

# UFO

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PRESS, Sheboygan, WI - Sept. 4, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

## Eyes on the skies ... and the Web

Couple sets up site to share information on Wisconsin UFOs

By Mary Ann Holley  
of The Press Staff

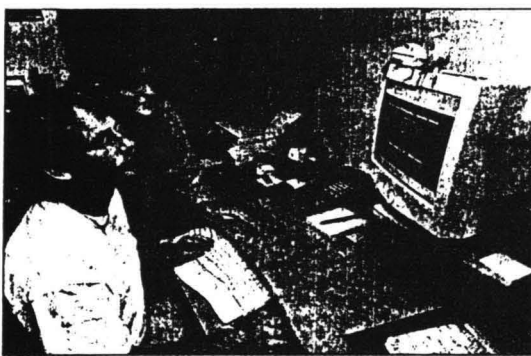
John Hoppe and his wife, Jennifer, are intelligent, inquisitive people with a penchant for the unusual.

From their Erie Avenue dining room — the "command center" for UFO Wisconsin — they can prove it.

"I've always been fascinated with UFOs," John Hoppe said. "I could never believe we were the only ones."

Now, he says, in a state second only to New Mexico in UFO sightings, others fascinated with UFOs and people who have spotted UFOs themselves, will be able to share their experiences.

Their new Web site, devoted



Press photo by Gary C. Klein

John and Jennifer Hoppe of Sheboygan look at their new Web site which provides information about UFO sightings in Wisconsin.

specifically to UFOs spotted in the Wisconsin skies will allow people to share information so a "common denominator" can be found.

"We are not saying UFOs

are extraterrestrials," Hoppe said. "But if enough people share their information, we may be able to determine just why so many UFOs are seen in Wisconsin."

"We are not saying UFOs are extraterrestrials. But if enough people share their information, we may be able to determine just why so many UFOs are seen in Wisconsin."

John Hoppe

Hoppe was 15 when he spotted his first UFO. He remembers it like it was yesterday. Standing on North Point beach

in Sheboygan, he watched as an orange ball of light radiated from the water.

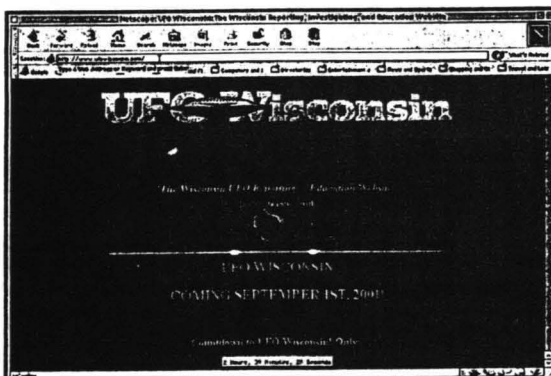
"I thought it was a lantern that had fallen from someone's boat," Hoppe recalls. "I waded toward it, but the water got too deep. As I turned around and looked back, it had risen out of the water and was hovering a few feet above illuminating Lake Michigan."

That first sighting seemed to stick with him. Since then, he has seen other UFOs, including a July sighting while at a UFO convention in Dundee near Long Lake.

"This UFO sighting was the most spectacular one I've ever seen and one of the biggest ones I've ever even heard of," Hoppe said. "There were 50 eyewitnesses who saw three orange craft that appeared over the horizon almost in front of us. One of the objects flashed three bright pulses of white light, almost as if it was signaling to us."

tions to some of the world's toughest problems, including energy production, water purification and environmental pollution.

"The only hard sell on this is to people who won't look at the data," Greer said. "We're not hobbyists or folks just mildly intrigued by the subject. We're serious people taking this in a very serious way to the general community. We're explaining why this issue just isn't something for the X-files. It has tremendous relevancy. Not only is this real, it has extraordinary and profound implications on a variety of issues. At first glance, this might seem like the silly stuff of tabloids. But that's why we feel it's our responsibility to share this data and show these witnesses. ... If you are concerned about the long-term prospects of the human race, the development of the rest of the world, weaponizing space, the rule of law and the constitution, the environment and such, this issue is relevant to you."



The home page for the UFO Wisconsin Web site created by John and Jennifer Hoppe. The site can be accessed at [www.ufowisconsin.com](http://www.ufowisconsin.com).

The UFO, he said, appeared at approximately 10 p.m. and continued its light show until well into the night.

Hoppe has been studying various reports on unidentified fly-

ing objects since he was a boy. He and his wife are members of the Milwaukee-based UFO2U club. The club, he said, is "a gathering of people who don't think you're nuts if you say

you've seen a UFO."

Their new interactive Internet site will provide a similar outlet.

The site lists detailed reports of 165 UFO sightings according to county. (Sheboygan County has had two — one just last week and one in 1966.) UFO spotters can file a report, find out about UFO clubs, see photographs of recorded UFO sightings in the state and find other UFO-related material.

"People need to look at it and make their own determination," Hoppe said. "Let viewers look at the data accumulated and maybe someone can come up with a plausible theory."

Hoppe says after investigating UFOs for 20 years there has to be some correlation. Nothing had been compiled in a central database, he said. With UFOWisconsin, that will all change.

"Maybe it will be your son or your daughter who will figure it out," Hoppe said. "The common people will be able to look at this site and understand it."

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - Sept. 10, 2001

## UFO Sightings

Following are UFO sightings in the Chippewa Valley as listed on the Web site [www.ufowisconsin.com](http://www.ufowisconsin.com).

- **Barron County:** Sept. 1981, Turtle Lake; Sept. 1980, Rice Lake; June 1967, Vance Creek.
- **Buffalo County:** Nov. 2000, Fountain City.
- **Chippewa County:** Aug. 1996, Stanley.
- **Clark County:** Feb. 1980, Withee; April 1976, Loyal.
- **Dunn County:** Sept. 1999, Menomonie; March 1975, Eau

Galle.

■ **Eau Claire County:** Oct. 1972, Eau Claire.

■ **Jackson County:** May 2000, Millston; July 1947, Black River Falls.

■ **Pepin County:** Sept. 1966, Durand.

■ **Pierce County:** Aug. 1988, Elmwood; April 1988, Ellsworth; March 1988, Bay City; Oct. 1980, Ellsworth; Jan. 1980, Elm Grove; Oct. 1977, Elmwood; May 1976, River Falls; April 1976, Elmwood; April 1975, Elmwood; Dec. 1957, Ellsworth.

■ **Rusk County:** July 2001, Tony; Jan. 1995, Ladysmith.

■ **St. Croix County:** No reports.  
■ **Trempealeau County:** No reports.

CR: R. Heiden

## Founder of UFO project is coming to Portland

By BRETT OPPEGAARD  
Columbian staff writer

After years of gathering official and top-secret data and persuading government and military witnesses to speak frankly about the subject of UFOs and extraterrestrials, The Disclosure Project was unveiled earlier this year in front of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

In the club's prestigious main ballroom, founder Steven Greer presented 20 of his best witnesses, mostly gray-haired retired military men, to the more than 100 media members from throughout the country who filled the room.

According to reports, Greer and his supporters didn't talk about alien abductions or dimensional travel or alien-human mating. The focus of this project simply is to establish that extraterrestrial life forms have visited this planet and, in turn, end the secrecy about such encounters through congressional hearings.

"This topic has been rubbished in the tabloids for so long with little green men with buggy eyes and every weird person in a trailer park that it's been put into its own little cubicle of craziness," Greer said during a recent telephone interview. "That's nonsense. We have actual radar tape, public documents, military officials who will talk about when an object was tracked. We have real evidence and hundreds of credible witnesses."

Greer will present the touring version of his Disclosure Project from 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday in downtown Portland's First Congressional Church, including two hours of taped testimony from his top witnesses.

Greer will speak about the subject for about 90 minutes, with time afterward for questions.

Greer, of Virginia, gave up his career as an emergency room doctor in North Carolina in 1998 to pursue the project full time. He officially has been working on it since 1993, when he briefed members of the Clinton administration, including then-CIA director James Woolsey, about what he had learned.

Greer says even top officials in the government such as Woolsey are denied access to certain files about UFOs and extraterrestrials, creating a situation in which unappointed, unelected and unsupervised people serve as ambassadors to these beings.

Greer says through the Disclosure Project tour he hopes to raise awareness about such concerns as well as develop the grassroots following needed to force Congress to acknowledge the issue again.

The last time Congress officially addressed UFOs and extraterrestrials was in 1968 through the House Science and Astronautics Committee. The Air Force has dealt with all inquiries about the subject since then via its closed Blue Book, which concludes that "no UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force was ever an indication of (a) threat to national security."

Greer contends that secrecy about extraterrestrial contact and the information gathered from such encounters has been holding back technological solu-

# Venturing From Shadows Into Light

They claim to have been abducted by aliens. A Harvard research psychiatrist backs them. Now 'experiencers' want society's respect.

By MICHAEL P. LUCAS  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Camille James sometimes wishes she were the average, everyday Beverly Hills expectant mom she appears to be. At 35, she's youthful and attractive with a girlish mop of chestnut hair and a sweet, fragile smile. She breezes through life as a caterer-schoolteacher-painter-magazine-writer-sometime actress and—as she says she discovered in hypnotherapy five years ago—a space alien abductee.

Under hypnosis during treatment for anxiety, she said, she recovered memories of a night in December 1995 when she was "taken out of my room through the ceiling in a blue beam of light" and brought aboard a UFO where she saw "beings that were tall; they had white robes, big black eyes." She also recovered memories of aliens removing a fetus she was carrying—a hybrid alien-human fetus.

Life has never been the same for James, who learned to cope with her situation, met others like her and now is at the forefront of a movement to bring abductees—or experiencers, as they prefer to be called—into the mainstream of society.

Although they're treated by popular culture like castoffs from "The X-Files" and regarded by medical experts as sleep-disorder victims, experiencers are drawing on the work of a controversial but respected psychiatrist to claim a new identity that would enable them to live openly and free of discrimination.

"All we want is to be treated like normal, intelligent adults," agreed Jill (who asked that her last name be withheld), an experiencer who said she was fired from a job as a script supervisor after confiding in co-workers.

If all this sounds too wild, then it's time to consult a psychiatrist—and that would be Dr. John E. Mack, a 71-year-old professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, a researcher, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and the guiding light of UFO believers, more than 1,000 of whom turned out last month to hear him at the Mutual UFO Network, an annual symposium in Irvine.

Mack, who has evaluated hundreds of experiencers, says this group of people should be treated with respect; he considers them akin to shamans or religious mystics. Except that the alien-abduc-

tion phenomenon, he explained in an interview, is "like an outreach program from the cosmos." Experiencers can take comfort in Mack's work—and also in data showing that they're not alone. A January 2000 nationwide poll by Yankelovich Partners revealed that 1% of American adults believe they've encountered beings from other planets. And a Gallup Poll in May showed that 33% of Americans believe that extraterrestrial beings have visited Earth—and another 27% aren't sure they haven't.

Even so, 40 years after the first reported alien abduction, of New Hampshire couple Barney and Betty Hill, experiencers still move furtively on the edges of society, wary of ostracism. And Mack, who's been on the Harvard Medical School faculty since 1956, mostly teaching psychoanalysis to residents, said he, too, was long a skeptic. Twelve years ago when an associate introduced him to UFO researcher and author Budd Hopkins, Mack, as he wrote in a 1992 research paper: "... assumed that both [Hopkins] and his subjects must be mentally disturbed."

But Mack said he took a closer

**'You have the sense that these people have actually experienced something of great meaning and depth and profundity that is not simply a projection of their own unconscious.'**

Dr. John E. Mack  
Harvard research psychiatrist

look in 1990, and several puzzling phenomena intrigued him: Young children and abductees in far-flung locations gave similar accounts; many abductees showed consistent injuries such as distinctive cuts and marks on the skin. And often abduction reports accompanied independent sightings of strange lights or flying objects.

Mack plunged into study, founding a Harvard-affiliated academic center, PEER—Program for Extraordinary Experience Research—through which he evaluated hundreds of abductees, and published his findings in two books.

In "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens" (Scribner's, 1994) he documents his science—exam-

ining experiencers by taking psychological histories, performing batteries of standard clinical tests and conducting extensive interviews. In the follow-up "Passport to the Cosmos" (Crown, 1999), he examines abductions reported in traditional societies around the world.

His conclusion: Experiencers are authentic—not mentally ill. His theory: Some powerful intelligence is trying to intervene in human affairs. All of which, not surprisingly, has drawn rebukes within the academic community.

After all, this is the same John E. Mack whose book "A Prince of Our Disorder," a biography of British-born Arab warrior T.E. Lawrence, won the 1977 Pulitzer Prize for biography. And the same Mack who testified before Congress in 1983 about the psychological impact on American youth of the threat of nuclear war. And the same Mack who served as president of the respected International Society for Political Psychology.

And so his work draws respectful disagreement from some academics, outright derision from others.

"He enjoys... being the center of attention," sighs Arnold S. Relman, professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School, who seven years ago led a formal academic probe of Mack's work on behalf of the medical school dean. The investigation, Relman said, concluded that Mack should widen his professional circle of research associates and adopt a more detached attitude toward his subjects.

