the Soviet empire began to implode, there was another surge of sightings. But now the Cold War is over the terrestrial, it seems being slightly voyeuristic, have buzzed off in their interstellar craft to view better scenes of death and destruction.

Indeed, there seem to be many possibilities why the little green men are now being so standoffish, or have 'reasons for non-contact', as Denis puts it.

'It could be just that their surveillance programme has ended. There might be a communication problem or they're afraid of destroying us,' he says.

It's impossible to argue with any of those theories, and particularly his idea that they might also, with good reason, be reluctant to visit Earth in case they catch a disease. 'But,' he says hopefully, 'when the time comes, they'll be back.'

He started his UFO group after seeing an advertisement in the Daily Mail placed by a man called Al Bender, who ran the International Flying Saucer Bureau in Connecticut. He wanted to establish representatives around the world.

Denis answered his request and set up a group, but only just in time. Sinister forces were at work.

'A few months later, Al was visited by three men wearing black,' he says. 'They could have been aliens or men from the CIA. I don't know why, but Al lost interest overnight.'

Bravely, Denis's branch of the Flying Saucer Bureau carried on meeting, at first in pubs, then in a hall at Bishopstone, near Bristol, every Thursday night, £2 at the door with tea and custard creams inclusive.

While Denis was away on National Service, his father Edgar took over.

Strangely, the 'men in black' never once attempted to stop the meetings. 'We were a bit nervous, but too enthusiastic to stop,' he says.

For 50 years all went well. 'We used to have very good evenings,' he says sadly. 'They'd come by bus, even on wet nights, sometimes more than 400 a time. We couldn't get them all into the hall.'

'Meetings were meant to last until 10 pm, but they would go on and on, which annoyed the caretaker.'

It is easy to imagine some of the members inside the hall going 'on and on'.

'Members were mostly men, between 16 and 80,' he says. 'We did have a few people in duffel coats who'd sit with their hoods up all evening.'

'In the Seventies, there was a chap who used to wear cardboard ears to ridicule us. But when he actually saw a UFO he took them off and apologised.'

MEETINGS were addressed by such luminaries as American George Adamski, co-author of the 1953 book, *The Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Adamski claimed to have been visited by two 'space brothers' from Venus, who invited him aboard their craft. 'He was the first man to take photos inside a mother ship,' says Denis.

Following Denis's lead, more groups sprouted. 'There was rivalry,' he says. 'The Welsh groups always claimed that their sightings were better than ours.'

Denis's father had to reply to more than 30 letters a week from all over the world, bashing out lengthy replies on his old typewriter. He helped to run the group for 40 years until his death in 1992.

Denis believes he has seen a distinct change of attitude towards aliens over the past 50 years.

'In the Fifties, about 11 pc of people believed in them and thought they were bug-eyed monsters with tentacles.'

'But now more like 60 pc of people accept that they exist, particularly the young, and so they have a better image. This is reflected in films such as *Star Wars* and *ET*.'

DENIS has only ever had one sighting himself. In the summer of 1966 he was just going to bed when he saw through his window nine lights hovering for an hour in the sky at the end of his garden, changing position slightly, but so quickly that he couldn't see them do it.

'I didn't take a photo as I was scared that if I looked away they would immediately disappear,' he says. 'And I was really quite transfixed.'

His obsession with UFOs really began on August 8, 1947, when his cousin Denis Harmer, a radio operator on an aircraft, disappeared over the Andes 'in mysterious circumstances'.

His final message sent twice in Morse Code was 'Stendec'.

Denis has interpreted this to be a corruption of the word *St Elmo's Fire*, referring to glowing balls of electrical fire — or alien activity.

'That summer, UFOs had been seen in Chilean airspace at speeds in excess of 3,000 mph or 45 G-force,' he says.

'The idea that my cousin's death was to do with UFOs gave me the impetus to set up the club. I know that there are extraterrestrials and one day I will be proved right.'

'The funny thing is,' he says,

'I've spent years quietly working away and now that I announce I am closing down I get more world-wide attention than ever before.'

'Perhaps we should start up again. After all, for £2, you can have as much tea, talk and good company as you like — you can't get that on the internet, can you?'

Where have all the aliens gone? After a lifetime tracking them, Britain's chief UFO spotter, Denis Plunkett (above), is calling off the hunt

News digest

Did you see UFO craft?

SOUTH Kirkby is set to become a hotbed of interest to UFO spotters following an alleged sighting of spaceship.

A South Kirkby resident claims she looked out of a front window at 7.30am last Friday and saw a large orange shape in the sky and, at the same time, heard a sound like a vacuum cleaner coming from the object.

She described it as huge and like two sides of a triangle with two white lights.

UFO enthusiast Paul Westwood, who set up a research group 12 months ago to investigate alien craft sightings, would like to hear from anyone who saw the object. He can be contacted on 01977 009068.

HEMSWORTH & SOUTH ELMSTALL EXPRESS, England - Feb. 16, 2001

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - March 5, 2001

For 'other dimensions' — take the B6278

FORGET HG Wells and Dr Who, the answer to the mysteries of time travel may just lie somewhere along the B6278 near Barnard Castle.

For one of Britain's leading experts on UFOs and the paranormal has pinpointed the area in Teesdale, County Durham, as a portal to other dimensions.

Jenny Randles claims in a new book that time travel can be ex-

By RICHARD BARKER

plained through time storms — clouds of electric energy which suck people into another dimension.

One of her most compelling pieces of evidence relates to an incident near the market town in 1978.

Mark Henshall, 16, was riding his motorcycle along the B6278 to-

wards Eggleston late one night.

Now a 39-year-old corporate business manager, Mr Henshall tells in the book, *Time Storms*, how he was blinded by a bright purple light.

His motorcycle seemed to be "pulled" up the hill by an unforeseen force.

The shock was compounded when he noticed 25 minutes had disappeared, and all he was left

with were burns on his body.

His experience was followed by an unexplained sighting in nearby Cotherstone in 1985.

Engraver Michael Scorer, 52, of Whitley Bay, was staying at a holiday cottage with wife, Kath, when he had a similar vision.

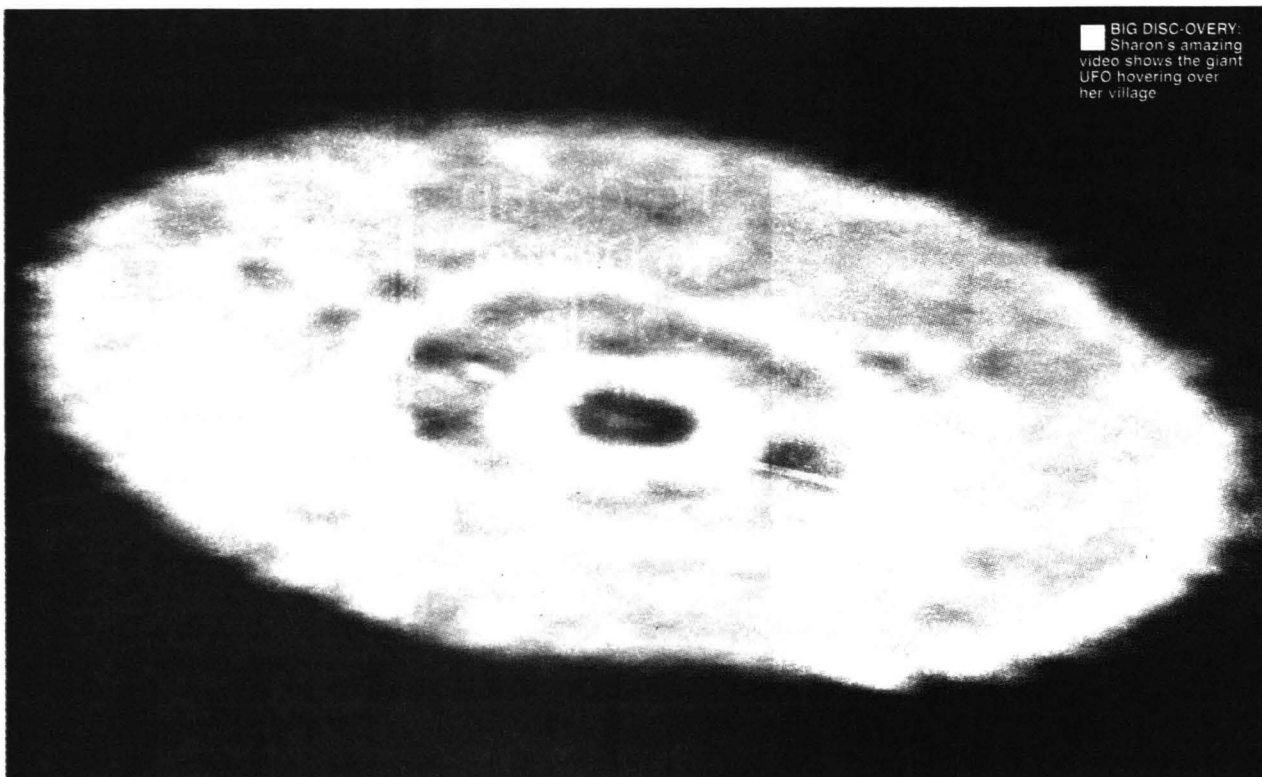
Mr Scorer said: "I saw an enormous bright object moving across the sky in the early hours of the morning which gave off this very

strange feeling of sadness. It was not of this world."

Ms Randles claims the sightings are just a few examples of hundreds around the world — but that Barnard Castle could prove a centre for the strange phenomenon.

She said: "The incident near Barnard Castle is a very vivid and strong suggestion that the area could be a magnet for this kind of phenomenon."

BIG DISCOVERY:
Sharon's amazing
video shows the giant
UFO hovering over
her village



COLCHESTER EVENING
GAZETTE, Essex,
England - Jan. 4, 2001

Couple spot UFO

THE search is on for help after a possible UFO was spotted over Coggeshall.

A couple were driving home between Kelvedon and Coggeshall when they saw a "silent, huge white triangular shaped object seemingly changing its shape" zooming past them in the sky.