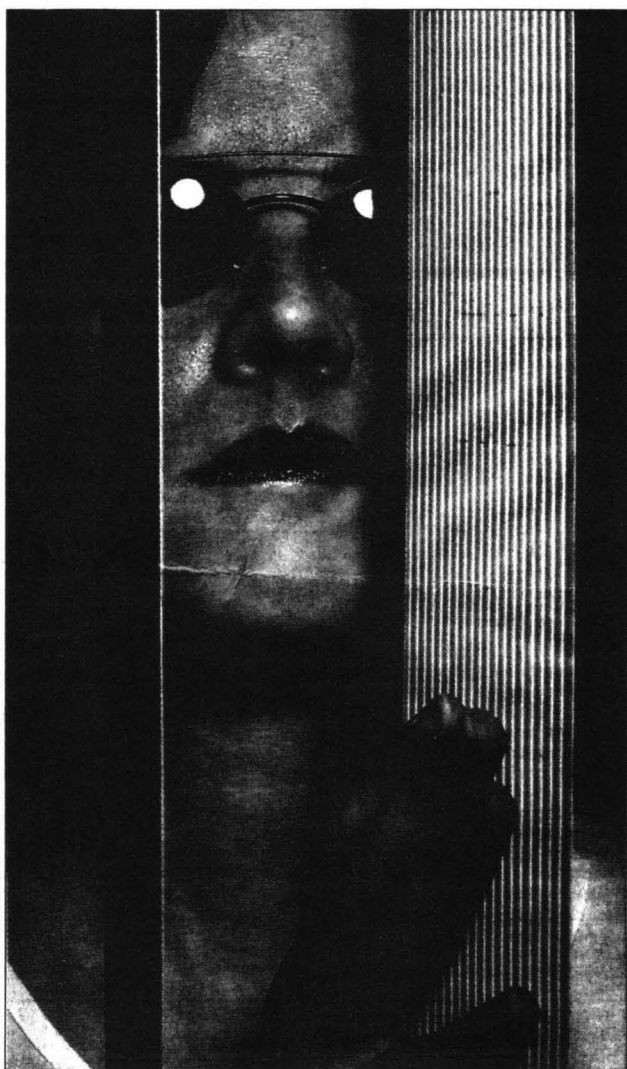
"He's not taken seriously by his colleagues anymore," Relman said. "But in the interests of academic freedom, Harvard can afford to have a couple of oddballs." Mack replied through an aide that he wouldn't resort to name-calling, but he and Relman simply disagree over the meaning of subjective reality when applied to experiencers.

"You have the sense that these people have actually experienced something of great meaning and depth and profundity that is not simply a projection of their own unconscious," Mack said.

Yet Mack won't be pinned down on the literal truth of any abduction experience, even though PEER's ongoing Multiple Witness Project seeks to corroborate patients' abduction episodes with spouses and others who were present at the time. Mack said he considers critics' demands for more physical evidence a distraction from his main inquiry into why human beings are being contacted and by whom.

Mack asks: "How come some seemingly normal housewife, who has not been particularly on a personal spiritual quest and isn't necessarily interested in UFOs, is suddenly having these tremendously powerful experiences that include being taken somewhere and probed...?"

The answer could lie in the heart of the scientific controversy surrounding the phenomenon—that is, experiencers' hypnotically recovered memories. Experiencers are often referred to Mack by other professionals, such as Barbara Lamb, a Claremont marriage and family therapist who hypnotizes patients and regresses them—that is, induces them to re-



KEN HIVELEY / Los Angeles Times

Camille James says a fetus was taken from her body during an alien abduction.

experience their past to discover the source of various disturbances.

Lamb, who has been in practice for more than 25 years, said she was at first "shocked and skeptical," to hear her patients relate memories of past lives or of abduction aboard UFOs. She concluded that space aliens exist, and "are fascinated with human beings."

But that's "nonsense," said Herbert Spiegel, a nationally recognized expert in hypnotherapy and member of the medical school faculty at Columbia University. "Hypnosis is for people with minor illnesses... phobias or bad habits like smoking or overeating." Hypnotic regression to recover memories of past lives or trips to other planets, he said, is what's known as a "rich fantasy life."

Richard J. McNally, a research psychologist in the Harvard University Department of Psychology, is conducting a separate study comparing those who believe they've been abducted by aliens with Vietnam War veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. McNally said his research suggests that experiencers have undergone a not-uncommon disorder he describes as sleep paralysis accompanied by "hypnopompic visions." A sufferer of this condition, reported by about 15% of the population, typically dreams with his eyes open, of such things as floating in space or of shadowy beings.

"Most people wake up and say, 'That was weird' and go back to sleep," McNally said. But experiencers he has studied share strikingly nonmainstream attitudes embracing New Age beliefs in such things as mysticism and UFOs. Mack brushes off such skeptics, saying his job is to persuade society that experiencers deserve respect. He gives them the appellation "authentic witnesses" and says they carry a message that Earthlings would ignore only at our peril. That message, he said, "has

to do with the perilous destruction of the Earth as a living system [and] this destructiveness that we are engaged in is drawing a response from the entities or beings in the cosmos."

Still, experiencers say abduction is an intense personal drama. For Camille James, the traumatic memories were recovered in the course of four regression sessions with different therapists. "Each time, it takes me about a year to recover," James said, perched in the dining room of her airy apartment. And there are some issues she is not emotionally prepared to confront—and doesn't plan to revisit during regression—including the encounter in which she became pregnant.

"I know a lot of abductees come back with a big ecological message, but I can't say that's my message," she said. Rather, she said her life was changed in two ways: in a new appreciation for children—hence her decision to become a schoolteacher and to have a baby—and a revulsion toward violence, especially in movies or on TV. Eventually breaking free of the abductions was its own life-changing experience, she said, involving an intense struggle aided by spiritual advisors.

Still, James hopes for the day when her experience will be considered normal—normal enough so she no longer needs to shield her identity in a newspaper photo, wary of the taunts of her students.

"Even my mother, the first time I got through telling her about everything I'd been through, she couldn't accept it," James said. "She listened and didn't say anything for awhile. Finally she said, 'Why couldn't you just be gay?'"



© 2000 Stuart Conway

Harvard professor John E. Mack is convinced aliens are visiting this planet.



# Making contact with MUFON

By Andrew Wells

As the tagline for the popular "X-Files" series goes, "The truth is out there." And if that is so, is some of that truth at MUFON Headquarters at the Ken Caryl Marketplace Shopping Center in Douglas County? John Schuessler thinks so.

As the International Director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), Schuessler and his worldwide association of volunteer investigators are devoted to digging into odd phenomena that bewilder, entertain or simply escape the rest of us.

A retired engineer with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing who worked extensively in the space program, Schuessler now presides over the extensive files and photos that are displayed and archived at the storefront space neighboring a pizzeria, a liquor store and a tanning salon. He became interested in UFOs or "ufology" while working on the Gemini 4 program, when astronauts he knew confided they had sightings.

"They reported seeing something up there that was just flying by them casually," Schuessler said. "I thought it was something that we could debunk. It turned out it wasn't and the quest has led me into hundreds and hundreds of cases of very credible people." One of the astronauts was Jim McDivitt, a former test pilot and inductee to the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Since then, Schuessler has nurtured his interest and knowledge about UFOs and potentially related phenomena such as alien contact and abductions, crop circles, and cattle mutilations.

It is perhaps appropriate for MUFON, which recently moved from a site outside of San Antonio last year, to settle in Denver. Western cities, including South Park, Colo., and Roswell, N.M., are hotbeds of activity for UFO enthusiasts. Jose Escamilla is one of them. A native to Roswell, Escamilla is a documentary filmmaker who has added a new facet to the UFO scenario: "rods." In town September 8 to boost a membership drive for MUFON and an upcoming Fox television special on rods, Escamilla said that he first saw rods in Roswell in March of 1994.

Visiting his hometown after the Northridge earthquake struck Los Angeles, where he lived then and today, Escamilla said he videotaped UFOs on March 5, but had run out of battery power after 16 minutes of footage. On March 19, he shot more footage at the same location for comparison. It was then that he first shot rods, which "look like white or translucent cigar-



John Schuessler, International Director of MUFON

shaped flying objects with an undulating membrane along their sides."

"We don't know where they come from, or what they're doing here," said Escamilla. "But there is an overwhelming amount of evidence." Over the past seven years, Escamilla has grown

increasingly devoted to the study and promotion of rods as a legitimate scientific mystery. He has footage of rods indoors, within a massive vertical cavern in Mexico, diving underwater and even one flying over Mel Gibson's head in a documentary on the making of "Braveheart."

The Fox special will be shown in November. Escamilla said that he had "eliminated all the abstracts that a lot of critics and debunkers say," such as conventional explanations like insects, jets and camera lens flare. Having even developed protocol for "skyfishing," his term for shooting rods on the high speed setting of video camcorders, Escamilla said the next step is to find a fresh, intact specimen for scientific analysis.

At MUFON headquarters, you can also find photos of crop circles, some resembling Japanese family crests, others looking like idle compass doodles done in a high school geometry class. While it has been confirmed that clever pranksters "from earth" have created many crop circles, they continue to fascinate people who refuse to accept the official word or conventional wisdom.

These credulous skeptics, believing in the fantastic alien space visitor in spite of comforting explanations to the contrary, make up MUFON. These people grasp and wonder at what Schuessler calls, "evidence of evidence."

"We're just trying very hard to come up with some answers," Schuessler said.

JOURNAL SENTINEL, Milwaukee, WI - Sept. 9, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

## Flyby forum

### Web site tracks UFO appearances in state

By JESSICA HANSEN  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

**T**oo big to be a firefly.  
Too swift to be a super-secret government bomber.  
Could it be a spacecraft from another planet?

While John R. Hoppe, 32, said he can't tell what all those unrecognizable bodies are in the heavens, he has started a new Web site to track the appearances of such unidentified flying objects in Wisconsin skies.

"www.ufowisconsin.com. We thought it would be easy for people to remember," said Hoppe, director of the new Wisconsin UFO Reporting and Education site.

Launched Sept. 1, the site already has logged more than 1,200 hits, the Sheboygan resident said.

"My goal was to get 1,000 the first month, and we've exceeded that in five days," he said.

The site's main purpose is to provide a forum for those serious about identifying the unidentified.

And, Hoppe said, to erase the images of little green men conjured when many think of UFOs.

"That term has changed over the course of history," he said. "In the past, it meant unidentified flying object. Today it means alien spacecraft. I'm trying to get the term back to where it was."

"We use the term UFOs as 'unidentified flying object.' We do not associate that with aliens."

Those who visit the site can file a UFO sighting report or read other's reports, filed by date and county, Hoppe said.

"We have a Wisconsin county map, where you click on a county and it brings up the number of

sightings reported there," he said.

The site also features videos and pictures of reported Wisconsin sightings, as well as UFO news, a message board, a library and links to other such state groups.

"There's a UFO education page that we're working on for people that are maybe curious about the UFO phenomenon, to explain things in common terms."

Hoppe said he's been interested in UFOs since age 15, when he encountered a strange orange light on a fishing trip.

"I thought it was a lantern that fell out of a boat," he said. "When I moved toward the light, it moved. When I backed off, it followed me."

When it lifted out of the water and disappeared, Hoppe said he was hooked. He's been searching the skies ever since.

"There's been too many reports all over the state of unexplained sightings," Hoppe said.

"If people do believe these are aliens and these are their craft, fine. If they think it's the military, fine," he said. "What I want to do is present the data as it is filed on our site. Then maybe somebody else can come up with the answer."

Hoppe said his ultimate goal is to record enough sightings to generate statistics showing which Wisconsin communities have the most UFO sightings and what their causes may be.

"Is there a military base there? Maybe an alien underground base? We don't know. But we can start to get statistics to point us in the right direction, to get the answers. And actually figure out what is going on in our skies."

### UFO disinformation

Don Stahl's letter (Aug. 30), "Question UFO claims," says that James Oberg proved "ice crystals and flecks of debris," not a UFO, were the cause of the sts-48 video anomalies. Oberg isn't neutral; he's a member of the notorious debunking group Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, an apologist for NASA maintaining an agenda of disinformation. Dr. Jack Kasher isn't the only scientist who disagrees with Oberg. Others share Kasher's analysis.

Serious UFO researchers know the topic is complex, bewildering, contradictory, illusive and massive. Trivializing the subject is condescending and simplistic. Citing one UFO Web site criticizing Dr. Steven Greer as proof the field is full of hoaxers only points out one small aspect in a rolling sea of information. A few charlatans within a field doesn't prove that all involved in UFO

research are hoaxers, anymore than a dishonest mechanic proves that all mechanics are dishonest.

There are disinformationists on both sides of the UFO question. If, in exposing charlatans, you believe that you have explained the UFO phenomenon, you've naively taken part in such disinformation. Referring to a couple of silly UFO theories as examples of hoaxes only adds to the confusion. It also supports the genius of purposeful misdirection. I suspect the late Col. Philip Corso was full of it. But that's the beauty of misdirection. Somewhere there is a glint of truth, and in many ways it is far scarier than beings from another planet. Unless one has really done his or her homework in the area of UFOs, one shouldn't write letters and voice opinions on a topic he or she knows little about.

REGAN LEE  
Eugene

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR  
Sept. 6, 2001 CR: D. Smith

CAPITAL TIMES, Madison, WI - July 28, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

## Wisconsin diary

### UFO bar

Benson's Hide-A-Way in Fond du Lac County boasts all the elements of a typical Wisconsin watering hole: pool table, Packer posters, paneling — and endless pairs of eyes that stare back at you from strings of alien lights, alien figurines and alien decals behind the bar. Owner Bill Benson says the place is a true UFO hot spot. "One year ago on Labor Day it was the most incredible sighting yet," he says. "This beacon came streaking across the sky, flew right over us and made this right angle. Then four fighter jets chased after it." As Bill serves up 60-cent taps of Point, he brings out a murky jar containing a rubbery-looking creature. The yellowing label says it's from 1947, from Roswell, New Mexico. "You know, the first crop circles showed up in 1947, shortly after that saucer crashed," says Bill. "And recently we had some of those form out back in the cat-tails." To prove it Bill produces a box brimming with amazing, albeit mysterious, photographs: crushed cattail circles, white and yellow orbs illuminating the night sky, floating red triangular formations. As we exit the Hide-A-Way, Bill calls out, "Take care! And keep looking up!" We sure will.

— Michelle Godwin

# UFO reports raise questions, eyebrows

## There continues to be a stigma attached to topic

**W**hen you read the title to this article what was the very first thing that popped into your mind? Oh no! Not another nut-case who thinks we are being visited by little green men from Mars! Perhaps you were thinking, "it's about time we see something in print about this issue." Maybe you were just thinking about an unexplained event that you witnessed and never told anyone, in fear of being ridiculed or labeled as "one of those." In any of these scenarios, you are not alone. The testimony and witness to this phenomenon goes back thousands of years and UFO Internet sites are the second-most visited sights on the World Wide Web.

Since 1990, in the United States alone, there have been more than 200,000 people reporting on something that they could not explain. Many of these people fall within a profession that lends credibility to such reports, such as, pilots, police officers, air traffic controllers, military personnel, doctors, lawyers and professors. Yet, if any of these people were to discuss this topic openly, they might be met with a raised eyebrow or a half-grin turned into a smirk.

Back in the 1960s, the national media did a terrific job of portraying those who had "witnessed" such events. These people were not from the professional arena but just common ordinary folks. They would splash their testimony all over the screen and then follow it up with "scientific"



**TRUTH  
TREK**  
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proof that it was "swamp gas" or a "weather balloon" and thus, the smirking began.

This was repeated again in the early 1990s when Europe had discovered amazing pictographs appearing mysteriously in wheat fields. These became known as "crop circles" and both the European and U.S. national media began a campaign. They found two guys near Wiltshire, England, by the name of Dough and Dave. They convinced most of the world that these two blokes would don masks, take wooden planks and string into a wheat field late at night and create their masterpieces. Even today, 13 years later, those media broadcasts still are ingrained into the minds of many Americans.

Why is it that in America there is such a stereotypical stigma attached to just the mere mention of those three little letters, UFO? In other countries, Europe, South America and even Mexico, they have had extensive investigations into this phenomenon and have opened their findings to the public and the media. The media in those countries have been quick to investigate any claims of sightings or other evidence about this mysterious unknown. However, the media in America has done everything in its power to shy away from this issue, and when it does report, it usually

finds some way to demean or ridicule those involved. Perhaps there is an unspoken fear that it would upset the natural balance of things if it were true. Or perhaps there are those that feel the truth about such matters is better left unsaid.

On July 16, 1999, an important document was published in France entitled, "UFOs and Defense: What must we be prepared for?" The study was carried out over several years by an independent group of former "auditors" at the Institute of Advanced Studies for National Defense and by qualified experts from various fields. Before its public release, it was sent to French President Jacques Chirac and to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. It detailed more than 3,000 reports and their investigations. Its primary concern was to determine "if" there was a national security risk. It covered more than 90 pages with analysis and conclusions.

This report shocked many nations and brought the information to the forefront of the UFO community. Yet, there was not even a mention on your national or local news.

On May 9, Dr. Steven Greer, director of the Disclosure Project, invited every news agency to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. In front of banks of TV cameras and reporters, a group of 21 former government workers, many of them military and security officials, stepped forward to say they had witnessed evidence of aliens and unidentified flying objects and called for congressional hearings about such sightings. "These testimonies establish once and for

all that we are not alone," Greer said. The entire event lasted more than 2 1/2 hours with each person giving their testimony.

The following day, ABC news had an article on its Web site and the Washington Post covered the event in its newspaper as well. It remained absent from all mainstream national television coverage, despite the fact that they were there.

Why am I even writing about this topic? Well, for me, my wife and my 15-year-old daughter it all started on June 7, 1999. We were out viewing a beautiful star-filled sky when we saw 15 objects, maneuvering very strangely. They were at high altitudes and were not planes or satellites. Forty-five minutes later we saw a craft much closer. It could be seen easily with binoculars, and it was not like anything any of us had seen before. So, we reported it to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington. The next day they called us and told us that another couple, who lived in Plover, 10 miles away, filed a police report and they too had seen what we had seen. The only difference was they stayed out later and this "craft" flew directly over them at about 500 feet.

This event did not change or alter our lives. It did not threaten our spiritual belief nor did it disrupt our daily routine. I cannot draw definite conclusions about extraterrestrial life forms or visitors from far away galaxies. All I can do is state that, on that evening, we saw something that we can not explain. What it did do was start me on an investigative journey to

learn as much as I could about these sightings and the stigma that is attached to them.

What I have found is there still is a lot of smirking going on when this topic comes to the surface. In the earliest stages of all this, I was excited to share this information with anyone and I found out that raised eyebrows and grins are par for the course. Wisconsin has had nearly 250 reports filed with national reporting center since 1999, so I guess I am not alone.

If you have ever had an experience that you could not explain and would like to share it with someone, please e-mail or write to me. I assure you, I will not be smirking. In the meantime, I will continue my investigations into this very mysterious phenomenon.

Thanks to all who responded to "Daddy, What's Fluoride," it was well-received.

As always, I leave myself open for any comments and can be reached easily. I would encourage you to communicate your thoughts and respond to this or any of my articles. You can e-mail me at [greg@truthtrek.net](mailto:greg@truthtrek.net), visit the Web site ([www.truthtrek.net](http://www.truthtrek.net)) or if you prefer the more traditional method of contact, you can write to me: Greg Swank, 6342 2nd Ave., Rudolph, WI. 54475

Greg Swank is a digital media manager and has an interest in research and writing. He is married with four children.

The views expressed in TruthTrek are the opinions of the author and should not be interpreted as opinions of the Daily Tribune.

WYOMING TRIBUNE-EAGLE, Cheyenne, WY - Aug. 23, 2001

## UFO center checking possible sighting in area

By Becky Orr  
Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

CHEYENNE - The National UFO Reporting Center is investigating a Cheyenne man's report that he saw an intense bright light Friday in the night sky above Rock River.

Paul Ayers said he saw the object coming straight up from the ground like a fireball. But an astronomer at the University of Wyoming said it's likely that the light was caused by

something entering the atmosphere from outer space.

Peter B. Davenport, the director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., sent an e-mail to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle Tuesday saying he is looking for other witnesses.

The sighting took place around 10:30 p.m. near Rock River, about 75 miles from Cheyenne on old U.S. Highway 30. It is northwest of Laramie.

### WHO TO CALL

Anyone with information can call the UFO Reporting Center Hotline. (206) 722-3000.

Davenport said Ayers, 38, and his 19-year-old son saw a large flash of light in the sky. It was so bright it illuminated the area so that the vehi-

cle's headlights no longer were visible, Davenport said.

Davenport said he didn't want to release specific details about the event because he is seeking independent reports from other witnesses.

Ayers said he and his son were on a fishing trip. He said he was driving when he saw a tremendous flash of light that looked like "somebody turning on the sun."

"It illuminated the whole neighbor-

hood," Ayers said. He called in his report when he returned to Cheyenne. "It was just a weird occurrence that needed to be reported," Ayers said.

University of Wyoming astronomer Allyn Smith said the intense light was seen by at least 60 people who were attending a Wyoming Under the Stars gathering. The event gives people a chance to study the night skies.

On Friday night, people attended an open house at the UW observatory at Jelm Mountain, about 25 miles southeast of Laramie. At around 10:30 p.m., Smith said he saw a flash on the dome wall of the observatory.

"The people who were outside described a large meteor, or bolide, a bright meteor," Smith said.

Such meteors usually explode high in the air, he said.

He theorized that an icy meteor that blew up in the atmosphere, a piece of space junk, or a good-sized stony or iron meteor may have caused the light.

"I would estimate it was almost as bright as the full moon," Smith said.

Ayers doubts that theory. "Meteors wouldn't be that intensely bright," Ayers said.

He said he saw an object take off straight up and go into the atmosphere. "I don't think it was a piece of debris flying that fast in the Earth's orbit."

STATESMAN JOURNAL, Salem, OR - Sept. 13, 2001

## Forum to discuss allegations of UFO cover-up

Extraterrestrials are out there, and that fact is being covered up.

That will be part of not just an upcoming "X-Files" but also a discussion topic during a forum tonight at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. It will be presented by Dr. Steven M. Greer, founder and director of the Disclosure Project.

Greer's organization says the U.S. military has perpetrated the lie that unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrials don't exist and ridicule everyone

who believes in them.

The Disclosure Project says it has testimony supporting its belief from more than 400 witnesses, including government officials, astronauts, pilots and scientists.

The project seeks three things: open hearings by Congress on UFO/extraterrestrial presence around the globe; hearings on its claim that the government possesses classified energy generation and anti-gravity propulsion systems; and legislation to ban all space-



**HANK  
ARENDS**  
THE  
PULSE

based weapons.

Greer, an emergency medicine physician, is from Caldwell, N.C. He organized a news conference in May in Washington, D.C., in which 20 military, corporate, scientific and government witnesses spoke of covert projects involving dealing with UFOs and extraterrestrials.

The meeting tonight will begin with registration at 6, the playing of the first part of the "Disclosure Video" at 6:30, questions and answers and Greer signing his book at 7:30, a break at 8:30 and then the second half of the video at 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. For information, check [www.disclosureproject.org](http://www.disclosureproject.org).



# From UFOs to rosicrucianism

## The Seattle Metaphysical Library turns 40

By Doug Schwartz

On the doormat reads "UFOs and Crews welcome."

But more than UFOs make their way to the Seattle Metaphysical Library. Beginning in 1961 as a place to house the personal book collection of founders Carrie Fisher and Suzie Swanson, the library is home to 12,000 volumes ranging from spiritualism to conspiracies, from rosicrucianism to astrology, from the occult to holistic healing – and countless disciplines in between.

Located at 1000 E. Madison St., just above a dry cleaners, the library will celebrate its 40th anniversary this weekend. The library, originally known as the As You Like It Library, has had this location for four years after more than 20 years in the Odd Fellows Hall.

"When the library began these subjects were more underground," said Phil Lipson, who has volunteered at the library since 1983. "These kinds of materials were hard to find. It wasn't until the 1970s that New Age and the occult became mainstream."

Browsers are welcome, but to check out books a person has to be a member. The library has more than 1,000 members, who pay \$30 a year to be able to check out materials. The organization has a growing list of out-of-town members, who are able to select books over the Internet at [www.seattlemetaphysical.org](http://www.seattlemetaphysical.org).

Unlike municipal libraries, the Seattle Metaphysical Library receives no public money. Rent is paid and books are purchased out of membership funds and occasional donations. Rummage sales and sponsored speaking events also raise money. A volunteer staff of about 10 keeps the doors open seven days a week.

Displays and exhibits pertaining to UFOs and paranormal events crowd the library's space.

"We offer services, resources and an environment that a public library can't," Lipson said, noting that the public library may have a few books on, say, astrology, whereas the Seattle Metaphysical Library has thousands. "People have come in who thought they were possessed. This is a place where you can talk about those issues. We

provide the unknown to people."

Lipson, who has a degree in library science and pays his bills working for a health care market research firm, said the Seattle Metaphysical Library is more of a social community center.

"It's important to note that so many bookstores have gone under, how difficult it is for independent and non-mainstream stores to make it," Lipson said. "This is a labor of love."

Lipson said the library flourishes because it projects a non-judgmental attitude.

"We accept all kinds of people and all kinds of ideas," he said. "Many people who come in are skeptical, and you'll find many books here that are skeptical alongside books that some people might consider far out. We want to provide the unknown to people. We have a lot of hard to find material, stuff that is out of print."

On a typical day, perhaps a dozen people will come through the doors, though special events generate greater participation. The space is used by the Seattle Chat Club, formerly the Art Bell Chat Club, and the

library sponsored a UFO paranormal conference last May.

Lipson said that the library does not endorse a particular point of view or push a particular path, although he said it contains little material that could be described as negative, such as black magic. The largest collections are in astrology, conspiracies, UFOs, holistic health, ancient civilizations and the origins of man.

"This place is about freedom of speech," Lipson said. "Beyond the books, our main purpose is to discuss anything. From ways of enlightenment to conspiracy theories. Other than coffee houses, this is one of the rare places to talk about these things."

He said there is no such thing as

a typical patron, though many people come in to discuss events that took place when they were children.

Lipson said that the transition from being an underground movement to more mainstream acceptance began in the '60s with the counterculture movement.

"That scene turned people to eastern religion and mystical ideas," he said. "And this led to the popularity of New Age in the '70s. Now it's pretty much an industry, but we try to harken back to a different age. We try to be a combination of old-fashioned familiarity and modern technology. Young punk rockers come in and so do elderly women."

As for the anniversary, on Saturday, Aug. 25, and Sunday, Aug.

26, the library will celebrate with music, entertainment, psychic readings, book sales and refreshments. Lipson said he is optimistic there will be a large crowd.

Lipson thinks that a chief misconception about the spiritual movement is that there is something evil about the supernatural. He said metaphysics is simply sensing things beyond your normal five senses.

"The occult simply means hidden," he said. "And the vast majority of people believe in extra terrestrials. There is a vast interest in the subject."

And has Lipson himself seen a UFO?

"No, I have not."

But they're out there?

"Sure."



Phil Lipson stands inside the Seattle Metaphysical Library.

Photo/Bradley Enghaus

# Raelians wait for UFOs; plan human cloning

By James D. Davis  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Air sighs in, whooshes out, like a pod of whales surfacing. The sound is emanating from the bodies lying on sheets on the floor, and others sitting, palms up, on the big overstuffed couches.

The tall, elegant leader's voice intones: "Feel the exchange of air, of molecules like a wave of the ocean, very deep, very strong, very powerful; feel your toes, your thighs, your solar plexus — the center of the body. . . ."



The only other sound is a softly playing tape with breathy flute and chime arpeggios.

Looks like a standard meditation, mid-1980s vintage. But the session suddenly veers out of the ordinary:

"You see the sky; an image of a large spaceship and the Elohim inside you. Tell them how much you love them, for creating us in their image and likeness. . . ."

This townhouse, in a quiet tree-lined section of north Miami-Dade County, may be an unlikely outpost for contact with extraterrestrials. But that is exactly what the Raelians intend: guiding the nation into paradise, dealt from above.

Though they've been around for more than 25 years, the Raelians were little-known until last month, when one of their scientists boldly predicted that humans likely will be cloned within two years. Raelian officials have said cloning is their way of producing eternal life, by "downloading" a human consciousness into successive bodies.