When they arrived home they said the object hovered and beams of light were emitted from it.

The Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group is appealing for any other witnesses to contact them on 01255 821121.

U.F. DOUGH

Wife gets £20,000 for flying saucer vid

HOUSEWIFE Sharon Rowlands has pocketed £20,000 for video footage of a UFO that has stunned American space scientists.

She was filming throughout her close encounter with a flashing object up to three miles wide as it hovered over her Derbyshire village for six minutes.

The American TV company that paid her the fee has described the film as one of the most important UFO sightings ever captured.

Officials at NASA have asked to examine the footage, now locked in a bank vault in California, before it is screened worldwide.

They believe it shows the same type of craft once spotted by their own cameras during a space shuttle mission.

Mystery

Sharon, who lives with husband Hayden, 45, in Bonsall, Derbys, said: "I was a complete and utter disbeliever, but the evidence of my own eyes made me think again."

"I've watched all the UFO programmes. If there is such a thing as a UFO, this is as good a photo as you'll get."

She used her camcorder to video the mystery craft, which looked

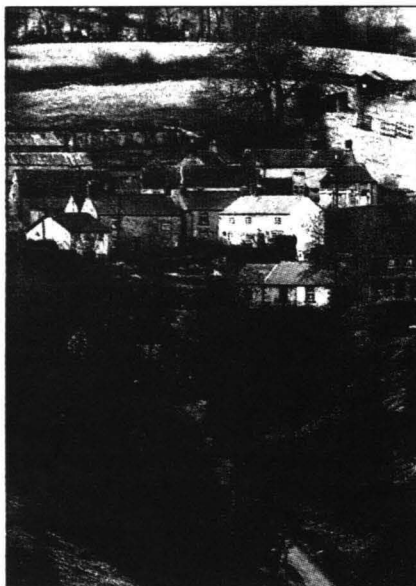
■ by DOUG WATSON

like a giant disc with a bite taken out. The UFO appeared to expand then get smaller as it hovered in the sky about two miles from her home.

It was covered with yellow, orange and blue lights, and had a darker centre. It beamed pulses of light before blasting away in a red flash.

The Met Office has confirmed that there were no freak weather conditions that night to explain the sighting.

Sharon said: "It was huge. Through the camera lens, it looked like it was going to hit me. It was like nothing I've ever seen before." Her



SPOOKY: Tiny Bonsall's now a UFO capital

encounter means her village now ranks alongside the Mexican desert as a UFO hotspot, with 20 reported sightings over Bonsall in the past few months.

One woman who reported seeing a UFO over the village just weeks ago said: "The only thing I can liken it to is a huge chandelier."

Paul Hannan, 37, of nearby Bakewell, saw a dome-shaped craft in February that "seemed to be dancing in the sky."

And a 34-year-old man from nearby Wirksworth

who saw a similar craft a few weeks later said: "It frightened me, because I couldn't explain it."

"I'd never been a believer in UFOs before - but I am now."

Robert Kiviat, whose California-based TV firm Kiviat Productions paid £20,000 for Sharon's film, said he'd been asked to show it to NASA specialist Dr Bruce Macab.

Mr Kiviat said: "The image is the same as one taken by NASA's own cameras. It is one of the top five pieces of footage of UFOs ever taken."

Postmark pays tribute to UFO sighted in Canada

By Colin Nickerson
Boston Globe

MONTREAL — The apparition that 34 years ago buzzed Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia, sending a thrill of terror through the fisherfolk below, is making a return appearance by popular demand — in the form of a government-approved postmark.

Letters and parcels being mailed from the harbor village on the ragged southern tip of the maritime province will be stamped, on request, with a nicely nautical image of a lighthouse and an old-time fishing schooner scudding before the wind. With a flying saucer hovering over the salty tableau.

The blue-ink cancellation stamp, approved for sole use by Shag Harbour's one-wicket post office, may be the planet's first and only mailsack homage to an extraterrestrial visitor. It commemorates the floating thing, awink with yellowish-red lights, that hovered in the night sky over the settlement for several minutes before appearing to plunge into the dark waters.

The occurrence took place Oct. 4, 1967, still a red-letter date for those who think long, hard, and obsessively about unidentified flying objects.

"The Shag Harbour incident may well become the enduring testament to the UFO phenomenon," said UFO investigator Don Ledger, co-author with Chris Styles of a new book about the event called *Dark Object*.

It surely was a night to remember for the hamlet, transformed within hours into ground zero of a search operation that saw military aircraft and vessels from the United States and Canada scouring the sea, Navy frogmen splashing into the waves, investigators from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police urging witnesses to please go over it one more time again, and mysterious Yanks in dark suits tersely

telling anyone who asked that nothing unusual was going on. Just another strayed weather balloon.

"Whatever it was, it made us the Roswell of the north," said Shag Harbour Postmaster Cindy Nickerson, referring to the New Mexico community where UFOlogists believe the U.S. government covered up the crash of an alien spaceship in 1947.

Scoffers may scoff, jeerers may jeer, but the dozen or so fishermen and other locals who stood gape-jawed by the old Irish moss plant on the harborfront that night aren't backing an inch from their tale.

"It doesn't matter who believes us, or doesn't," said Norman A. Smith, who twice a week drives a truck laden with Nova Scotia lobsters to market in Boston. "We know what we saw."

Smith was 18 years old, hitchhiking home from a "night of chasing girls on Cape Sable" when he and a friend rounded Bear Point, stopping dead in their tracks in astonishment at the fearful sight in the moonless sky.

"There were five lights shining from a flying object sort of tilted at an angle," Smith recalled. "It was terrifying. There was no making sense of it."

They raced into Shag Harbour, rousing Smith's uncle, fisherman Lawrence Smith. By now, the apparition had whisked from over the village to a position about a mile-and-a-half out to sea.

The first searchers on the water were a pair of Shag Harbour fishing boats, chugging toward the sinking site in a matter of minutes.

"All we found was a strip of yellowish foam, 40 feet wide," said Lawrence Smith. "And there was a sulfur smell."

By dawn, the military was taking charge, later insisting that nothing unusual was discovered by divers, search craft, or electronic detection gear.

MEDWAY TODAY, Kent, England - March 12, 2001

ET phone this number

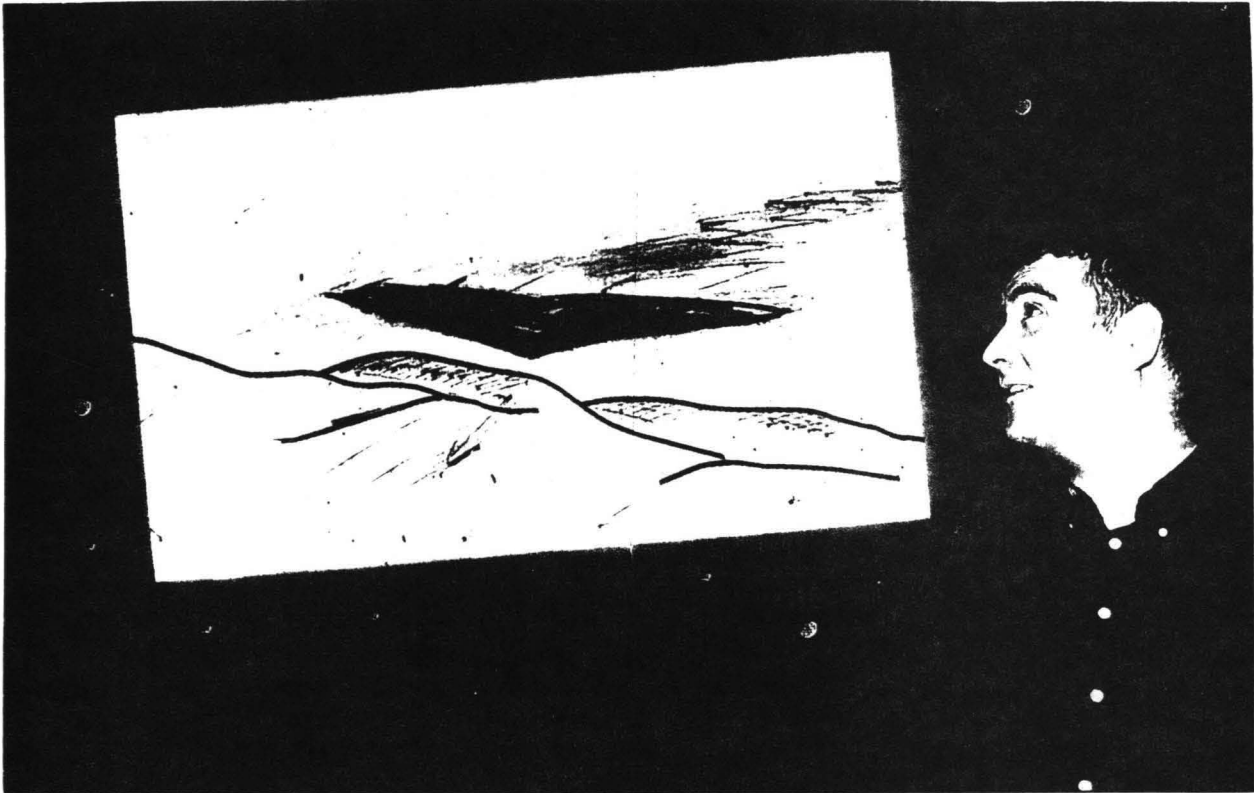
A 24-HOUR recorded information line has been set up to let people know about UFO sightings.

Chris Rolfe, spokesman for UFO Monitors East Kent, is urging people to keep watching the skies.

He said: "Britain's newest UFO information newsline brings you the latest news in the world of Ufology."

Reports on the line include a bright yellow light in Grimsby which descended near trees, a star-like body which had an unusually sparkling appearance and two bright, white lights travelling through the sky near Halifax in January.

Any people who want to know more about any unidentified flying objects should call 07091 020078, where sightings can also be reported.



NIGHT FLIGHT: Ross Waugh says a mystery aircraft with a 40ft span swooped over his home in Aboyne. He's pictured with a drawing of the object.