Their French founder and mentor, who calls himself Rael, has said he was visited in 1973 by otherworldly beings who called themselves Elohim, from a Hebrew word for God. They said they created the human race not by divine power, but by genetic science. Now, they said, they were ready to make contact — and the Raelians are the diplomats.

The organization has spread to 84 countries; Montreal is the home of a major meditation center and UFO Land, a theme park. The 30 or so North Miami members are among 55,000 members and "sympathizers."

The regulars at this meeting are a mixed bunch. Some are Quebecois, such as Andre Pinsonneault, who led the meditation. Joseph Beyham is a Turkish Jew from Israel. The newly arrived "priest-guide" for South Florida is a Japanese woman who changed her name from Lisa Sunagawa to Lisa Lumiere, French for "light."

The Raelians say the Elohim are much like us and have kept in contact via prophets such as Moses, Jesus and Buddha. They now consider Earth to be sufficiently advanced to start formal diplomatic relations.

Lumiere, of Hallandale, Fla., shows a model for the embassy the Raelians expect to build by 2035, though a site hasn't been chosen. The series of domes and tunnels looks like the crop circles that turned up in British wheat fields a decade ago.

Surprisingly little is said about cloning, the issue that caught public attention last month. Pinsonneault said the technique will not be for just an elite few — although Clonaid, a Raelian company, wants \$200,000 per clone.

"Our goal is to make it affordable for everyone," Pinsonneault said.

He and Lumiere answered other questions, many of them from Connie Holt, an inquisitive visitor from Plantation, Fla., who is including the Raelians in a longtime search for truth.

That gold, six-pointed star around their necks? Pinsonneault explained that it's made up of one triangle pointed upward, another pointed down, standing for "infinity large and small." At the center, a spiral stands for infinite time.

The goal of the Raelian religion? "Total harmony," with the universe, with one another and with the Elohim, Pinsonneault said. "And to welcome them."

**The Raelians say the Elohim are much like us and have kept in contact via prophets such as Moses, Jesus and Buddha.**

# UFO believer to speak in Salem Thursday

For the Democrat-Herald

SALEM — A group that insists the U.S. government is covering up the existence of extraterrestrials has scheduled an appearance in Salem.

On Thursday, Steven M. Greer, M.D., director and founder of "The Disclosure Project," will speak at Chemeketa Community College. Greer's presentation will begin at 6 p.m. in the Chemeketa Auditorium, Building 6, and continue until 10 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.

The event will begin with the screening of half of a two-hour video produced by The Disclosure Project, a distillation of more than 120 hours of interviews made by Greer, covering military, government and industry testimonials.

Following the screening, there will be a one-hour presentation by Greer with time for questions and answers. Finally, the second half of the video will be presented for those who wish to remain and see the end.

The U.S. military, according to Greer, has perpetrated the lie that UFOs and extraterrestrials don't exist. Authorities consistently ridiculed everyone who claimed to have seen an extraterrestrial craft, and yet he believes that documented evidence of other sentient species in the universe is overwhelming.

Greer has collected the testimony of more than 400 witnesses, including government officials, astronauts, pilots and scientists.

Disclosure Project witnesses claim to have proof that the U.S. possesses classified energy gener-

ation and anti-gravity propulsion systems capable of completely and permanently replacing all forms of current energy generation and transportation systems.

"These devices," according to information from the group, "access the ambient electromagnetic and so-called zero point energy state to produce vast amounts of energy without any pollution."

The group wants Congress to hold open hearings on the UFO/extraterrestrial presence on and around earth, on advanced energy and propulsion systems related to this subject, and to enact legislation which would ban all space-based weapons.

Since 1993 the project has made efforts to identify top-secret military, government and other witnesses to UFO and extraterrestrial events. So far the project claims to have identified several hundred witnesses throughout the world, spanning every branch of the armed services, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Central Intelligence Agency, and many other agencies and countries.

Geer, founder and director of the project, is a lifetime member of Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society. He is an emergency physician and former chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in North Carolina.

Geer has met with and provided briefings on this subject for senior members of government and for military and intelligence operations in the United States and around the world.

Meat? Fine. But nicotine, caffeine, excessive alcohol and other drugs are frowned on. They can "damage the genetic code, up to seven generations," Lumiere said.

Scientific? Maybe. But when the talk turns to their founder, the devotees sound as if they've met the Dalai Lama.

"The most intelligent person. Love itself," Lisa Lumiere raptly said of Rael, a former race car driver who now lives in Quebec.

He has clearly weaned them from their religious roots. Genevieve Parent-Farrell said she was mystified at Roman Catholic explanations but accepted Rael's first book, *Messages Given by the Extraterrestrials*, when she read it two decades ago.

"It was clear, logical, it made sense," said Parent-Farrell, an insurance company assistant who lives nearby in North Miami Beach. "You don't become Raelian. You discover you are."



# UFO hunt leads to Dundee Mountain

(Second of two parts)

DUNDEE — I'm on Dundee Mountain, bathed in the sort of night darkness you can't find in the city. I'm watching a point of light crawl along the horizon.

I'm here with members of UFO clubs from around Wisconsin. This mountain, nestled between Fond Du Lac and West Bend, is known for sightings. Maybe, just maybe, our point of light is the real deal.

"Ooooooooooooo," the UFOers cry in unison, as the point of light grows into a ball.

The scene here is a spooky one. We drove an hour from Milwaukee to get here, stopped at a nearby tavern for UFO fans, and then hiked a half hour up Dundee Mountain. We took Summit Trail until we arrived at this ridge, which now hosts several cameras on tripods, too few flashlights, lots of sing-song crickets, and 15 very eager UFO fans.

We wait for hours, chatting with one another and trying to stay warm. We spend lots of time just looking out into the night sky, so as not to miss the slightest blip.

The truth about UFO fans is that some see more blips than others. Heidi Hollis, of Milwaukee, says aliens are training her. They seem to be teaching her post-apocalyptic survival techniques, she'll explain to anyone who asks.

Jennifer Soloski of Sheboygan has not come insisting she has befriended aliens. Rather, Soloski is an "X-Files" television show fan who has come to see a real UFO. She has also come for a sense of belonging.

"You meet people who you can talk to and they're not going to look at you like you're weird," she says.

Beneath us, past grassy, rolling hills, and beyond the little town of Dundee, another point of light is expanding. It takes a couple seconds to grow to a ball. It becomes a quarter as big as the moon, then shrinks again. This is an electric moment for all of us.

But UFO fan Ken Paul, who hauled his laptop up the mountain, has bad news. He's got an aerial view of Dundee on the screen. He knows where the lights are coming from.

"There's an airport out there," he announces, drawing a small crowd around his laptop. A theory develops that the growing point of light is a turning airplane.

"No, don't tell me it's an airplane," says Soloski.

"That's not where the lights are coming from," says Heidi Hollis.

But a consensus emerges. They're airplane lights.

The veteran Dundee visitors among us say these airplane lights are not the norm. They say they really do see unidentified flying objects at Dundee Mountain. And they have shown me a collection of impressive photographs, with oddly arranged lights.

But of all the UFOers here, even the highly committed Tim

ROB GOLUB



Rob On The Road

Hildebrandt doesn't see spacecraft in tonight's deep, dark sky. Hildebrandt moved to Dundee from Milwaukee, to live by this mountain, this supposed UFO magnet. Hildebrandt is the only man on the mountain with two tripods, one for video and one for photos. When yet another point of light grows into a ball, Hildebrandt tells it like it is: "Probably one of ours."

It's past 10 p.m. now. We stumble back down the dirt path, single file. We leave the mountain empty handed.

But people are saying they'll be back. After all, even if they don't find aliens, they find validation of beliefs and feelings here. They find a feeling of community.

Soloski feels a part of a community. She's getting married to one of the guys on the mountain. They met online, after she wrote that she had to go tape a TV show.

He asked "What show," she said "X-Files," and the wedding date has since been set for June 4, 2002. Yes, it's one year from today.

It's a coincidence, provided ironically by people whose view of the world includes more design and less happenstance.

Rob Golub can be reached at 631-1718 or at: rgolub@journaltimes.com On the Net: www.ufo2u.com



DON ZAWADIEWSKY For The Journal Times

Heidi Hollis is the president of UFO2U, a Milwaukee-area UFO club.

NEWS, Springfield, OR - Sept. 1, 2001 CR: J. LaFleur

# Local scientist holds conviction in UFOs

■ The Disclosure Project motivates believer to speak out on the extraterrestrial

By MASON WEST News Staff Writer

Joe LaFleur has been a geothermal exploration geologist for 26 years. His work has taken him all over the country and the world. He is a scientist. As such, he is not supposed to believe in aliens.

He is sure, though, that they exist.

"People say that scientists aren't supposed to believe in UFOs and aliens," he said. "I tell them that this is not a belief, it is a conviction. You cannot take an open-minded look at this material and come away with any other conclusion."

In 1985, LaFleur was shown testimony footage of Major Jesse Marcel, one of the military officers who handled the wreckage of the famous Roswell UFO crash. The implications of what this former military person was saying had such an impact on LaFleur that he began his own investigation into the existence of UFOs.

LaFleur said his investigation is based solely on evidence. He watches footage of encounters, interacts with other investigators and listens to testimonies that have either been recorded or given to him personally.

The testimonies are the most convincing pieces of evidence to LaFleur. He knows numerous people who have seen UFOs and three people who have been abducted. When people ask him how he can be so confident in this evidence, he says, "Think of the counter position: All the military people and personal friends that have told me about their UFO experiences are lying to me. I can't accept that."

LaFleur said his specialty in his geological profession is lucid overview — seeing the whole picture.

"I am hired to accumulate all pieces of data relating to a project. From this I come up with the answers synthesized from many different lines of evidence," he said. "With UFOs, I have taken all the lines of evidence that I could find and synthesized an answer."

His answer is that UFOs exist.

When speaking, LaFleur is careful to point out when he is not sure of something and is speculating. He has never seen a UFO and relays information gathered from evidence.

"I'm like everybody else — we don't want to be scoffed at," he said.

For this reason, LaFleur has kept his convictions mostly between friends and colleagues. But his passion has been rekindled by a group called The Disclosure Project, and he has started giving talks on the topic of extraterrestrials to help draw attention to their cause.

"I'm very motivated by their effort," LaFleur said.

The Disclosure Project has been working since 1993 to identify witnesses to UFO and ET events,

tax dollars to see if we have free energy than investigating Bill's sex-capades," he said.

LaFleur talked Aug. 23 and Aug. 24 at the Eugene Women's City Club and urged people to call Congressman Peter DeFazio to ask that the Disclosure Project be heard by Congress. It will be heard by Oregonians in upcoming presentations in Portland on Sept. 12 and in Salem on Sept. 13. Detailed information is available on the Web site.

**'With UFOs, I have taken all the lines of evidence that I could find and synthesized an answer.'**

— Joe LaFleur, geothermal exploration geologist

especially witnesses coming from the military and other government organizations. According to their Web site, www.disclosureproject.org, the ultimate goal is to present evidence and testify in a Congressional hearing. Several hundred witnesses have been identified worldwide and more than 100 have been recorded on videotape.

The group's goals reach further than proving aliens exist. Dr. Steven M. Greer, creator of the Disclosure Project, states that it is committed to exposing the existence of energy technologies that would solve the world's energy crisis. The Web site states:

"We have identified insiders and scientists who can prove, in open Congressional hearings, that we do in fact possess energy generation and anti-gravity propulsion systems capable of completely and permanently replacing all forms of currently used energy generation and transportation systems."

LaFleur said if there is even a remote chance that the claims made by the Disclosure Project are true, a Congressional investigation is warranted.

"I would much rather spend my

Raymond Lorenz, 85, told LaFleur at the Aug. 24 meeting, "The public ought to be thankful that you're pursuing this subject."

Lorenz said he saw a UFO 40 years ago in Florida.

"I watched it for 10 or 15 minutes," he said. "It was a large cigar shape with little ships coming out."

LaFleur said another woman came forward and told him her story after the talk.

"You have to gain confidence from people before they're going to tell you these stories," he said. "They always preface with, 'I don't tell many people this because I don't want them to think I'm crazy.'"

Back when LaFleur was an undergraduate student at the University of Oregon, he recalls an exchange student who was flunked out because he believed in a crazy theory called "continental drift." At that time, the popular scientific opinion was that movement of continents was impossible, LaFleur said. Now, it is proven that they continue to move around the Earth.

"Scientists tend to think that we know it all," LaFleur said. "That is so ludicrous."

People By Michael Vitez

# Ex-pilot keeps watching the skies

George Filer saw his first UFO in '62 while flying an Air Force tanker over England. He now edits an online UFO newsletter.

SURF CITY, N.J. — Around 4 p.m., George Filer 3d took his plastic deck chair, put it just under the shade of the gazebo, and began to scan the ocean sky.

"I'm looking for anything interesting in the sky, like a glint, a reflection off a shiny surface," said the retired Air Force major, sitting in his aviator glasses, sipping a Coke. He and his wife rent a house here for the summer, and every weekend afternoon he perches here.

He looked at the sky above Long Beach Island on this Sunday afternoon — deep blue, dotted with white clouds. A glint appeared far to the South, above the beach — an airplane pulling a Miller Lite banner.

Filer's granddaughter Nicole, 8, in bathing suit and Backstreet Boys T-shirt, walked past on her way to the

ocean. He stopped her. "About a year ago you told me you saw a UFO," he said. "Were you just pulling my leg?"

"I saw a shooting star," she said, and skipped away.

George Filer, 65, saw his first UFO in 1962. He was flying a tanker plane for the Air Force, refueling fighters over England. The control tower sent his plane to investigate a UFO on the radar, near Stonehenge. His plane dove from 33,000 feet to 1,000 feet to find it.

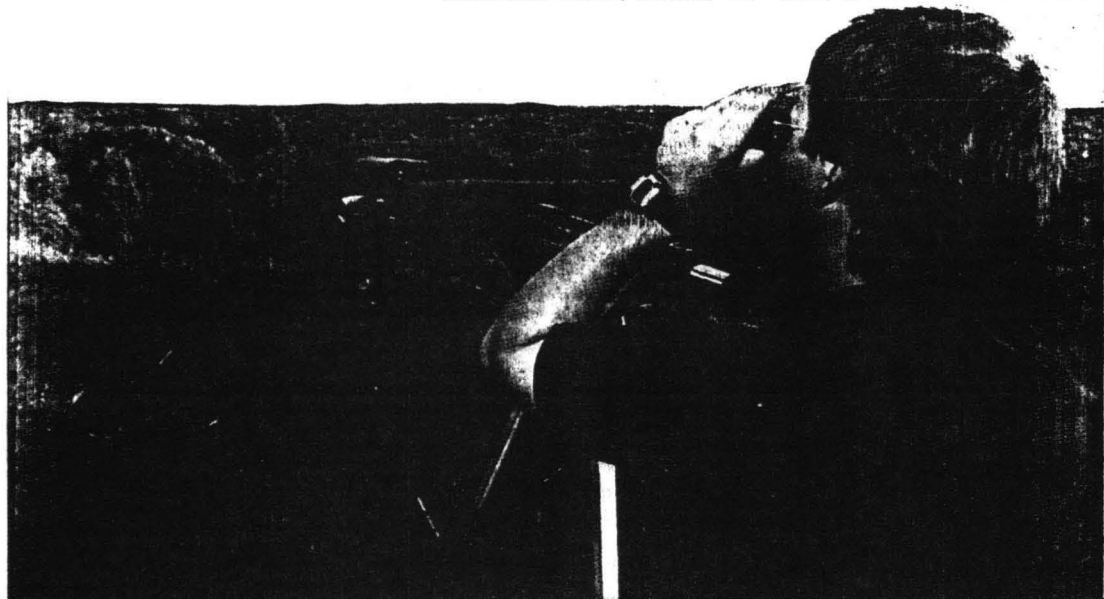
"I picked it up on radar — like a

ship, a huge aircraft carrier in the air," he recalled, still excited nearly 40 years later. "This was the biggest return [image] I'd ever seen on a radar screen." As his plane approached, the object vanished. "If you've ever seen the night launch at Cape Canaveral, it just kind of lit up and took off like that."

His second encounter came a few years ago, from the bedroom of his Medford Lakes home, which faces Briarwood Lake. "I woke at 4 a.m.," he said. "The bedroom was filled with light pouring in from out the window. I saw a UFO surfacing. It looked like a submarine coming out of the water, a blue ionization." His wife slept through it.

Filer spent 20 years in the Air Force, logging over 5,000 hours in the air. Most of his career he was an intelligence officer. He even briefed generals in Vietnam, where "a lot of times we'd get UFO reports over the DMZ [demilitarized zone]."

(continued on page 8)



**John Hoppe** of Sheboygan uses his binoculars to scan the sky for UFOs from atop Dundee Mountain in Fond du Lac County. He's a member of UFO2U, a club of Milwaukee-area UFO hunters.

Photos by DON ZAWADISKY For The Journal Times

# The UFOs are out there

## Club members scan sky for alien visitors

(First of two parts)

ROB GOLUB

**DUNDEE** — The sun has set and civilization is at our rear, as about 15 of us trudge up a lush mountainside, in search of life from another world.

Members of a Milwaukee UFO club are leading the way through a darkening Wisconsin forest. We're on a path to the truth, I'm told. Dundee Mountain has a reputation. Some say a UFO sighting here is nearly guaranteed.

So I'm hiking. I'm here and I'm ready to believe.

The voyage started with a meeting outside a Milwaukee library and then a one-hour drive north to Dundee. It's the voyage that introduces a likable, unique cast of characters.

Heidi Hollis, 31, is president of UFO2U, the Milwaukee club. Hollis, of Milwaukee's east side, and Jim Aho, of St. Francis, say they have met aliens. Heidi Hollis seems a bright, rational person, even as she seemingly shortens the car ride with her



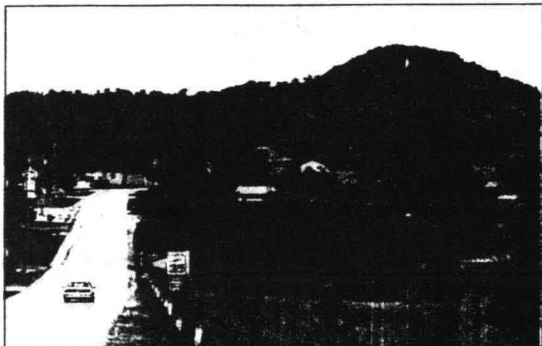
*Rob On The Road*

tales of aliens she has supposedly met, learned from, and traveled with.

She likes the fleshy-colored aliens. Can't stand those gray-colored aliens.

Ken Paul has his doubts. He's an intelligent man, a computer fiend who brings his laptop everywhere. Paul has come, with his technology slung over his shoulder like a weapon, to see for himself.

First stop: Benson's Hide-A-Way tavern in Dundee. We



**Dundee Mountain** in Fond du Lac County, where some say a UFO sighting is nearly guaranteed.

arrive late in the afternoon, for dinner and conversation.

At first glance, it's a typical Wisconsin tavern, at the edge of Tittle Lake, at the foot of Dundee Mountain. Local folk hang over a smoky bar inside. Meanwhile, proprietor Bill Benson pockets \$4 from the occasional trailer driver who has a boat to launch out back.

But Benson's is atypical. A sign at the beach labels the place "UFO headquarters," while an outside loudspeaker runs taped speeches about

unidentified flying objects. Right now, the voice of actor Jon Cypher, who played Chief Fletcher Daniels on "Hill Street Blues," reverberates from the speaker. He's a believer.

So's Bill Benson.

"Are we ready to see something tonight?" Benson bellows for a gathering crowd.

They are UFOers from UFO2U in Milwaukee, and from clubs in Appleton, Waupaca and Rockford, Ill. Word went out

that people were headed up the mountain tonight, and around 30 arrived at Benson's. Everyone knows you come here first. It's an unofficial UFO hiker's way station.

Birds chirp and boats disembark as the crowd of 30 sits on lawn chairs beneath Benson's outdoor loudspeaker. Here, no one looks at you askance for telling your tale.

"I've seen a lot of different shaped craft. Since the '70s, I've had ongoing contact with aliens," says a grandmotherly Bonnie Meyer. She's a 59-year-old Neenah retiree, a former cook for a grade school.

"You realize very fast there's some people who can't talk about it," Meyer says. "We have friends, and unless they bring it up we don't bring it up."

Bill Benson is a veteran bartender, keeping a chewed pipe at his lips and a coffee cup in hand. Like Heidi Hollis and Bonnie Meyer, his tales are tremendous. Like Hollis and Meyer, his reserved demeanor makes him seem so terribly rational.

Benson's favorite story may be his report of four F-16 fighter jets chasing a large circle of orange light. The jets caught up, over the lake between the bar and the mountain, and the orange light disappeared.

Benson knows how he looks to the locals, including those who frequent his own tavern.

"Some of them think we're nuts," he says. But he feels a responsibility: "We have to get this out to people."

So Benson's bar has been welcoming UFO groupies from around the nation for 21 years. In the summer, people come daily.

At the lawn chairs, today's visitors are passing Benson's pictures around. There are dozens reportedly taken at Dundee, with one dated 1999, another May 1995, another February 2000.

The photos are impressive. Colored lights are arranged in the shape of a diamond. Or a lighted orb, half as big as the moon, streaks through the air.

Daylight turns to dusk and the pictures are replaced with burgers and sandwiches, a last meal before the hike.

Elderly UFOers will stay behind at the tavern. But Hollis, Aho, Paul, and around a dozen others pour back into the caravan of cars, for the short drive to the foot of the mountain. Soon, we will be hiking a star-lit mountain side, to a spot some call a "UFO magnet."

No, I won't meet aliens tonight.

But I will get to know their torch-bearers, seemingly average people like Heidi Hollis. And Hollis really does seem average. Words fall from her mouth casually, not with the intensity of a person who seems deranged or obsessed.

"We're your sister, we're your brother, we're your parents, we're your therapist," says Hollis, who has a degree in occupational therapy. "Regular people have sightings."

The second half of Rob Golub's UFO voyage appears in Monday's edition of *The Journal Times*.

On the Net:  
[www.ufo2u.com](http://www.ufo2u.com)

Rob Golub can be reached by phone at 631-1718 or via e-mail at: [rgolub@journaltimes.com](mailto:rgolub@journaltimes.com)

(continued from page 7 - INQUIRER, Philadelphia, PA - Aug. 19, 2001)

After the Air Force, he worked many jobs, including teaching high school students aerospace science at Cherry Hill West. He taught about UFOs, among other things: "The kids seemed to like it. The school didn't." When he retired in 1997, he devoted himself to finding UFOs.

"For me," he said, it's "like Copernicus, and proving that the Earth wasn't the center of the solar system. I believe UFOs exist. I believe we are visited by aliens. I want to change people's viewpoints. This may be [mankind's] most important endeavor."

His son, George 4th, 38, an estimator for a construction company, brought a tray of crackers with crab dip to the gazebo.

"When I was 16, I did see something unusual at summer camp," the son said, "so I kind of believe they're out there."

Like his mother and two sisters, the son can't quite relate to his father's zeal. "First couple of years, it was all he wanted to talk about," the son said. "I guess he's still obsessed about it, but now he brings other subjects to the table."

Like sports-talk radio. "A lot

of them make less sense than UFO people," Filer said.

Since he retired, Filer has become East Coast director of the Mutual UFO Network, the nation's largest UFO organization. From his home office he edits a weekly Internet newsletter known as Filer's Files.

Two hundred to 400 e-mails pour in monthly of sightings. He compiles the best ones into Filer's Files ([www.filers.files.com](http://www.filers.files.com)) and e-mails the report to 3,000 UFO enthusiasts, as well as to Congress and the President. He isn't certain the

President is reading his files, but he believes congressional staffers are.

In May, he spoke at the National Press Club in Washington along with 20 other UFO experts — a session that was barely mentioned in the media.

Which he can't understand. Popular culture has embraced the notion of UFOs. Just consider the movie *Independence Day* Or *E.T.* "People say they're more likely to see a UFO than a Social Security check," he said.

Beside him on the gazebo railing was his Sony Handycam, with the 700X zoom — just in case he spotted an alien ship. He believes the right photograph or video of a UFO could bring up to \$1 million.

Before he got into UFOs, he used to look for Spanish doubloons on the beach. "I feel I'm much more likely to find a UFO," he said.

This afternoon he saw beer planes. Seagulls. A styrofoam rocket shot into the air with a rubber strap by a little kid next door.

No UFOs.

He watched until his family called him for dinner — burgers and dogs on the grill.



### Meet Michael Vitez

This story is part of a new, twice-weekly feature by staff writer Michael Vitez that aims to profile "the wonderful characters" in the city and suburbs. "My mission," Vitez says, "is to celebrate life, to write about people who are passionate about what they do, and to tell great stories." His features will appear Sundays and Thursdays.

Vitez, who joined *The Inquirer* in 1985, has been a feature writer and has covered issues of aging. In 1997, he won a Pulitzer Prize in explanatory journalism for a series of articles about how Americans were choosing to die in an age of technology. Vitez, 44, lives in South Jersey with his wife and three children. He can be reached at [mvitez@phillynews.com](mailto:mvitez@phillynews.com) or 215-854-5639.





DAILY MAIL, London, England - Aug. 20, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

# Cream of the crop



Spectacular: The complex pattern seen from the air

By **Paul Kendall**  
Technology Correspondent

ONE crop circle is often explained away by experts as a prank or the result of a wind flurry.

But 400 or so, perfectly aligned in a mammoth 'psychedelic swirl' 1500ft across, present a challenge to the most sceptical observer.

The enormous design, which almost fills a wheat field in Wiltshire, is one of the biggest crop circles ever seen.

Some enthusiasts regard it as proof that aliens have landed.

And even if it was made by pranksters, their handiwork and mastery of geometry have to be admired.

The individual circles range from just a few feet to some about 70ft in diameter.

John Lundberg, artist and self-confessed circle-maker, said: 'If this formation was man-made, allowing for time to get into and out of the field under cover of darkness, the construction time should be around four hours.'

'Given that there are 400 circles, some of which span 70ft, that would mean that one of those circles would need to be created every 30 seconds and that's not even allowing time for the surveying, purely for flattening.'

'This formation pushes the envelope. And that's a massive understatement.'

Karen Douglas, 31, a crop circle expert from Gosport, Hampshire,

**Even the  
sceptics  
must salute  
a field of  
400 flying  
saucers**

added: 'This is very, very exciting.'

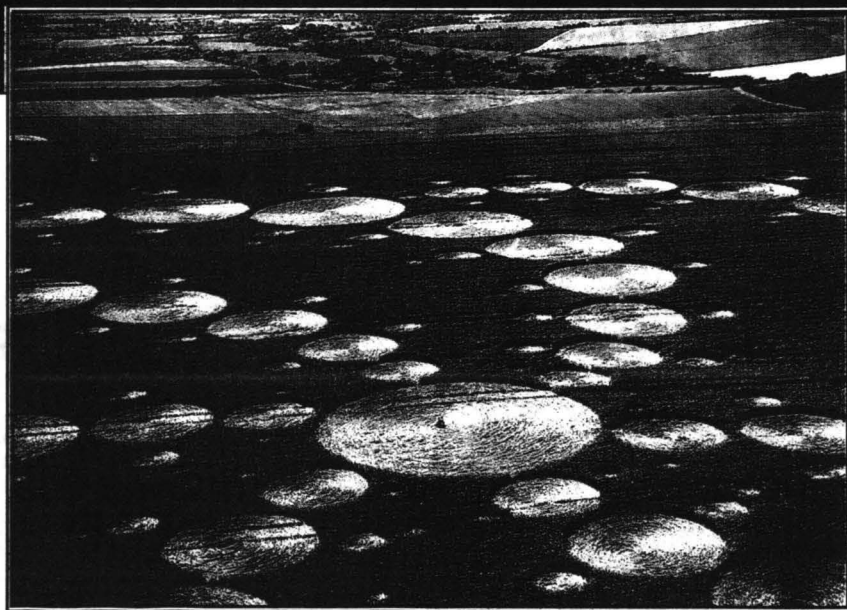
'Even the people who usually debunk the formations think this one is incredible.'