We've had a scary close encounter

NE pair tell of terror at seeing UFO

by Gavin Roberts

A HUGE, glowing UFO "buzzed" a North-east house, it was claimed today.

Hospital worker Ross Waugh and his partner Theresa Wood said a black "wing" spanning 40ft hovered over their Aboyne home on Monday night.

They said they were terrified by the dramatic close encounter with the object which happened at about 11.20pm.

Ross said he feared the UFO, which he claimed swooped into view from nowhere, was going to hit his home.

"It was actually very frightening," said Ross, an outreach worker based at an Aberdeen hospital.

He said: "I thought a

Mysterious sighting on A90

JUST over a year ago, three North-east friends claimed to have had a similar close encounter with a UFO. They spotted a mysterious light - which they claimed was the size of a house - hovering 100 metres above their car on the A90 between Ellon and Aberdeen. But when they tried to follow the red glow, it quickly raced off.

plane was about to crash into our house. But it was moving very slowly and it stopped just outside.

"It must have been about 40ft long.

"It started moving again and it went round the side of the house. The next thing we knew, it flew away really quickly and stopped again, still in sight."

Ross said both he and Theresa saw the object very clearly, as there was a bright, full moon.

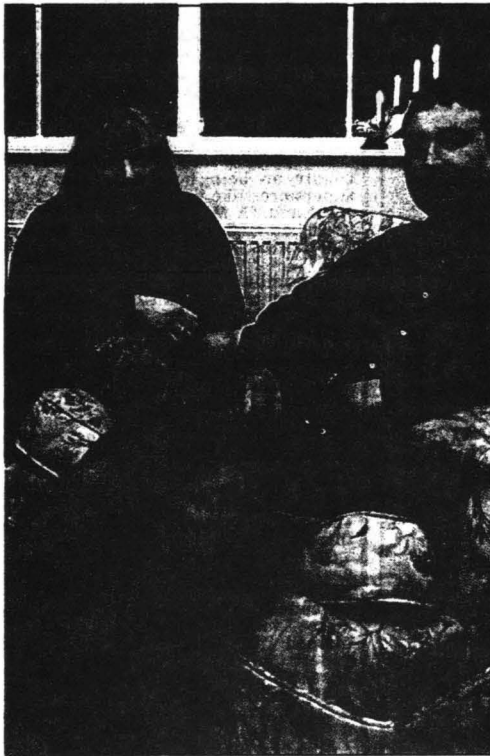
The object appeared beside the road at around 7.30pm on Friday, November 19, 1999, as Kevin Smith, Paul Samat and Sean Sinclair were travelling towards Aberdeen. David Wilson, of UFO spotters' group ScotUFO, said at the time: "This is a classic UFO sighting - a glowing light which does things ordinary aircraft can't."

According to Ross, the mysterious craft hovered for some time. He said its "bobbing" movements reminded him of a Harrier jump jet.

It was about 60-ft or less from the ground and had an orange glow, he claimed.

Ross said: "We live in a pretty isolated area with little more than farmers' fields around our house."

"I have never seen anything like it before and I



HOME VISIT: Ross Waugh and partner Theresa Wood spent a sleepless night after their unexplained guest had disappeared.

just want to know what it is we saw."

Theresa, who works for Aberdeen City Council, said the large object was long and dark and made a "burring" noise as it circled the house.

She said: "It was like a massive half-circle and definitely not any kind of plane."

"I don't think we slept a wink for fear of being abducted."

Police at Aboyne did not

receive any reports of a UFO on Monday night.

And a spokesman at the RAF's Neatishead surveillance station said he was unaware of any unknown aircraft being picked up on radar.

Ross now has the use of a video camera with which to capture any return visits, but he said: "I don't know if I really want to see it again."

He added: "It was very frightening."

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Could UFOs be a real danger to our aircraft?

COULD the strange objects which keep appearing in the skies near Dunblane pose a threat to military aircraft?

The latest UFO was spotted last week by retired insurance worker Andrew Dunbar, from the village of Greenloaning.

Andrew said: "It was around seven in the evening when I spotted the object coming towards me from the direction of Glasgow. It was glowing brightly and constantly pulsating."

"It was round in shape with a fuzzy outline. Near the centre it looked as if there was a structure. The whole thing was coloured green and orange."

"It was moving too fast to be a planet but was definitely not a plane. It was moving too slowly and seemed to be under control."

"The UFO was moving in a direction towards me then stopped and moved off in another. I thought it might be the space station but I was told that this moves across the sky very quickly."

"This didn't and I watched it for around 45mins. I have got it on video, which I hope to have analysed."

Andrew's sighting fits with reports of strange objects in exactly the same area made by dedicated UFO watcher Ian Murdoch. He has videoed many strange lights moving over and even landing on hills in the area.

He claimed: "I was driving along

It was green and orange with a fuzzy outline

with some friends when we saw a red illumination over the village of Blackford.

"There was an enormous craft sitting over the place with a red glow coming from underneath covering the whole village."

"Once I saw a craft sitting over the local power station. It might have been drawing energy from it."

"A rugby ball shape went over the house one day but I also see a lot of triangular shapes. Usually they're black but I saw a sandy coloured one about only 50ft above ground."

But could all this activity have a sinister significance. Could they be linked to the crash of a Hercules transport plane in 1993?

David Evans, from Dunblane, has been monitoring UFOs in the area since 1990.

He explained: "I never thought of them as other than friendly until the day of the accident. I had seen these UFOs take off and land from the hill-sides a few miles from my house."

"They seemed to blend with the scenery when they came to the ground so were well hidden. I kept a watch on the hills for signs of UFO activity and heard the roar of the Hercules as it passed over."

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

David believed it had a sinister motive - but accepts the accident may have been coincidence.

Woodland hot-spot for UFOs

COULD a secluded wood between Greenstead Green and Earls Colne be the new... Roswell?

Marks Hall Wood has been dubbed a flying saucer hot-spot after a number of unexplained sightings over the district.

Witnesses reported seeing a variety of objects - including glowing globes, pink domes and an object described as a "50ft wide chandelier

of light" - over Christmas. And a UFO researcher believes the objects are centred on the mysterious woods.

The first sighting was on Boxing Day when a couple driving home saw a "silent huge white triangular shaped object seemingly changing its shape" flying past them in the sky.

When they arrived home they said the object hovered and emitted five beams of light as if searching for something. They contacted UFO researcher Michael Joyce, of the

Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group. Now he is appealing for other witnesses to contact him.

Mr Joyce said: "I've correlated all the different sightings from Aldham, Bocking, Coggeshall, Earls Colne and Feering and all the objects seem to be centred on Marks Hall Wood."

"The fact there have been so many sightings heading towards one area does make it a UFO hotspot."

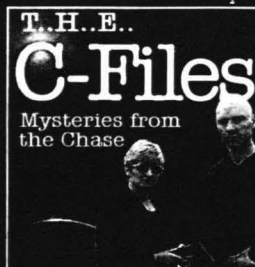
He added: "I have researched all the things the objects could have

been, such as aircraft, light shows and fireworks displays, but it doesn't appear to be any of these."

"And sometimes at night military helicopters fly over the woods, but they make a lot of noise and these objects were silent, so I don't think it was that."

●If you have spotted any unexplained flying objects we'd like to hear from you. Contact the newsdesk on 01376 343344.

Tale of a Chase hi-tech triangle



You may recall that a number of weeks ago we devoted our C-Files feature to a discussion of a series of sightings of UFOs in the Cannock Chase area that had been dubbed the 'Flying Triangles'. Typically, these were described as being large, black-coloured machines that were seen flying around the Chase in the dead of night and in almost complete silence. As we also revealed, reports of encounters with the Chase's Flying Triangles had even reached the eyes and ears of the Ministry of Defence at Whitehall!

When the feature was published, we expected to receive some feedback; however, even we were unprepared for the absolute deluge of reports that poured in. From across the entire area and covering the last 20 years, it seems, the Flying Triangles have been out in force. Of the many accounts that were brought to our attention, however, one stood out more than any other.

Amazed

It was at approximately 8.30pm on an autumn evening in 1985 that a father and son were driving across the Cannock Chase towards Rugeley, having been to Penkridge to purchase a motorbike. They passed the White House public house and all was normal - that is, until they rounded the bend near the rifle-range.

REPORT by Nick Redfern & Irene Bott

As they did so, both father and son were shocked and amazed to see sitting in the sky at a distance of around 100 feet and at a height of no more than 150 feet, a large, black, triangular-shaped object that was lit up by three lights attached to its underside.

They screeched the car to a halt, jumped out and stared in awe at the incredible spectacle. For a moment, the object simply hung there in utter silence above the silhouetted trees of the forest; but then without warning, it shot away at an incredible speed. Both father and son looked at each other and then raced for the car and



Mysterious three-cornered flying objects have been reported on many occasions

headed home to Rugeley.

On arriving, the father telephoned the local police to report what had occurred. Interestingly the police responded immediately and two uniformed officers arrived on their doorstep post-haste.

Detailed witness statements were taken from the two men who, significantly, were informed by the officers: 'You know, you should never have got out of the car'.

Precisely why this piece of advice was given was never made clear; however, the police did admit that a

report on their close encounter had been forwarded to the Ministry of Defence.

Speed

To this day, the father and son told us, no explanation has been forthcoming as to why the police responded with such unusual speed to their UFO sighting on the Cannock Chase. Is it possible that officers out on patrol had also seen the mysterious object and that this had a bearing on the seriousness with which the encounter was treated? If that is the case and you

were one of the officers, give us a call.

Someone or something with the benefit of an incredibly advanced technology is using the Chase for... well, who knows what? It's about time we found out. And if we do, let's hope it's good news...

■ Have you seen a UFO? Do you think that your house is haunted? Do you know of a deep and dark secret from the Chase? If so, give our C-Files investigators Nick Redfern and Irene Bott a call on 01922 869641

Intriguing clutter in the skies

RICH in legend and intrigue, West Wales has a catalogue of strange sightings in the sky.