'It is the sheer size and complexity that sets it apart.'

'There have been big formations before but never as many circles. People are really astounded by it.'

It is not the first time circles have cropped up in the field, which is on farmland at Milk Hill, Alton Barnes.

The land has been the home of



A closer view of the circles. The largest are 70ft across and the whole design is 1,500ft wide

the mysterious patterns for more than a decade.

In fact, a number of businesses in Wiltshire depend on the annual 'alien visitations'.

One company, Fast Helicopters, lays on tours to give visitors and film crews an aerial view.

The tours last up to an hour and cost £550 for four people.

Operator Robert Power says the origin of the circles - which appear in early July and last until the farmers cut the fields

in mid-September - is a mystery.

'It certainly wouldn't be in our best interests to say they were man-made,' he said.

In 1991, two Southampton pensioners, Doug Bower and David Chorley, confessed they had been making patterns in fields since the Seventies.

But although they claimed to have hung up their 'stompers' - the wooden planks they said they used to flatten the crops - the circles have continued to

appear. The shapes have grown more complex, ranging from representations of the DNA spiral to intricate mathematical figures.

They appear in fields of everything from oil seed rape to rye.

Some meteorologists believe that all but the simplest circle shapes are hoaxes.

The single circles, of which there are records dating back centuries, could be caused by whirlwinds.

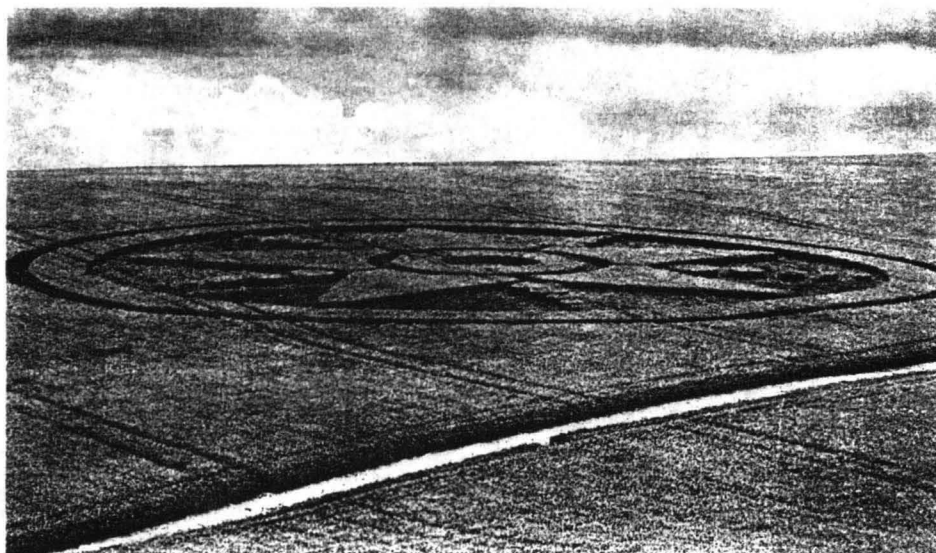
p.kendall@daily mail.co.uk

# Circles of Confusion...



• Crop circles alongside the A272, see page 3 for story. Photo: Paul Jackson, Imagemakers.

## Are we really alone?



OK, so how many have you seen this year? Are we really alone? Two thought provoking questions. What am I talking about? Why, crop circles of course, the definition of which roughly speaking goes like this: the formations, usually found in grain crops where the crop has been found flattened in patterns that did not exist in daylight the day before.

There are many schools of thought about how these occur including the sceptics who maintain they are man made. Despite their claims, the formation of

circles still remains an enigma yet to be explained with any certain degree of acceptance. There are also recorded incidents of formations being found in other media such as sand, ice, soil and snow without any explanation. Sure, I would admit there are probably some made by human hand, like the one at Cheesefoot Head, Winchester a few years back but there are many others without such obvious origins.

Did you know that the earliest recording of a crop circle dates back to 1678 and was found on a woodcut with the title

"Strange News out of Hartford - shire"? This depicts a strange devil-like character cutting out a pattern in a crop with a scythe. The cut also contains text which tells of a greedy farmer who refused to pay a mower a reasonable rate for cutting his oats saying he would rather have the devil do his work. The following morning he awoke to find his crop had been cut in such a amazing manner, with rounded circles so accurate that no human hand could have achieved, and all in darkness.

The more modern recording of such

phenomena started early in the 20th century and has seen a steady increase up to recent times rising to some 190 formations recorded during 1999. I can hear the sceptics now all groaning on about how it's done. You know, a few jars down the local first just to get into the mood, then at closing off we go with our rope, measures and boards. But I'm not so sure. There are too many unanswered questions for me, like why do they seem to appear near or around 'lay lines'. Or, like the two most recent ones at Winchester alongside the A272, near

to some large satellite communication dish? Are they some form of communication, with their intricate geometric patterns? Can they be seen from space? Is there something the spooks in Whitehall are not telling us? The questions are endless, but they do make you think. Are we alone? Personally I think not.

Paul Jackson

## SUN, Calgary, Alberta, Canada Aug. 20, 2001 CR: G. Conway UFO sightings go sky-high

By ETHAN BARON  
Calgary Sun

Look up, way up, and maybe you'll see some neighbours from far away.

Way far away.

UFO sightings are up 25% in the Calgary area, as the number of reported UFOs climbs precipitously across Canada, says a leading researcher.

"This time last year we were running around 50 or so (in Canada)," said Chris Rutkowski, research co-ordinator for Ufology Research of Manitoba.

"We have about 75 right now."

On March 11, around 6:30 p.m., a Calgary woman saw a bright red object, shaped like an inverted teardrop, floating over the northwest of the city, connected by a thin red line to four red, ball-shaped objects below it.

On July 15, a woman driving on Hwy. 2 just south of Red Deer watched a boomerang-shaped object pass through the sky, radiating bright white light.

The witness said red and blue lights marked the contours of the UFO.

### Watching the heavens

Whether the Canada-wide sighting jump can be chalked up to more UFO activity, or just increased interest in possible extraterrestrial life, is unknown, Rutkowski said.

"People are definitely paying more attention to what's in the sky," he said.

UFO aficionados across the country are intrigued by a southern Alberta incident in April, in which Paul Hofer, a Hutterite, saw a fiery funnel burning for an hour over a field, then farmer Ken Masson found a three-metre-wide crater in the same area.

University of Lethbridge geologist Pano Karanis concluded the event, 250 km southeast of Calgary, was probably a meteorite strike.

But Rutkowski is skeptical, mostly because the site has yielded no meteorite remnants.

"It would be very unusual for it to be a meteorite crater," he said.

"We don't often see craters that large without having something recoverable.

"It doesn't feel right."

Rutkowski and others interested in UFOs are still waiting for confirmation that some reported UFOs are actually extraterrestrials' spacecraft.

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## Did you see a UFO?

A MAN from Rickmansworth claims he has seen a UFO and is looking for other people to corroborate his story.

Mr George Cross, 75, of Colne Mead, claims he was in bed on Sunday morning when he was woken by a loud sound at 1.15am.

He said: "It sounded like a very loud engine going. I thought, 'what the Devil was that?' I got up and had a look, and saw a round object 1,000 or 2,000 feet up, with lights all around the rim and a big light in the centre.

"I thought it must have woken up the neighbours but it didn't. I later spoke to four neighbours but they had all taken a tablet that night, so they would not have woken anyway."

He added: "I went to get some binoculars to see it better but when I came back, it had gone. When I woke up the next morning, I wondered if I had dreamed it but the binoculars were out of their case. It is so certain in my mind and I am sure I did not imagine it."

A spokesman for the police confirmed they had received a report of a UFO from Mr Cross, but said there had been no other sightings.

Anyone who saw the UFO can telephone Richard Evans at the newsroom on 01923 216296.



# The dark secret of the Skunk Works

By Nick Cook

AEROSPACE CONSULTANT FOR  
JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY

One of the world's foremost aviation and aerospace scientists once told me about a place - a 'virtual warehouse' - where ideas that were too dangerous to develop into hardware were locked away for ever, like the Ark of the Covenant in the Harrison Ford film *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*.

At the time, I dismissed it as one of the more fanciful chapters from the wilder shores of science fiction. Not any more.

I am now convinced, after ten years of research, that one of these discoveries, locked away for half a century, is the biggest secret since the invention of the atomic bomb. A source of energy so great that it offers the world a limitless supply of power: anti-gravity. So great that, in the wrong hands, it could destroy the world.

Occasionally, the hardware emerges from the layers of security designed to keep these secrets from public scrutiny. Take, for example, the strange craft spotted from the mid-Eighties onwards in a triangle bordered by New Mexico to the south, California to the west and Nevada to the north-east.

Nearby, on the edge of the desert, is

Palmdale, home of the Skunk Works, a legendary aircraft-manufacturing facility. So-called because, in the Forties, foul-smelling chemicals emanated from its secret facilities on the edge of the main Lockheed aircraft plant. Other factory workers, not knowing what was going on there, joked that it was being used to make moonshine, or

## Did they make a plane that flies at 5,300mph?

'skunk juice' as it was referred to in the *L'il Abner* cartoon strip of the day.

Skunk Works employees work on top-secret projects and are highly skilled engineers. They are recruited from the works' parent company, Lockheed, which today builds everything from Stealth fighters to space launchers and satellites. Could a team from its 4,000

employees have had something to do with the 'airquakes' reported by the US Geological Survey as having been caused by an unknown craft as it flew over California?

If anti-gravity was real, where better to look for it than in the Skunk Works, ostensibly hugely profitable and crammed with workers, but with little to show the public for its efforts. What technologies were being pursued there?

The Skunk Works was founded in 1943 in response to an urgent US requirement for a jet fighter to counter the threat of the Messerschmitt 262, a revolutionary twin-jet fighter-bomber being developed by the German Luftwaffe. The result, the XP-80, built in great secrecy, under budget and on time in just 143 days, became an aviation classic.

It set the standard for everything that followed. Ten years later, when the CIA demanded a spyplane to overfly the Soviet Union, the Skunk Works delivered the answer - the graceful Mach 3 A-12 Blackbird. It developed into the fastest operational aircraft in the world until its retirement in 1990.

But what else had been happening at the Skunk Works? Because of its track record in developing top-secret air-

Is the solution to the UFO riddle linked to a power source that could destroy us all? In the second extract from his book, Nick Cook goes to the heart of a mysterious desert factory that may hold the answers

craft projects such as the U-2 spyplane and the F-117A Stealth fighter, it was my belief that this was the logical place to look for anti-gravity development in the United States.

My request for an interview with Jack Gordon, the head of the Skunk Works, was eventually granted. It took place in his office at the heart of his empire - a hangar which dominated the desert for miles. In his 23 years with the company, he said, he had worked on 15 'real flying aircraft' - but significantly, he could only talk about 12 of them.

I asked how many of the remaining three had anything to do with anti-gravity?

Gordon was admitting nothing, but there was informed speculation within the industry that one was Aurora, the 'fast mover' people said they had seen as a pulsating light flying over the south-western United States. Aurora was also linked to a dark, triangular shape that had been spotted over the North Sea by trained observers in 1989.

Since the late Eighties, there had been talk of a secret replacement for the revolutionary Blackbird: a mythical plane that supposedly flew twice as fast and on the edges of space. The prognosis was that it was a massive leap forward in aerospace terms, powered by a new form of engine that gave it a cruising speed of anything up to Mach 8 - that is 5,300 mph.

There were also rumours that the Reagan administration had embarked on a massive programme of aerospace and defence research. If you know how to interpret the Pentagon's annual defence budget, and calculate the difference between unclassified expenditure for the three armed services and the grand total, you can work out what is allocated to the so-called 'black budget'.

In 1988, the sum was worked out to be \$30 billion for research, development and secret weapons programmes - more than Britain's entire defence budget. If Aurora existed - or research into anti-gravity was taking place - this is where the funding came from.

A lot of the expertise on anti-gravity dated from decades earlier, and Nazi Germany in particular. Much of what formed the basis of the Skunk Works' projects came from the German technology and expertise plundered by the Allies at the end of the Second World War. Germany was a treasure trove of desirable technology, covering everything from weaponry and electronics to textiles and medicine.

It was a magnet for the Allies, including the British. Ian Fleming, who was later to write the James Bond novels, set up what was virtually a private army tasked with 'tech-plunder'. But the British were ill-prepared to take advantage of the opportunities which faced them.

Not so the Americans. They simply removed the paperwork for hundreds of thousands of patents and shipped them home. According to the US Office of

## They stole all the Nazis' discoveries

Technical Services - the body set up to ensure that German technology was moved rapidly into American industry - the documents contained a wealth of material which 'very likely contained practically all the scientific, industrial and military secrets of Nazi Germany'.

I became convinced that hidden away among the tens of thousands of tons of paperwork were the revolutionary anti-gravity experiments of Viktor Schauberger, an Austrian inventor enlisted by the Nazis at gunpoint.

He actually produced an anti-gravity machine which flew - and I tracked down his grandson, Jeorg, who has devoted much of his life to researching his grandfather's work.

Viktor Schauberger, said Jeorg, was a forester and engineer who had been working on an energy device. As the war drew to a close, the Nazis chanced upon his secrets and ordered him to devote himself to the German war effort, on pain of death.

What appealed to them was a machine of his that had a dual purpose - it could be both an energy generator and a power plant for an aerospace vehicle of saucer-like appearance.

One of Schauberger's colleagues later said that the first time they tried to run the machine - which had a diameter of 5ft and weighed 300lb - 'the flying saucer rose unexpectedly to the ceiling and then was wrecked. It rose upwards, trailing a blue-green and then silver-coloured glow.'