In 1977, there were reports of spaceships looking like a glowing rugby ball or an upturned jelly mould in Pembrokeshire. A dairyman claimed 120 cows had been teleported half-a-mile from a milking parlour to a neighbour's farm. The media dubbed the area the Broad Haven Triangle.

In the same year, a class of 10-year-olds at Broad Haven, Pembrokeshire, saw a cigar-shaped silver object land in a field near their school. Each independently drew a picture of what they had seen and all images were remarkably alike. After rigorous tests, hypnotists and psychologists concluded they had not invented the story.

A week later, nine girls and their teacher in Anglesey saw something similar, prompting the Wales Tourist Board to advertise Flying Saucer Weekends in Haverfordwest and Milford Haven.

One group that took up the offer said they saw quartz-like crystals, which started to change colour, glow and give out heat, fall from the sky during a hailstorm in Haverfordwest in 1978, then disappear.

By 1996, a black triangle had been spotted in the sky around Cardigan Bay. Witnesses said it was huge, appearing after a flash of lightning, and moved from a stationary hovering position to hundreds of miles an hour within seconds.

The area's legends include an ancient tree called Merlin's Oak in Carmarthen. The word was that if it were cut down, the town would be destroyed. In 1978, the stump was deemed a traffic hazard and removed. Soon afterwards Carmarthen suffered terrible floods.

Another tree, the Nevern Yew in the churchyard at Nevern in Pembrokeshire, has continuously bled, possibly for hundreds of years. Scientists say the red liquid is sap but they are baffled that it constantly flows instead of hardening as it should.

In South Wales, the South Wales UFO research network claims more and more sightings of mysterious "flying saucers" are being made across the Valleys.

In July 1999, a "metallic sphere" in the sky was reported by a couple in the Brynmawr area. The same object was also spotted over the Sugar Loaf Mountain in Abergavenny at the same time.

Second close encounter of the third kind

New sighting of North-east UFO

by Jenny Clarke

"It was a long object which was tapered at one end. I've never seen anything like it."

Some believe the object could have been a top-secret US spy plane.

But the MoD dismissed the theory.

Neil was driving home on a back road between Daviot and Oldmeldrum when he spotted the craft in front of him at 6.50pm.

He stopped his van and got out to look. It stayed where it was for a few minutes then shot off out of sight.

"I was gobsmacked," said Neil. "I couldn't believe the speed it shot off at."

"It was a really clear sky and one second it was there and the next it was

nowhere to be seen. It went off in the Pitcaple direction."

He said it appeared to be silvery grey and left a green haze when it shot off.

The other couple said their UFO was black and left an orange haze.

UFO spotter groups in the United States believe many sightings are attributable to top secret spy planes.

But a spokeswoman for the MoD said the descriptions did not match any of their aircraft.

And she dismissed links with a top-secret surveillance plane.

"Surveillance aircraft fly at 60,000ft."

"Even on a bright, clear day, you will not be able to see them."

UFO group investigate sightings

by MARTIN BUXTON

MARKS Hall Wood at Coggeshall has been dubbed a UFO hot spot.

A couple who saw a "silent huge white triangular shaped object seemingly changing its shape" during the Christmas holiday season between Kelvedon and Coggeshall got in touch with Michael Joyce of the Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group, who appealed for witnesses to contact him.

He received a variety of reports of objects from glowing globes, clusters of lights

and a pink dome.

And half an hour after the first sighting an object described as a chandelier of light, 50 ft across, was seen near Coggeshall.

OBJECTS

Mr Joyce said: "I've correlated all the different sightings from Aldham, Bocking, Coggeshall, Earls Colne and Feering and all the objects seem to be centred on Marks Hall Wood."

"The fact there have been so many sightings heading towards one area does make it a UFO hot spot."

Mr Joyce added: "I have researched all the things the objects could have been, such as aircraft, light shows and fire works displays, but it doesn't appear to be any of these."

"Sometimes at night military helicopters fly over the area, but they make a lot of noise and these objects were described as silent, so I don't think it was that."

UFO-OLOGIST CLAIMS THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 2,500 MACCLESFIELD SIGHTINGS AND

Strange encounters in the skies over Macc



UFO-ologist Robert Hulme scans the skyline for flying saucers

ASKS FOR RESIDENTS TO TELL ALL



Robert claims to have seen a UF like this

A LOCAL UFO-ologist believes the truth is out there and wants to know why Macclesfield is a hotspot for extra-terrestrial activity.

He is pleading with locals to come forward with any information about any brief encounters they have had.

And he claims there have been a staggering 2,500 local sightings over the years!

Robert Hulme, who celebrates his 49th birthday on Saturday, is willing to face ridicule rather than keep quiet about the 'visitors' with a soft spot for Treacle town.

Robert, an ex-Kings School lad of Hulley Road, Macclesfield, says: "We are as busy a UFO area as probably anywhere in the country and yet it's not recognised as such."

"If people study UFOs properly and then decide it's bunkum, fair enough. But too many people have a knee-jerk reaction and are afraid of ridicule. We can't all be mad!"

"I think at least 2,500 people here have seen them, some maybe have not realised it, and I want them all to come forward."

by Stephen Hallmark

He cites the Leek Road, Gawsworth and the Bollin Walk near Abbey Road — where six people have certified glimpses from the beyond — as common areas of alien visitation.

It was a crystal clear and frosty night at 9pm, on December 28, 1980, when Robert was driving down the Leek Road near the Fools Nook and saw a bright red light in the distance.

He says: "I pulled into the lay-by and this thing, about 80ft in diameter, was hovering right above me."

"The underside was jet black and eventually it started to move slowly off towards Lyme Green at 30mph, going over the tops of the trees."

"I could see 12 windows from the side, I counted them three times to be sure, and there was a light inside."

Robert's wife, driving a car behind him, saw the same UFO and also heard the low rumbling sound as it headed off.

He adds: "I felt privileged to

have seen it, but not scared. However, if I'd known then what I do now I would have been far more cautious."

Amazingly, it happened on the same day of a well-documented sighting recorded by Colonel Charles Halt in Rendall Forest near two US airbases.

Robert says: "I met the colonel who was giving a talk in Todmorden, another hotspot, a few years later. It makes me so annoyed that people debunk our accounts."

"I've got to keep a sense of perspective, all I'm trying to do is raise awareness and encourage people to come forward. I will keep their confidence."

Robert has seen four 'visitors', the first in Macclesfield when he was three-years-old. The third and fourth sightings came a day apart.

He was driving to work at Macclesfield's Automotors and saw a "silver ship" about the size of a small car.

He says: "I couldn't believe it! The following day colleagues brought in a copy of the paper and the front page was covered with reports of the sighting."

Finally, after searching the heavens for almost 20 years in vain, Robert saw another in November 1998 from Macclesfield Golf Course, while he was playing.

He says: "It was one of those peek-a-boo sightings. It was incredibly bright, it flew into a cloud and didn't come out. It suddenly re-appeared and flew off at a different angle."

"For the past 20 years I've driven my wife and kids barmy. They appreciate what I say, but they've got to get on with their lives. It's a good job that at least they have their feet firmly on the ground."

His fascination has seen him travel extensively to chat with enthusiasts, aeronautical engineers and scientists, to visit crop circles and to hear speeches.

Robert has compiled extensive diaries and recorded over 60 confirmed sightings by Macclesfield residents.

He says: "When I talk to other people, they are prepared to admit to seeing UFOs as they feel able to speak out. When they do, we get a better understanding."

And he believes there is a govern-

ment cover-up over publicising accepted life on other planets.

"It's quite obvious that the government is slowly giving us information about the fact we are not alone so that when full contact happens it won't be such a shock," he says. "And I think aliens will agree."

He adds: "If all that we 'nut-cases' says are true, then what an impact it would have on society."

Sympathy

"I've a great deal of sympathy with the authorities, they have to maintain order. What people don't want to see is they have an amazing ability to ignore."

And Robert also has a message for the Macclesfield Express. "It fascinates me that the media have treated this subject so unsympathetically, after all if it's true what thousands of people say, then surely it's the biggest story since Jesus Christ."

He confirms: "I realised how important it is so I've made it part of my life."

Robert wants anyone who has seen UFOs to give him a ring on 01625 613781.

EVENING POST, Reading, England - Jan. 4, 2001

Star letter

UFOs over Burghfield

YES, I have seen a UFO (Evening Post, letters, Thursday, December 28).

At the time, I was living at Fords Farm.

At about 2am one night, I was using a Citizens' Band radio with some friends when three glowing green balls were seen flying around the gravel pit area of Burghfield.

They then came and hovered directly over the house. The bright green light lit up the garden both front and rear.

As we went to the window, you could feel the heat from this light.

A humming, throbbing sound was rocking the house.



OUT THERE — saucers full of secrets

Things in the room were moving.

We reported it to the police but they did not seem to want to know.

We were all made fun of by our friends who said: "Oh look, it's Dan, Dan the space-ship man."

So we all thought it best to keep it to ourselves because people would think we were mad.

Daniel Davies, Calfridus Way, Bracknell.

EXPRESS, Bromley, England - Feb. 7, 2001

Space visitor expert tells all

UFO expert Timothy Good is to give an illustrated talk revealing details of what he claims to be a worldwide cover-up on alien visitation.

Mr Good, of The Avenue, Beckenham, will be speaking on 'Beyond Top Secret' at St George's Royal Air Force Chapel of Remembrance, Biggin Hill, on February 20.

The speaker has written several books on UFOs and has lectured on the subject to universities, the Royal Geo-

graphical Society and the Pentagon.

In his latest book, *Unearthly Disclosure*, Mr Good wrote that high-level sources had told him aliens had established subterranean and submarine bases on Earth and were in contact with a select group in the US military and scientific intelligence community.

Mr Good, a violinist by profession, will start his Biggin Hill talk at 7.30pm. There is no entrance fee but donations will be taken for the maintenance of the Hurricane and Spitfire gate guardians outside the chapel.

Aliens sighting

Couple had 'close encounter' at Milnthorpe in 1965!