It was a process Schauberger called 'implosion' - at its simplest, a three-dimensional energy pattern channelled inwards, not outwards - which generated phenomenal force levels. His grandson Jeorg showed me the rusting remains of the machine



and told me more about what had happened in those fateful days when Germany was collapsing.

One of the five machines Schauberger was engineering was dubbed the 'flying saucer'. And it was this which the Americans seized upon when the war ended. They seemed to know what they were looking for - a radical form of aeroengine which

sucked rather than pushed its way through the atmosphere.

Had Schauberger created an 'anti-gravity' device? And had the Americans got wind of it? The conquering Americans held Schauberger under house arrest and debriefed him thoroughly.

Now the Americans, in 1946, had the rudiments of an entirely new propulsion medium: one which 18 months later would have Nathan Twining, a US Air Force general in charge of technology secrets, saying that the US had the knowledge and the ability to construct a piloted aircraft with the operating characteristics of a UFO within the foreseeable future. A craft that seemingly defied the laws of physics.

But what happened to this knowledge? Why, nowadays, do we not travel in aircraft capable of phenomenal speeds and no longer dependent on jet engines? American scientists were predicting a golden age of anti-gravity for the Sixties. A fuelless propulsion source was on the horizon. But it didn't happen. Why?

For the most simple and deadliest of reasons: the fear that anti-gravity could not only be used to revolutionise the world of aerospace, but could also become a destructive force so powerful that it had the potential to destroy the world. Their discoveries struck terror into the hearts of the keepers of the secrets of anti-gravity.

They realised that if you fiddled with the building blocks of nature in a way that they could not fully understand, then you might set off a chain reaction like a nuclear explosion, but hundreds of times more severe. And worse, if America could do it, then so could any rogue state.

It simply wasn't a risk worth taking. No wonder that someone, somewhere, took the view that anti-gravity should be kept a secret for a very long time.

## Why flying saucers are round

The idea of anti-gravity is the holy grail of aviation. It is based on quantum physicists' belief

that gravity is actually created by little-known forces working at a sub-atomic level all around us. The theory is that if these minute forces can be manipulated, anti-gravity could be created to make an object 'lose' its weight.

One idea for how this could be done is 'electrogravitics'. At its most simple level, the theory is based on magnetism: if a metal plate is given a positive electric charge on one side and a negative charge on the other,

goes the theory, it will 'exhibit thrust' towards the positive pole. If it is horizontal, the plate will lose weight because it will rise as the negative underside pushes up towards the positive top side.

But, say believers, it's more than just pushing up and down - charging different parts of the plate will make it move in any direction. Because the power of gravity is so great, using it in this way would mean the object could move at incredible speeds.

If this idea works, there is one shape of aircraft ideal for using the electrogravitics force: a flying saucer. The rounded top and bottom would make the most of the lifting force while the

circular shape would be ideal for moving in any direction at the flick of a switch. Nazi researchers are said to have believed the round shape was ideal for carrying a jet engine to generate the electricity needed to charge the flying saucer.

The danger in creating anti-gravity is that any method used has to tap into the infinite power of sub-atomic particles. This power could be deliberately or accidentally released in an uncontrollable sub-atomic reaction that could create an explosion big enough to destroy half of Europe.

This may only be a theory - but so was the atomic bomb just a few years before one was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

● Extract from *The Hunt For Zero Point: One Man's Journey To Discover The Biggest Secret Since The Invention Of The Atom Bomb*, by Nick Cook, to be published by Century on September 16 at £17.99. To order a copy for £16.99 (free p&p), telephone 01206 255800.

# The truth is out there but governments are hiding it

COURIER, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 2, 2001 CR: G. Conway

By Chris Miller  
Staff writer

ON MARCH 16, 1967, strange lights appeared out of nowhere and hovered in the night sky above two different U.S. Minuteman missile platforms at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Moments later, the missiles and the silos experienced a power failure that remains unexplained to this day.

Capt. Robert Salas of the United States Air Force, who witnessed the event, says the air force made him sign a non-disclosure agreement preventing him from speaking about the UFOs with anybody, even his family. But on May 9, he and about 20 others broke their silence at a press conference in Washington, D.C. hosted by a non-profit group called the Disclosure Project. The group is attempting to get governments to reveal all the information it has collected about extraterrestrial technology.

Vancouver-based futurist and author Alfred Webre not only believes Capt. Salas' story, he believes the extraterrestrials in question were showing concern for the fate of mankind and the earthly environment. The same concern is bringing Webre, Disclosure Project director Steven Greer and anti-space weapons crusader Carol Rosin to the Vancouver Outer Space Forum for Extraterrestrial Disclosure and Ban on Space-based Weapons at Simon Fraser University Sept. 9.

Dressed in black shorts and a plain black T-shirt, wearing round, shaded glasses and a ponytail, the 59-year-old Webre reclines on a couch in his sparsely furnished West Side home, a book called *Disclosure*, citing cases of extraterrestrial contact, on the coffee table in front of him.

Born to a Cuban mother and a French-American father who worked in the sugar industry, Webre lived in Cuba



Futurist Alfred Webre has written five books.

photo Randall Cosco

until he was 18. At that time, a couple of years after Fidel Castro seized power, the Cuban government was pressuring Americans to leave, so Webre's family packed its bags and went to the U.S., where Webre enrolled at Yale University. After completing

a law degree, Webre practised law until UFOs attracted his attention.

"It came very specifically at the end of 1972 and the beginning of 1973," he said. "A friend introduced me to the literature on extraterrestrial interaction. Up to that point, I had no knowledge of it."

After reading about the topic, travelling to conferences and speaking with researchers, Webre became a futurist, studying legal policies and questions of extraterrestrial protocol no one had looked at before, such as who should represent Earth in relations with extraterrestrial civilizations.

Webre found work at the Stanford Research Institute—a hotbed for UFO research at the time—where he developed the "context" theory of extraterrestrial contact, arguing UFO visits

are messages for mankind that we have to interpret based on the circumstances of each one.

When Jimmy Carter was elected president, promising his administration would be open with the public about UFO contacts, Webre saw the opportunity to approach the White House about collating and interpreting data from UFO witnesses. (Carter believed he had seen a UFO with fellow Lions Club members in Georgia in 1969.) The administration approved the study in 1977, giving it funding, office space in a White House building and promises of in-kind support from agencies such as NASA. Six months later, the government shut the study down, a move Webre blames on "military intelligence."

"I was told, quote, 'There are no UFOs,' end quote," Webre said. "That was why I

was being terminated."

Since then, he's kept up his work, writing, keeping in touch with UFOlogists over the Internet, and helping start the web-based Institute for Cooperation in Space (of which fellow speaker Rosin is the president).

Webre sees the recent U.S. decision to research space-based weapons—a decision that led Canada's Foreign Minister, John Manley, to call for an international convention banning the "weaponization of space"—as the prelude to an outer space power grab that will upset the balance of power on Earth. He also believes the government knows about the power that runs UFOs, known as zero point or "free" energy, but that the plutocracy controlling the petroleum and nuclear industries are conspiring with governments to keep it quiet. He's planning on filing a parliamentary brief in Ottawa asking for a space weapons ban and for the government to reveal what it knows about free energy, which he said could end global warming and alleviate world poverty.

"If all of a sudden energy's free, you can play a whole different game," said Webre, who moved to Vancouver a few years ago. "You have an economy and a society of a whole different order."

Webre isn't defensive about his beliefs, arguing people who dismiss them as outlandish are in a minority. A recent Gallup poll showed about half of American adults believe extraterrestrials are visiting Earth, he said.

"That's 100 million people. That's more than voted in the 2000 election in the U.S."

Webre has written five books, the most recent of which, *Exopolitics*, deals with the question of how to govern space. His first book, *The Age of Cataclysm*, led to a television interview with Peter Gzowski here in the mid-1970s.

"At the end of that, even the camera-people applauded," Webre said. "So you know we had a rockin' time. It was great. It just confirmed that Vancouver was my home."

Webre said the idea for the upcoming conference came from the Disclosure Project's May 9 press conference at which 20 military, scientific and corporate witnesses called for open discussions about contact with extraterrestrial civilizations.

The forum will discuss issues such as: Canada's world initiative to ban weapons from space; free energy technologies; and political relations with off-planet civilizations. It runs from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Images Theatre on Simon Fraser University's main campus in Burnaby. Organizers request a \$10 donation to cover costs.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Sept. 11, 2001 CR: G. Conway

## Crop circles appear in B.C. field for second time in three years

By Ian Bailey

VANCOUVER • Residents of a small northern British Columbia community are thinking close encounters and magnetic forces as they try to explain a series of crop circles left in a barley field.

It's the second time in three years that mysterious circles have been found in a field in Vanderhoof, a farming and forestry community about 900 kilometres northwest of Vancouver in the geographical centre of B.C.

In 1998, 10 mysterious circles were found in farmer Philip

Long's field of ripe oats near the airport runway, some up to 30 metres in diameter.

The latest circles — six that are about seven metres in diameter, were found in Mr. Long's barley field, also near the airport.

Len Fox, Mayor of the community of about 4,000 people, says the new circles are the talk of the district.

"There are all kinds of explanations," Mr. Fox said yesterday. "You name it. Everyone has their own theory."

The new circles were first detected last Thursday by Brent Miskiski, owner of a local six-

plane airline, Central Air.

"By fluke, I looked down and noticed the formation: six circles perfectly formed in a field," Mr. Miskiski said yesterday.

The next day, he took his camera up in his single-engine aircraft and took a series of photos of the circles.

"When you look at them, they're not stamped into the field. It's like they're combed into the field."

The circles look as if someone pressed a giant glass or coaster into the crops, crushing them flat, observers say.

Mr. Miskiski also discovered the 1998 series of the mysterious circles, a phenomena that has been linked to everything from aliens to unknown natural energies to "Mother Earth" to nature spirits to psychic manipulation.

National Post

EVENING STAR, Ipswich, England - Sept. 8, 2001

## Calls grow for inquiry into Rendlesham UFO sightings

PRESSURE is growing on the Ministry of Defence to hold a fresh inquiry into the UFO sightings in East Anglia more than 20 years ago.

It follows the opening of secret files relating to the sightings by American servicemen of objects near the east gate of Woodbridge airfield in 1980.

The documents tell how the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force dealt with the accounts of the sightings after they were made.

Until now public requests for information concerning the Government's role in the subject have been met with a response the incident was not considered to be of defence significance.

Author Georgina Bruni, who wrote a book entitled *You Can't Tell the People* on the subject, said the documents revealed defence intelligence staff had

got involved in an investigation. She added the most important documents were the internal exchanges of correspondence between MoD departments.

Nick Pope, who headed the MoD's UFO department in the early 90s, told Ms Bruni: "I'm pleased, though surprised, that the MoD has released these papers, particularly as they include ones from specialist intelligence staffs."

"The papers concerning the radioactivity at the landing site are hugely significant and show how the MoD's experts acknowledged that this UFO incident was corroborated by hard scientific evidence."

"You've now got the proof that this incident raised serious defence and national security issues. These revelations are sensational and I'm sure there will be pressure for an inquiry into both the incident itself

and the subsequent actions of both the MoD and the United States Air Force. There are certainly some important — and as yet unanswered — questions about this whole affair."

A memo from Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander at Woodbridge and Bentwaters, referred to radiation readings discovered after a triangular object landed in Rendlesham Forest. The object was hovering or was on legs and it vanished when patrolmen approached it, but later reappeared.

Defence staff were keen to discover if the radioactivity readings in three depressions made by the object were unusual. Staff later considered the readings were significantly higher than average background readings and an internal report said staff "cannot offer any explanation for the phenomena".

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Sept. 8, 2001 CR: G. Conway

## Crop circles return three years later

by GORDON HOEKSTRA  
Citizen staff

They're baaaack!

Crop circles have been discovered again in Vanderhoof, almost three years to the day they were first found in a ripe oat field just off the airport runway.

This time the circles — an unexplained worldwide phenomena variously said to be the work of tricksters, magnetic waves and aliens — were discovered in a field about five kilometres from the Vanderhoof airport, or about 100 kilometres west of Prince George.

Brent Miskiski, an owner and pilot of Central Air, spotted the six latest circles Thursday evening on a flight between Prince George and Vanderhoof. Miskiski was one of those who discovered the first crop-circle formation three years ago.

No paths or tracks were visible to the circles, said Miskiski, who made several low passes and took pictures from the air on Friday.

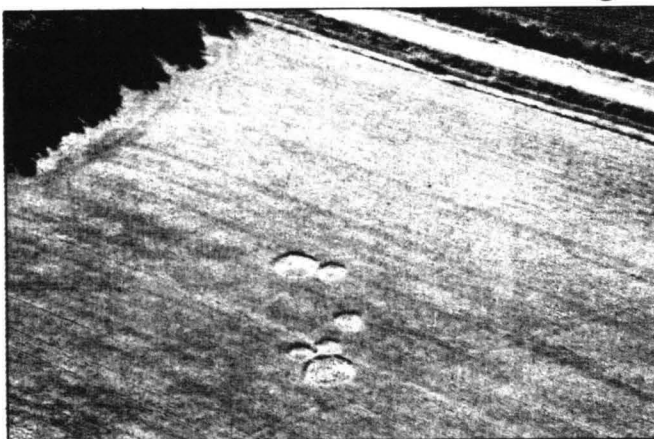


Photo submitted by Brent Miskiski

Six distinct circles can be seen in this photo near the Vanderhoof airport.

"It just appeared. It's like they were stamped out just like last time," he said. "It's pretty bizarre."

Miskiski has already been in contact with a crop-circle researcher, Chad Deeten, who came to Vanderhoof in 1998 to take samples and investigate the formation. The researcher said tests performed on the oat samples in a U.S. lab later confirmed the crop circles were genuine: that is to say there were cellular changes in the oats not found in known hoaxes.

Crop circles have created quite a bit of controversy. There is mention of crop-circle formations back to the 17th century, and thousands have been recorded in modern times, with the majority found in southern England.