AN UNSUSPECTING couple claimed to have had a close encounter of an alien kind when they came across three little green creatures on the roadside near Milnthorpe, reports **Michaela Robinson-Tate**.

After pulling in for a cigarette, the couple suddenly noticed a dome-shaped intense red light, and three small creatures who gave off a slight green luminescence.

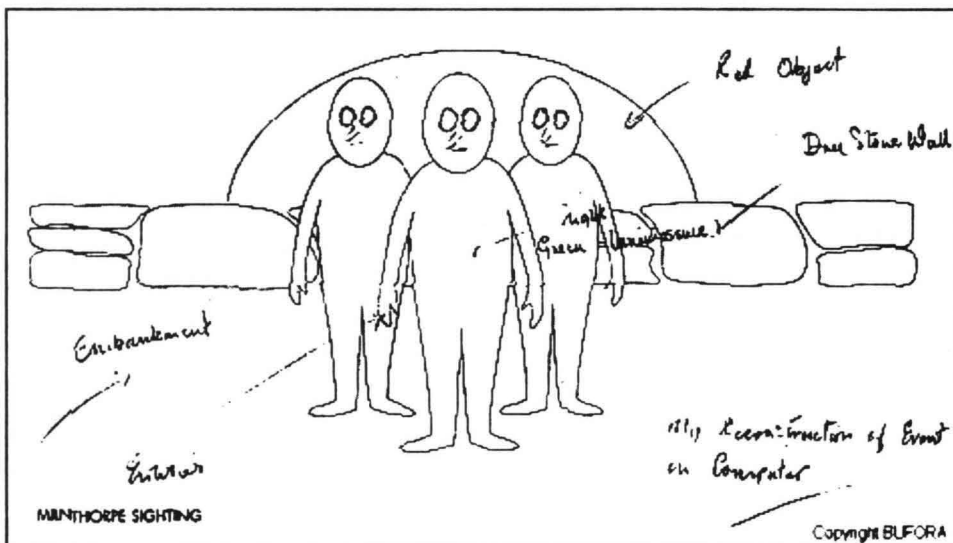
A UFO enthusiast, who has recorded the story on the Internet, said: "The entities were described as having large round staring eyes and a long nose that looked like a 'small trunk,' with a mouth that appeared as just a line or a slit.

"Their heads were large and almost turnip-shaped, and their bodies were round with hands that were visible but digits that were not defined."

The couple, who were on their way from Doncaster to Millom, said that the creatures were not wearing any clothes, and did not appear to have genitals.

The pair drove off in a hurry to Milnthorpe, where they each drew what they had seen.

Now the strange encounter, which dates back to the



LASTING IMPRESSION: How the unnamed couple described the aliens and the dome-shaped red light behind them - the creatures were not wearing any clothes.

summer of 1965, has been recorded on the Website of the British UFO Research Association.

Milnthorpe parish councillor Alan Baverstock, of Baverstock Opticians, spotted the story while searching for references to the village.

He believes the location given could be a lay-by on the A6 between Beetham and Milnthorpe, near the stone wall at the edge of the Dallam Estate.

Mr Baverstock said people in the village have enjoyed hearing the tall tale.

"A lot of what you pick up on the Internet is junk and not of any great interest so it's nice to pick up a gem now and then," he said. "We are looking forward to a return visit - Milnthorpe is waiting."

The site is at www.bufoa.org.uk/

More UFOs seen in the Matlock skies

Pensioner tells of amazing close encounter

UFO spotters should start looking to the skies again following one of the most spectacular sightings in the Dales yet.

During the autumn months, around 15 Mercury readers contacted us after seeing coloured lights and flying saucers - one woman even caught her close encounter on video.

Now the little green men are back!

By Andy Darlington

At 11.30pm on January 13, 69-year-old Anne Saunders of Matlock saw a spaceship hovering over Crich.

She said: "I looked through the bedroom window and saw a massive triangle in the sky.

"I thought, 'Good God! I am a sceptic, or at least, I was - I thought it was a reflection in my glasses!'"

But it was no reflection. After further

investigation, mum-of-two Mrs Saunders said she couldn't believe her eyes.

The retired local government officer and her husband watched the craft for three minutes.

The triangle was full of pulsating coloured lights with a dark centre. It made no noise.

"Then the front end bit broke away," continued Mrs Saunders, "and flew across the sky at tremendous speed towards the Masson hillside.

"When it re-appeared, there was no

uniformity. It was just a random shape of pulsating lights, clustered together.

"I was absolutely gobsmacked. I was looking from one to the other and thinking I must be dreaming.

"It was massive. This has certainly inspired me to be a believer."

Mrs Saunders now goes to bed at night armed with binoculars and a camera - just in case.

Have you seen anything strange in the skies over the Peaks or Dales? If so, telephone news editor Andy Darlington on (01629) 582432.

UFO encounter for pair

TWO men have launched their own X-File after claiming to have had a close encounter with a UFO.

At the time the men, a 37-year-old company director and a 32-year-old colleague, were travelling from Mold to Ruthin.

The director, who asked not to be named, said they saw a strange series of lights in the sky which he's sure weren't from a commercial aircraft. They moved in a circle and faded from a deep red through the spectrum of colours to a silver-blue.

"We stopped and watched to see what it was for about a minute, it was hovering and made no sound. It was far too large for an aircraft," he said.

"Its shape was almost triangular, but appeared to be made of two ovals, one large one smaller. It was black to the point of being a shadow in the night sky.

After a short time it shot off, at a speed you wouldn't believe.

"We travelled on, and saw strange lights again, a few miles down the road towards Ruthin. They were moving around the area.

Light

"I am trying to rationalise what we saw. I thought it was possibly a light signature from a stealth aircraft. It was extremely manoeuvrable. It seemed to be able to stop and go at will in the air and moved at great speeds.

"We had no real point of reference to guess how far away it was, although I'd estimate about a kilometre."

The incident on the Llanferres road, near Loggerheads, last Thursday at about 7.30pm follows another bizarre incident in the same area in March 1998.

Motorist Mike Speed, a company manager, was reportedly shaken up after a 40ft-long UFO hovered above his car as he travelled over the Llandegla Moors, three miles from the latest sighting.

He said at the time: "I know it sounds bizarre, and there's just no way I can explain it.

"It has left me feeling shocked and shaken and I don't think I will ever find any logical answers."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said they only investigated whether a sighted UFO was a threat to national security and no further.

And North Wales Police said it had received no recent UFO reports.

A spokesman at RAF Valley, Anglesey, said it was not investigating any reports, but could not comment on whether stealth craft was operating in the area.

On hunt for UFO sightings

EVER seen strange lights or objects in the sky? Those who are convinced they have are joining Southend UFO Society to share their experiences.

The organisation meets monthly at Balmoral Community Centre in Westcliff and holds regular skywatch evenings, but is also hosting speaker Chris Martin at its meeting in February.

He will present a video called 'London UFOs Captured on Film', showing footage of unidentified flying objects seen in the sky over the capital.

Mark Doulton, researcher for Southend UFO Society said: "Our group is growing. People do seem to want to know what's going on out there."

"We have not yet fixed a date or a place for the February meeting. It depends how many tickets we sell and what sized hall we need. Our regular meeting place only holds about 25 people."

Mr Doulton says he saw his first UFO when he was fishing at the end of Southend Pier in 1977.

He said: "I saw an orange ball of light out to the north west of the pier. Then it came back towards the pier. I got a little bit scared then and legged it back down the pier."

By KATY BEST

Coastguards revealed in newspapers the next day that they too had seen orange lights in the sky over the Thames.

Mark told how supermarket shelf stackers returning home from work at 4am one morning two years ago saw two white glowing balls of light in the sky near Southchurch Road.

These were about 50 feet up, and were motionless.

Mark said: "If this had been a helicopter there would have been some noise or at least some wind affecting the trees, but there was no air movement at all."

More recently a witness in Leigh apparently spotted a silver cylindrical object in the sky which then disappeared before their eyes. Some weeks earlier a woman in Westcliff claims she saw a dark grey cylindrical object which was also hovering in the sky for around 40 seconds.

Mark said some of the sightings investigated turned out to be planetary activities or aircraft movements.

However, he said: "There are a few which the usual explanations just don't fit."

Anyone interested in the February meeting, or in further details of the group can ring Mark after 7pm on 01702 217612.

It's life Jim, but not as we know it

IT began as a clever ruse to reduce production costs in TV's Star Trek. Now science-fiction's 'teleportation' is becoming science-fact. Researchers in Vienna have already successfully teleported photons - light particles - across their laboratory. But it will be a long time before summer holidays begin with the instruction: "Beam me up, Scotty." Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry devised "the transporter beam" to avoid the high costs of simulating extra-terrestrial landings and lift-offs.

The science researchers' success with sub-atomic particles means that now the technology to teleport whole atoms is under development. But the days of moving objects the size of a football or a can of beer are a long way off.

Human teleportation is even further away. But when that day dawns there will be other important questions to answer: if our bodies are transported will our minds travel too, or will they be left behind?

The teleportation process depends on the ability of sub-atomic particles to "entangle" themselves and exchange properties over time and space. The father of atomic physics, Albert Einstein, described this mysterious interaction as "spooky action at a distance".

Haitian witchdoctors use it to turn their victims into zombie slaves. Asian gourmets risk their lives when savouring the puffer fish which contains traces of it.

And now Californian scientists believe that minute doses of the stuff could eventually cure human brain diseases such as epilepsy. Found in fish, toads

SEEING THE FUTURE



By Mark Winter

and octopi, deadly tetrodotoxin or TTX, as it is known, is 10,000 times more lethal than cyanide.

But when used as a "molecular probe" to penetrate nerve cells, it could also offer pain relief from migraine and multiple sclerosis.

Rare survivors of the poison speak of how they remained fully conscious as the powerful venom paralysed their nervous systems.

This "living death" led researchers to conclude that it resulted not from trance-like states, but from the psychotropic effects of TTX.

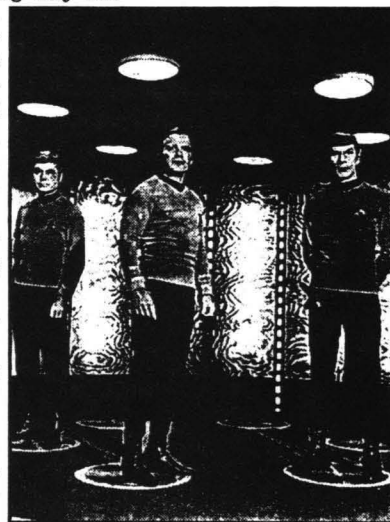
It is certain that the shamans would have more casualties than survivors. Current research will need to reverse that trend.

The key to investigating alien abductions, according to the magazine Australian Ufologist, is in DNA testing. Analysis of a blond hair found on a Sydney man who claims to have been carried off in a UFO, showed human characteristics but not in a combination found on this planet. Ufologists down under are appealing for more "legitimate, biological evidence" so they can continue their investigations.

The future of computing is in "self-healing" according to computer giant

IBM's researchers. Millions of dollars will be pumped into Project Eliza over the next few years to create self-sustaining systems which both monitor and fix themselves.

Eliza, it is hoped, will ease the strain on businesses struggling with the current chronic shortage of skilled IT workers.

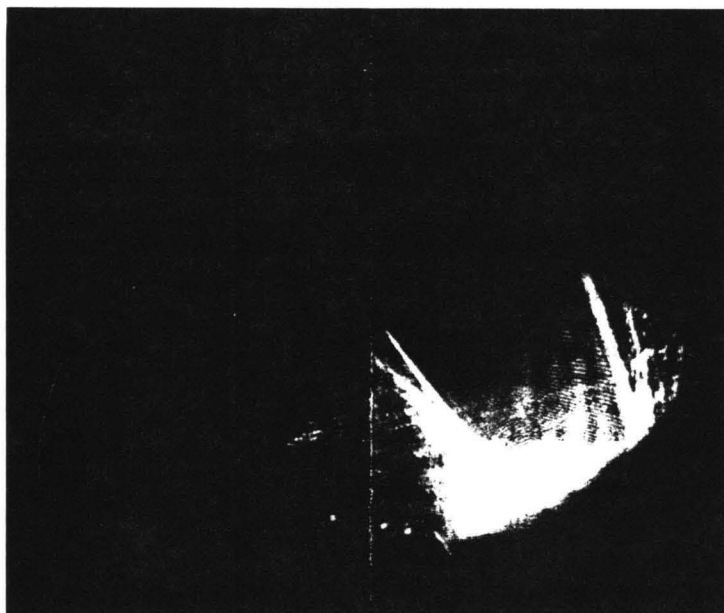


UFO shuts Siberian gateway

"Art thou pale through weariness of climbing heaven and gazing on the earth?" the 19th century English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley once asked. Or art thou pale because you're shit-scared having just spotted a flying saucer 200ft in front of your cockpit?

According to the popular London airport tabloid Heathrow Skyport - typical front page headline "BA CABIN CREW IN SORDID 3-IN-A-BED WEBSITE ROMP SHOCKER" - a suspected UFO closed down Barnaul (pronounced "barn owl") airport (BAX) in Siberia recently. A "freight aircraft cargo plane" was about to land at Barnaul, but refused and diverted to another airport when a Illyushin IL76 freighter reported an "luminous object" above the runway.

Tailgunner was determined to get the bottom of the Barnaul (53°N, 83°E) incident and decided to activate his extensive network of informants throughout the former



Soviet Union.

After several attempts, one of Tailgunner's contacts was finally able to get through to some-

one at Barnaul who described herself nervously as an "airport employee".

She said that there really had been some kind of an incident but that she wouldn't say it was a UFO for sure: "It could be anything - probably military I suspect." She said the weather could be very strange in the winter, "especially with the big cold snaps we have been having", and did not discount that it had been a weather balloon "or something". But she added cryptically: "We have all kinds of weird stuff going on out here."

Barnaul, as another informant who has been there describes it, is one of those typical Soviet airports, once busy, now an aviation graveyard littered with aircraft and helicopters, including a

"regiment of Antonovs" that will never fly again. The real question is: why would extraterrestrials want to go there in the first place?



ON FILM

Spooklight is a bright spot on movie horizon



PHILIP MARTIN

at the Fayetteville Film Festival in late April and at Little Rock's Oyster Bar last weekend. Maybe you caught it.

Interesting things have come across my desk this week. First up is a videotape copy of *Spooklight*, a short film written by and starring Ken Teutsch and Mike Prince, a couple of local (well, in Teutsch's case, formerly local) guys who used to do the *Limbo Drive-in* comedy show on television.



Ken Teutsch (left) and Mike Prince in *Spooklight*

It's an interesting little movie, about 20 minutes long, or about the length of an episode of the *Andy Griffith Show* without commercials. It

was shot in a couple of locations in Arkansas and northern Louisiana, I'm guessing on digital video.

While the short follows the basic format of the situation comedy — a format the writers/actors would naturally be comfortable with — there are some nice naturalistic flourishes. All the small roles seem cast with care, with an eye to depicting a certain rural Southern milieu without condescension. Prince plays a self-styled investigator of paranormal phenomenon with precisely the right degree of owlish indignation — his "Curtis Tate" is a type anyone who has lived in a small town is likely to be familiar with, the supercilious ec-

centric with the big obsession.

His friend Noel (Teutsch) regularly crosses the border to play the Louisiana lottery; he gets drunk on mouthwash and dreams of the big score.

Each driven by his own motives, they set out to solve the mystery of the ghostly "spooklight" that haunts the site of an old railroad.

While the narrative isn't as interesting as the characters, *Spooklight* is a pleasant enough experience and, more important, an excellent showcase for the filmmakers' talents. Given the daunting logistic and financial difficulties facing independent filmmakers, it's actually quite an impressive document. It ought to get these guys some work.

Teutsch and Prince are more than able actors, and their script has its moments. At the very least, it's a lot better than most of what passes for comedy on television.

... The chance to see short, independently produced films like *Spooklight* is one of the best reasons to go to film festivals. It's encouraging that so many have erupted around the state — in Hot Springs, in Fayetteville, in Pine Bluff and in ... no wait, that one won't be announced until early next month.

There are lots of movies that won't ever make it to the multiplexes, that will never make any sort of impression on the average moviegoer. Most people think of movies as whatever Hollywood has commissioned this season, and unfortunately Hollywood long ago realized that people who genuinely love movies are but a tiny part of the market. So most movies are targeted at big-spending demographics, the kind of people who hardly think about movies as anything other than dumb fun.

That's all right, I suppose, because so long as there remain enough people interested in seeing something other than the big-face movie star vehicles there will be people working to provide them with those smaller, quieter films. What film festivals can do is raise the consciousness of the movie-going public as well as provide a venue for films like *Spooklight*.

Bremerton clueless on keyless glitch

BY JIM BRUNNER
Seattle Times Staff Reporter

Something strange is going on in Bremerton.

Those fancy keyless car locks just aren't working. And auto dealers say car alarms, which are tied to the locks, are going off for no reason.

Locals wonder if the Navy is to blame.

Auto dealers said the problems began last week, right about the time the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson cruised back into port at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

"Everyone's convinced they left something on," said Tony Colaluca, sales manager for Haselwood Buick Pontiac GM Truck. "We don't know what it is."

Chance Blowers, sales manager at Parr Ford, speculated: "They're being weird. Maybe they've got a Russian sub out there and they don't want to admit it."

The Navy is mum. A spokesman yesterday said the military had no information on the subject and referred calls to the Federal Communications Commission. FCC officials could not be reached yesterday.

Colaluca said he noticed the trouble last Wednesday, when his dealership was bombarded with calls from dozens of customers complaining that their remote keyless locks had stopped working. His mechanics checked them out and even changed the batteries, to no avail.

Keyless locks are supposed to unlock cars and deactivate car alarms via radio waves shot from small transmitters attached to key chains. They usually operate at a distance of 30 feet or so.

But in Bremerton, as of yesterday, many were still on the blink or working intermittently.

"Sometimes they work and sometimes they don't," Colaluca said. "Sometimes you just have to hold them real close."

The problem is more of an irritant than a serious difficulty — after all, folks can still open car doors the old-fashioned way.

"These keyless locks are what you'd call a creature comfort," Colaluca said. "It's a lazy man's key."

NATIONAL POST,
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada - May 25, 2001
NOVA SCOTIA

Gruesome scene probed

GLACE BAY • Residents of this small seaside town were puzzling over the gruesome discovery of dozens of headless seals on one of their pristine beaches. A woman came upon the carcasses while she and her granddaughter were walking on Big Glace Bay Beach this week. "It was disgusting, horrible," said Patricia McKenzie of Glace Bay. "Bones were exposed and body parts were everywhere." Jerry Conway of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has promised the deaths would be investigated.

CR: G. Conway
Reuters



Mike Prince goes in search of the paranormal in *Spooklight*.

New Delhi in grips of 'monkey man' panic

Dozens of assaults are blamed on mysterious attacker. Police say bites are those of an animal. Some descriptions point to a human culprit.

By Y.P. Rajesh
Reuters

NEW DELHI — "Monkey man" hysteria is sowing panic in India's capital. Police said two terrified residents fell to their death on hearing that an ape-like attacker was nearby.

Police said on Wednesday that they were no closer to solving the mystery of the assailant residents say has clawed and bitten dozens of people in New Delhi's suburbs over the past two weeks.

The authorities said they had received about 65 reports of an attacker with a monkey's face and human body in and around the Indian capital since Saturday.

"We have consulted doctors about the bites, and they said they were by some animal," Joint Commissioner of Police Suresh Roy said. "The information we have points toward an animal. But we checked with the zoo, and they said no animal had escaped."

Police said the collective hysteria claimed a second life early Tuesday after a pregnant woman sleeping on her terrace was awakened by neighbors shouting: "The monkey has come!" The woman fell down a staircase and died in a hospital.

Two nights earlier, an industrial worker died in similar circumstances. He leapt in terror from

a building at Noida, a southeastern suburb.

Roy said there were no reports of injuries Tuesday night, but there had been dozens of calls about attacks — many of them bogus — from people who gave varying and sometimes bizarre descriptions of the now celebrated "monkey man."

Television network Star News said people in Ghaziabad town, which is near New Delhi and reported the first attack two weeks ago, spent Monday night on the streets armed with sticks waiting for the attacker.

Manoj Lal, deputy commissioner of police of Delhi's eastern district, said the entire eastern district police force of about 3,000 had been on patrol since Monday to hunt down the attacker.

Industrial worker Prakash Chand, 37, said he is unsure whether it was a man or a monkey that attacked him Monday night.

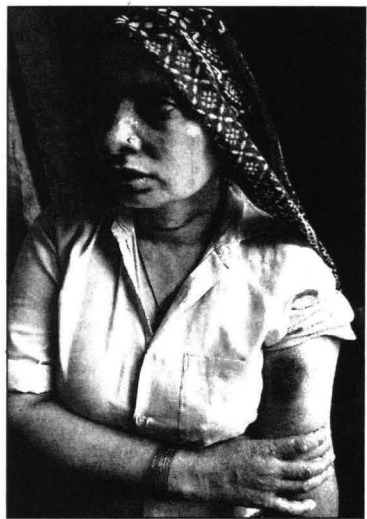
"I was sleeping on our terrace and woke up when I heard this strange growling sound," Chand said. "It was about 4 or 5 feet tall, very well-built, and whacked me hard on my arm."

He said that when he resisted, the attacker jumped off the first-floor terrace and vanished into the darkness.

Om Kali, 40, a housewife who lives two lanes away from Chand's house, was too terrified to speak about her experience, her milkman hus-



Computer image: From descriptions.



By Pawel Kopczynski, Reuters

Too terrified to speak: Om Kali, 40, shows the wounds on her arm that her husband says she received from an attacker on their terrace, where she was sleeping Monday night.

band said. He said she was attacked the same night as Chand as she slept on the terrace of their house. Kali had a long and reddened bruise across her neck and deep scratches on her left arm.

Two computer-generated portraits assembled with the help of the victims suggested the attacker was human.

One showed a swarthy, broad-faced, bearded man with a flat nose, thick lips and a piercing stare. The other portrayed a narrow-faced man with a receding hairline, a scrappy moustache and dark glasses.

Monkeys run wild in New Delhi and on the outskirts of the city. Sometimes they pounce on unsuspecting pedestrians or enter houses.



Desperately Seeking SASQUATCH

A Moorhead man follows the tracks of BIGFOOT

"If he could but once set eyes on him, he thought the mystery would lighten and perhaps roll altogether away, as was the habit of mysterious things when examined."

—The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

In 1976, Mike Quast saw a large dark shape moving in a roadside ditch, a shape he believes was a bigfoot. Quast was then an eight-year-old child, glancing out the window of his family's vehicle and the image has stayed with him.

After graduating from high school in 1987, he began traveling around Minnesota on his own, investigating reported sasquatch sightings. He has since published his findings and research in "The Sasquatch in Minnesota" and the recently completed "Big Footage: A History of Claims for the Sasquatch." His decade-plus dedication to the topic is driven by awe: "When you realize from the evidence that it really exists and look at how the culture views it...just the whole concept of this huge animal living in most of the continent and people not realizing it. It's just such an amazing thing."

Quast, who lives and works in Moorhead, has made his niche in the world of bigfoot investigation by filling gaps in the literature. While many sasquatch studies restrict its range to the Pacific Northwest, he has written a short book arguing that bigfoot could and do live in Minnesota. "Big Footage" analyzes the sightings captured on film. Both books feature accounts of sightings by eyewitnesses, estimations of their validity, and illustrations by the author.

Accounts of large indefinable creatures appear throughout the centuries, the term "Bigfoot" being coined in Northern California in 1958 after a road-building crew noticed 17-inch footprints around their worksite. The name, though not particularly inspired, was catchy enough to be used from that point on in all discussions involving mammals too large to be bears, too hairy to be humans, walking on too few feet to be moose, and spotted too far outside the known range of apes.

Bigfoot Found

In 1967, Roger Patterson filmed an animal of exuberant stature fleeing into a Northern California forest; that the animal is authentically a sasquatch has been confirmed and denied thousands of times since. Patterson's 8 mm footage and the ensuing debate sparked a race to deliver a specimen that has only picked up speed in the decades since.

As Quast observes, "There's not going to be second-place." Aware of the fame and accolades that would follow such a discovery, many trackers have become guarded with their findings. The tension has also led to bickering amongst the trackers.

"A lot of people in the field," explains Quast, "believe Peter Byrne's only in it for the money or publicity -- because he's only been involved when somebody's been funding him." Early in his avocation as bigfoot investigator, Quast, traveled to Oregon to visit Peter Byrne, a well-known, but controversial figure among bigfoot trackers. Though Quast has visited personally with Byrne, he is unwilling to take sides in "arguments that don't advance the field" and aren't "going to help you find a sasquatch."

Although funded professionals like Byrne and scientists like Krantz have as of yet failed to produce a specimen, Quast believes that the existence of sasquatch will most likely be verified randomly by someone not even looking for the species; "a deer hunter or duck hunter...someone that sees one and just shoots it."

The idea of killing a sasquatch presents a

Quast prefers the term 'sasquatch,' noting that 'bigfoot' was a local nickname and that it seems "too cartoonish for something that is real." According to Quast, 'sasquatch' is "a white man's version of a combination of several Indian words" first used by J.W. Burns, a teacher on an Indian reservation in British Columbia.

A huge hairy primate spotted in the wild is most frequently referred to as a bigfoot or sasquatch, but similar creatures have been sighted and given a number of other names including 'skunk ape' in the southern United States and 'Yeti' in the Himalayas.

Names are only names, of course, mere steps on the path to the real questions:

What exactly is the Yeti/Yowie/El Peludo/swamp ape/ Hairy Giant/Seeahitic/sasquatch and why do most people consider the species tabloid, and not National Geographic, fare?

"I just think it's an ape," Joe Heinan, creator of the "Minnesota Bigfoot" website, says casually, adding "no one thought gorillas existed until 1901."

Heinan's website looks at reports and sightings of bigfoot in the upper Midwest and has supported Quast's work. A juvenile counselor in Moorhead, Heinan became interested in the bigfoot phenomenon six years ago. He felt compelled to launch "Minnesota Bigfoot" after noticing that many sites about sasquatch are put out by large organizations and most, focusing only on sightings reported in the Pacific Northwest, overlook the possibility that the sasquatch could live in Minnesota.

On the Trail

Bigfoot sightings have been reported in every state but Rhode Island and Hawaii -- a high percentage of these accounts coming from the Pacific Northwest. With mountainous terrain, forests of tall trees, thick under-

moral dilemma in the minds of many serious bigfoot researchers. Sasquatch, if it exists, may be an endangered species. It may be an intelligent near-human primate. The question -- does bigfoot need to die to be proven to live? -- is at the core of one of the most heated debates in the field today.

Neither Heinan nor Quast is anxious to shoot a sasquatch, but both understand the viewpoint, as summarized by Quast, of those who argue "if you can shoot one animal to prove that they exist, you can get laws passed to protect the rest of them."

A live specimen would surely validate the species' existence, but innumerable logistical hurdles have presented themselves in discussions about capturing a bigfoot alive. There are, for instance, several drawbacks to tranquilizer guns. As Quast outlines, "Not just anyone can go out and buy a tranquilizer gun...You have to have the weight of the animal so you know how much drug to use, if you use too much, you're going to kill it any-

brush, and numerous sources of water, the region has all the makings of an ideal habitat for the passive primate. Both Heinan and Quast are convinced that Minnesota shares enough features with the Northwest region to make it a viable habitat and that sasquatch here too roams.

The secluded woods of Superior National Forest could, Quast believes, easily accommodate several sasquatch. Both he and Heinan are intrigued by recent reports coming out of the Two Harbors area concerning bigfoot activity. Heinan has visited the Detroit Lakes area to camp and fish, and also catch a glimpse of a large, hairy primate. Considering that nearly all bigfoot tracks are found near water, Itasca State Park, with its notable headwaters, might shelter a sasquatch or two.

A sasquatch may even have been sighted outside Hawley, in Clay County. In 1995, Moorhead native Guy Nelson was slogging out of a plot of waterfowl protection land with a friend when they saw a creature whose characteristics fit those of bigfoot. Nelson did not believe in bigfoot at the time and was not looking for signs of the legendary beast -- "we were walking the land in search of ducks." Nelson and his friend had come to an area of higher elevation and looking down, saw "a very dark object standing against the tree line."

"At first, we thought it was a moose and then it started to move. It started to move very fast and then that's when it started to get weird because we actually got to see it was black -- because of the sun -- and we got to see its arms and legs. The arms swung. It ran through this very heavy vegetation, up some farm field, back down the hill and across this gravel road right in front of an oncoming car." Nelson's immediate reaction was to get in the car: "I thought it was a moose, and then a bear, and then it started to run, and that's when I didn't know what was going on."

He returned to Moorhead that evening and watched the news to see if the people in the oncoming car had reported anything. He told the story to friends and co-workers, but did not pursue his sighting. "It's one of those things that I didn't do research on. I didn't want to go back to the area." For Nelson, the encounter made for a good story, but it did not become a mystery demanding resolution.

Nelson contacted Quast after reading an interview of him that appeared in an October 2000 City Pages, a Twin Cities weekly. Nelson wanted to share his story with Quast

to help him in his research. "Until I heard about him," says Nelson, "I never knew who to tell my story to."

Does Nelson believe in bigfoot now? "Not necessarily. It could have been a giantically large man who was very dumb -- to run in front of a car -- but whatever it was it had a close resemblance to what is the tale of bigfoot."

Battling the Skeptics

Quast has reviewed numerous accounts like Nelson's. His exposure to these reports and to the work of other researchers has led him to develop several theories as to why the sasquatch is most often relegated to the class of mythological creatures.

He believes people's skepticism has been shaped largely by society's characterization of the sasquatch. "Culture has called them a monster and people aren't supposed to believe in monsters. If it had just been approached as reports of a new animal species from the beginning," Quast theorizes, "we'd be in a lot different place today."

Many crackpots, hoaxers and greedy capitalists have used the hype around bigfoot for personal gain and their highly publicized and phony sightings call all others into question. There are many whose aim in tracking the sasquatch is to advance scientific research, but their reports tend to be, or have to be, kept quiet. It is a common belief among sasquatch investigators that university scientists are unwilling to stand behind the species, being primarily concerned with the impact such a testimonial would have on their scientific reputation and chances of attaining tenure.

Quast admires Washington State professor and anthropologist Grover Krantz for "sticking his neck out" and saying that bigfoot exists.

Quast also cites a simple matter of attention among the reasons for the public's failure to fully acknowledge the sasquatch. "Most people think it's just a folktale, total nonsense, and they never take the time to really study it. If they did, they'd find that there's tons of evidence that they exist. There have been thousands of sightings, hundreds of thousands of footprints have been seen, hair samples have been collected that have been analyzed in laboratories and found to be from some unspecified higher primate."

way. And, they are extremely short-range."

Films like Patterson's and those scrutinized by Quast in "Big Footage" have never served as concrete proof that sasquatch exist. Led astray by the rampant use of illicitly cropped images in the Sun, the Weekly World News, Unsolved Mysteries and the like, people no longer consider photographs and video footage irrefutable proof. Physical evidence is also questionable -- plaster casts of tracks, hair samples and scat could all be produced by studious artists conjuring fraud for fun or for hire.

With live capture proving problematic and film and physical relics potentially falsified, the demand for absolute proof -- a sasquatch specimen dead or alive -- is strong. There is already, Quast notes, "all kinds of scientific evidence that never seems to be recognized -- because it comes in one case at a time and people just dismiss it individually instead of looking at everything as a whole."

And what would the impact of a validated,

confirmed, official sasquatch specimen be on these investigators? On the public in general? Heinan imagines that if the sasquatch was proven to exist, he'd "be kind of happy, but...it'd take some of the mystery out of it." Though Quast earnestly hopes to see a bigfoot again someday, he doesn't believe that confirming the reality of this now-considered-mythical animal would have a colossal impact on society.

"I don't think it'd be that big a deal once people got over the initial shock of it," speculates Quast. "People are really apathetic about the big things that happen anyway. There'll probably be TV specials and t-shirts for six months and then it'll just be written off as, 'OK, Sasquatch is out there.'"

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Is this pic 'proof' of past life on Mars?

Scientists yesterday announced the discovery of a new image of a human-like face, tunnels, pyramids and signs of living vegetation on Mars — a red-letter day for those who believe alien life once existed on the planet.

But NASA said researchers Tom Van Flandern and Brian O'Leary ought to face the truth: There has never been intelligent life on the red planet.

Van Flandern, a former U.S. Naval Observatory astronomer, and O'Leary, an ex-Apollo scientist and astronaut, said their new findings were made in images taken from among 65,000 recently released photographs by the Mars Global Surveyor.

"We believe this compelling evidence ... proves Mars was once inhabited by an intelligent civilization," O'Leary told a Manhattan press conference.

"This is a bombshell finding. This could be one of the most important discoveries in the history of human civilization."

The researchers said the face is 1 1/4 miles wide and located near Syrtis Major, about 3,000 miles from the famous Sphinx-like face photographed by the Viking 1 Orbiter in 1976.

They also found glass-like tubes, measuring 60 feet in diameter, with exposed 1,000-foot sections and other artificial structures — as well as vegetation and trees.

"NASA doesn't put any credibility in our findings, or other independent studies," O'Leary said.

"But what we would like is for NASA to rephotograph the face and some of the surrounding regions under good conditions."

Since the Martian "Sphinx" photograph, be-

By ADAM MILLER

lievers have tried to convince the world aliens influenced ancient Egyptians. But the space agency concluded that the humanoid face was produced by the combination of light and shadows on an unusual arrangement of hills and valleys.

NASA's Mars Global Surveyor, which orbits the red planet, has been mapping its surface for more than three years.



FACE 'FACTS': Two scientists yesterday presented this image of a human face on Mars — along with evidence of tubes and vegetation — as proof of past intelligent life there. NASA isn't convinced.

POST, New York, NY - May 9, 2001

Tales of 'monkey man' attacks spread terror

Scorching heat in inky darkness due to power shortages blamed for hysteria in Indian city

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - May 18, 2001

NEW DELHI, India — Police are blaming a band of men in masks for what they call hysteria among residents of New Delhi, who claim a mysterious "monkey man" has been attacking people late at night.

Police have received up to 50 sightings in one night of the alleged attacker, described by witnesses as a 4-foot tall creature with a hairy body and metal claws.

At one point police ran short of vehicles to check on the reports.

The hysteria has led to two deaths. A pregnant woman sleeping on her rooftop terrace died Tuesday night when she slipped while running down the stairs as neighbors screamed that the monkey man had struck, the *Statesman* newspaper reported.

A man was killed Monday when he jumped off the roof of his house screaming, "The monkey has come!"

"It is nothing but mass hysteria," said Manoj Kumar Lal, a deputy commissioner of police.

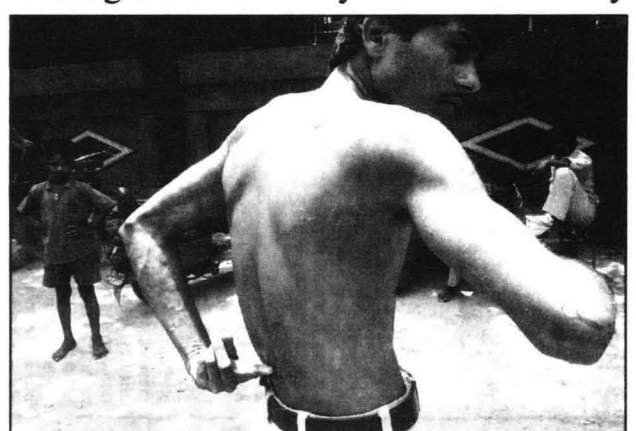
"It seems a group of people in masks are terrorizing people," the *Statesman* quoted an unidentified police officer as saying.

Police have blamed the panic on uneducated poor people, many of them believers in the supernatural, and the sweltering heat and darkness due to electricity cuts.

Harassed police authorities in New Delhi have urged the state-run power company to ensure uninterrupted power supply from dawn to dusk so that panicked residents would feel safer.

Recently residents of a New Delhi suburb caught and beat up a 4-foot-tall wandering Hindu mystic who they thought was the simian terror, the *Statesman* newspaper said.

He was handed over to police, and thousands crowding outside the station for a glimpse of the alleged monkey man caused a near stampede.



Vinod Kumar Yadav, a 19-year-old toymaker, shows his injuries Tuesday in New Delhi, India, after he was attacked Monday night by what residents claim is a "monkey man." Police are blaming a band of men in masks for creating a panic.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - May 24, 2001 CR: D. Smith

We call it Bigfoot, he found a Yeti in Himalayas

ONE OF THE world's most elusive mysteries — the Yeti of the Himalayas — might have been solved by a renowned mountain climber who saw the beast.

The mountaineer is Reinhold Messner, and his testament is the book, "My Quest for the Yeti."

Because of his experience afield, Messner lives in a different orbit than others who have written about Yeti, Sasquatch, the Abominable Snowman or Bigfoot.

Messner was the first to climb Mount Everest without oxygen, the first to climb all of the world's mountains exceeding 8,000 meters, and the first to cross Antarctica without dogs or machines. Thus, his words bring thunder.

When Messner first described seeing a Yeti on a trek in eastern Tibet — a story that circulated around the world among mountaineers — it could not be discarded as the fantasy of a trophy chaser.

RECREATION
Tom Stienstra

After all, it was Messner doing the talking, someone who has spent a life earning respect, with too much pride to spiral into phantasm. In the first chapter, he describes his Yeti episode in detail. In part:

"The creature towered menacingly, its face a gray shadow, its body a black outline. Covered with hair, it stood upright on two short legs and had powerful arms that hung down almost to its knees. I guessed it to be over seven feet tall."

In other episodes, Messner found footprints that resembled the fabled Bigfoot footprints of Northern California and the Pacific Northwest.

Confounded, he tried to verify what he had seen — if only to explain it for himself. Eventually, Messner concludes in the

book that Yeti is not the man-beast Neanderthal that the legend wishes it to be. Rather, it is likely a species of bear called a "chemo," Messner writes, which leaves manlike footprints, and at times closely resembles the legend of Yeti that so many describe in the foothills of Everest. Thus ends the legend. Even then, perhaps to keep the myth alive, Messner hedges:

"Time will tell whether Neanderthal-like creatures, offshoots of the human genealogical tree, might have survived in the rugged mountains of Central Asia and Mongolia."

• • •

IT ISN'T the hiking, the fishing, the boating — or even the chance to encounter a Sasquatch — that provides the greatest satisfaction for Americans on camping trips. Rather, it is gathering around the campfire at night with family and friends.

"People want salve for the soul," said Jim Reid for Coleman, the outdoor equipment

manufacturer, which commissioned a recent national survey of why people camp and enjoy the outdoors.

The results, released just in time for the start of another prime camping season, indicates that, after campfire time, enjoying beautiful landscapes and wildlife activities rank Nos. 2 and 3, respectively.

The survey also verifies the great personal satisfaction that outdoors recreation can help provide.

For those who go camping three to five times a year, 80 percent feel satisfied with their personal life; of those who do not camp, only 65 percent reported satisfaction with their personal life. (A survey five years ago by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported similar results.)

Tom Stienstra is a San Francisco Chronicle outdoor writer. His column is distributed by the New York Times News Service.