Some have been found to be hoaxes, where the grass is broken, trampled, bruised or crushed. In the unexplained formations, the stems are bent but not broken.



# MIDALE A CROP CIRCLE HOTBED

By David Willberg

It wouldn't be a stretch to call Midale the crop circle capital of Canada.

Of the first 15 crop circles reported in Canada this summer, seven have been in Midale. There was a lull for circles last year after several reports in 1999. The formations have been concentrated in the fields of Dayle Martinson and Robert Johner, two of the three farmers who were hit by formations in 1999.

Estevan Airport Manager John Erickson is the Estevan contact for the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network. Erickson doesn't know why there's been a rebirth in the number of circles in Southeast Saskatchewan, but has noticed one trend.



John Erickson

"They've become more intricate in patterns," said Erickson. "Where it used to be just a circle packed down around circles, now there's more to it. It's more intricate, and the people from the Crop Circle Research Centre in Massachusetts said that would happen."

Several circles first appeared two weeks ago in the Martinson and Johner fields, and four more were discovered within a week. Erickson found one early September 4th and called Randy Johner to report it just before Randy could call Erickson to report a different formation.

The first new formation in the Johner field is a circle with broken rings around it and a small circle next to it. The other is a half-circle pressed down with another circle inside the part of the grain that's still standing. There was a band inside the standing part about two feet wide that made the second formation resemble a mushroom.

"The ones two years ago were much more impressive (than the first ones this year), it was the first we'd ever seen, the first we'd ever had," said Johner's son



Randy. "It was hard to believe somebody could have done it, because the crop was really pressed flat, and when you press a crop down, sometimes it wants to come back up."

"But this crop was pressed flat, it didn't want to come back up, but in order to press it that flat, I thought you'd have to press it hard enough that you'd damage the heads, but there was no damage to the heads," continued Randy. "It's quite impressive. This time there's more damage to the heads, so it leads

you to believe it could have been pressed down."

The new formation in the Martinson field is a cloverleaf with three rings, and where the rings intersect it forms a perfect equilateral triangle. Beside it is a small circle, and inside the circle are three tufts of grain standing in it about two feet in diameter.

Representatives from the research centre gave a presentation in Estevan in 1999, but Erickson doesn't anticipate them returning due to a lack of funding.

The Johner's combined around the formation a couple of days later, eliminating the chance of further circles appearing in that field. Randy said there isn't a lot of money lost when the formations appear.

"We're not concerned with the loss of the crop, but bean farmers in England are quite upset with the crop circles because there's so many of them, and they're so big it damages the crop," said Randy. "And they get them every year, so they're quite frustrated by them."

Erickson believes these formations are legitimate and not directly man-made for a number of reasons.

"There were no tracks entering them," said Erickson. "The fields this year are thick enough that if you walk in them, you can see it from the air. There were no tracks, and

they're a little further into the field than past ones."

Erickson didn't notice any signs of disturbances to the ground, such as damage to the soil under the crop that's down or stems of the plant being broken off.

"It indicates to me that it would be pretty difficult for somebody to make one without causing some kind of damage or leaving some evidence," said Erickson. "If someone was doing it, it wouldn't take long before they're bragging about it. It's human nature."

He also questions if somebody has the money to afford the equipment that's required to do it that quickly or precisely.

Some tests on the circles were executed in 1999 to see if it's safe for people to enter the circles. They found batteries died in both their cameras and their Geiger Counter, a device used to measure radioactivity. They determined the seeds inside the circles were at five per cent germination, while outside the circle they were at 95 per cent, a more regular finding. They also determined there's a slight splashover affect on the grain up to about 20 feet from the circle.

Erickson said he's flown a number of people over the circles, including local media, representatives from the press in Regina and Yorkton, and

Paul Anderson and Deborah Warren from the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network in Vancouver.

"I think for some people they aren't amazed, because they think it's a hoax or they don't want to know," said Erickson. "But the amazing part is what's coming next: what circle, what formation and where will it be."

"There's no doubt in my mind that there isn't somebody out there after dark and knocking these crops down with pieces of plywood. I think that's been proven," continued Erickson.

While the grain is sterile and useless for the year, the ground recovers and can be reseeded the next year.

"As patterns become more intricate, a lot of people have gone to examine them, they're understanding it's something different and unique," said Erickson. "I think we're very privileged to have it happening in the Midale area."

Bob Leslie is another Estevan resident who's a crop circle aficionado. Leslie claims an interest in astronomy, the universe, the UFO phenomenon and the unknown, and believes the force that causes these could be coming from millions of light years away, and doesn't believe it's a plasma vortex from the atmosphere that many do.

"It seems to me that it wouldn't be so different all the time because they change every time," said Leslie. "Every circle is different, every one is unique, they keep changing, and they're getting more complex and interesting. It's getting now where it's unbelievable unless you see it, you just can't explain them."

"I think it's planned, when these things happen on the Johner and Martinson farm two out of three years, I don't think something out of nature will strike that farm all the time," continued Leslie. "If it was in the atmosphere, it could strike a city or any-



The two newest formations in Dayle Martinson's farm near Midale. Both formations were discovered early last week after another circle had been reported August 27.

# Was it a UFO — or perhaps a boomerang!

WHAT exactly DID Jonathan Sayers see in the skies over Milton Keynes — a UFO or merely the biggest boomerang that didn't come back?

He was walking near his parents' home in Walnut Tree when he spotted the craft at about 20,000ft.

Bigger than a Boeing 747 but shaped like a boomerang the mystery plane seemed to change shape as it flew at high speed south on Friday, July 27.

"I saw what looked like bright fire coming from at least three points on it. It was gaining altitude but was also constantly changing shape from a boomerang to an elongated blob and back to a boomerang," he said.

Jonathan pointed out the plane to a man watering his garden and through binoculars they both saw it supposing it to be dark green in colour.

He also agreed that it seemed to be

■ By Steve Lerner

changing shape." Said Jonathan, who now lives in Reading.

He said the craft reached a height of about 40,000 feet before disappearing from view.

"This was not any conventional aircraft," he said.

The boomerang shape points to the American B2 stealth bomber which appeared at an airshow in the UK that weekend — but it only carried out non-stop round trips from the US on the Saturday and Sunday.

"I have seen the B2 and the F117 Stealth fighter and the flight characteristics and silence of this object were quite different," said Jonathan.

● If you saw the mystery plane contact the Citizen newsdesk on MK 372279 or via e-mail editorial@mkcitizen.co.uk

where, not just in the first part of September. It has to happen (at this time), because the crop is ready...and it has to be a wheat field, or it won't show up."

Like Erickson, Leslie has a hard time believing any machine on Earth could cause the circles. He thinks if people were to try it, they would discover just how difficult it would be to make circles that look like those appearing near Midale.

"Somebody could make a

homemade one, but it would look homemade," said Leslie. "It would look amateurish. A machine didn't do it, it's not homemade, because they look professional."

He hopes they may find an answer to this one day, but until then, he's going to enjoy his favourite part of the formations: the circles themselves.

"People go

out and walk through the circles and try to figure out how they made them last night, but they miss the whole idea of the circle because nobody tried to make it last night," said Leslie. "They spent all their energy trying to see marks, all their time on their hands and knees looking to see if somebody walked in, how they got in, looking at lines in the field. But they missed the whole circle, they never did see how complicated it was because they're so busy being skeptical about it they don't see the enormous technology that went into making this thing."



Bob Leslie

# SECRET REPORT ON UFO OPENED

A top-level investigation was ordered by British and US military experts into East Anglia's most famous UFO sighting, documents released by the Government reveal.

Contrary to the official line that the sighting in Rendlesham Forest 21 years ago was "not taken seriously", the United States Air Force and the Ministry of Defence both began full inquiries into the incident.

But some taped evidence gathered by the Americans was passed direct to senior personnel and not shared with British officials, the newly-released documents show.

Problems were also recorded on equipment at RAF Watton in Norfolk, more than 40 miles away from the alleged incident.

The MoD this week bowed to sustained pressure and finally opened the official file on the sighting - prompted by claims from American servicemen that they saw a UFO near Woodbridge air base in 1980.

The file has been made public nine years earlier than planned

## MoD files reveal US military inquiry into East Anglia sighting

and was unveiled after the Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton asked 16 questions in the House of Lords since January.

Lord Hill-Norton demanded answers to issues raised by author Georgina Bruni in her book *You Can't Tell The People*, billed as the definitive account of the unidentified flying object mystery.

Lord Hill-Norton has been campaigning for several years to persuade the Ministry of Defence to give more details on the object, allegedly seen by Americans near the east gate of Woodbridge air base just after Christmas 1980.

Colonel Charles Halt was deputy commander at Bentwaters air base and his memo detailed the sighting of "unusual lights".

Two patrolmen who investigated saw a metallic triangular object hovering or on legs with a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath.

It then reportedly disappeared through the forest and animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy.

The next day, three depressions 1.5in deep and 7in in diameter were found where the object had allegedly been sighted on the ground.

Since the sighting, there has

been worldwide interest in the incident, and scores of attempts to explain what the servicemen claimed to have seen.

Skeptics claim the main object was probably a brilliant meteor, the radiation readings were caused by natural sources and that the other lights were stars.

In 1997, Lord Hill-Norton wrote to the then defence minister Lord Gilbert saying: "My position, both privately and publicly expressed over the last dozen years or more, is that there are only two possibilities.

"Either an intrusion into our air space and a landing by unidentified craft took place at Rendlesham, as described.

"Or the deputy commander of an operational, nuclear-armed US Air Force base in England and a large number of his enlisted men were either hallucinating or lying."

After the government file was opened, Ms Bruni said: "The official view has always been that the US Air Force and MoD did not take the UFOs seriously and that

## Report of UFO sightings

MORE UFO sightings in the skies over Scarborough have been reported.

The Evening News reported that a Newby man said he had seen a triangular light moving across the sky on Tuesday night.

In response Stephen Ward, of Wykeham Street, says he had a similar experience on the previous Tuesday.

He said: "It was about 10.45pm the Tuesday before. I got my binoculars out and looked through them and the light was 10 times stronger than any aircraft I've ever seen."

Mr Ward, 64, said it was not the first time he had spotted UFOs.

In November he saw similar lights, approaching the coast from the east, three nights in a row. He said: "One time I got my binoculars out and saw what I thought was an aircraft approaching. The UFO then moved off at a great speed on exactly the same route it had come in on."

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - July 9, 2001

they were of no defence significance."

"For 21 years the Ministry of Defence has claimed that the only report in their file was Colonel Halt's memorandum, that the incident was of no defence significance and that no UFOs were tracked on radar."

But Ms Bruni has read the official file and she said it revealed:

■ Vital evidence which proves that

those at higher levels in the air force and Government did take the Rendlesham Forest incident seriously enough to begin an investigation.

■ Taped evidence was handed to General Gabriel, chief of the United States Air Force in Europe and was not shared with Britain's MoD.

■ Several departments in the MoD were involved in an investigation,

including defence intelligence staff.

■ That problems arose with equipment at RAF Watton during the incident.

■ Defence intelligence staff considered radiation readings to be significantly higher than normal.

■ The United States Air Force did carry out its own investigation.

■ The MoD considered sanitising Col Halt's memorandum prior to its release due to concern

over intelligence and national security.

David Clarke, a researcher at Sheffield University who is writing a book on UFOs, has asked for five more files to be released.

They are being withheld on the grounds that they contain confidential briefings to ministers, relate to national security, or affect Britain's relations with the United States.

EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - Aug. 24, 2001

# Did aliens steal Becks' thunder?

By Dave Green

dgreen@newsquest.co.uk

like it before in my life.

"It was zig-zagging around the sky in a really erratic way, with green, yellow and red surrounding it."

"I'm a keen amateur astronomer and I've seen satellites and that sort of thing before now."

"But that was no satellite."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "We have seen no evidence for extra terrestrial beings in Bolton or any other part of the country."

"We don't really have an interest in UFOs - we are more interested in matters of national security."

Manchester Airport air traffic controllers confirmed there were no aircraft in the area at the time.

SKY WATCHER: Lee Nuttall, left, filmed a light in the sky

DID visitors from another planet steal the thunder from David Beckham's spectacular free-kick against Blackburn.

Drinkers in a packed pub were more interested in a strange light in the sky than the game on Wednesday night.

Shocked customers at the Daisy Hill Hotel spurned the football on TV and went outside to watch a strange Unidentified Flying Object above them. Landlord Lee Nuttall recorded the close encounter on a camcorder and is now searching for a UFO expert to analyse the tape to see if it really was an alien.

Mr Nuttall said: "I couldn't believe it when I saw it."

"The pub was packed for the football match but it soon emptied and everyone went outside to watch the UFO."

"I've never seen anything





# All eyes to the skies for UFOs

EXPECTANT eyes will be on the skies later this month as local ufologists spend a night scanning the heavens for alien visitors.

Wellington-based Utopia Investigations, a group of like-minded people with a taste for the unexplained and extraterrestrial, is holding a skywatch on the Quantock Hills as part of an international night of stargazing in the hope of catching a glimpse of flying saucers or any other UFOs.

The group meets monthly at Wellington Community Centre to discuss unexplained phenomena such as the Beast of the Blackdowns, hauntings and flying saucers. Armed with digital cameras, video recorders and nightscopes, its members will be joining thousands of people across the world looking skywards as part of International UFO Research Day on Sunday June 24.

## Intergalactic

Despite a lack of intergalactic tourists in recent months, Dave Thomas, a website designer who launched Utopia Investigations in December 1999, hopes things will be different when the group takes up its position near the Devil's Ditch beauty spot.

"The past year has been very quiet," said Mr Thomas of Jurston Lane, Wellington. "Before that we had a spate of sightings around the Wellington area and over the Blackdowns. But going by the trends in the north of the country it's picking up again."

Even if the event fails to throw up any little green men, it is the perfect opportunity for anyone curious about the world of the unexplained to meet the group.

"It's a great spot up there - you can see right across the Bristol Channel, so even if there are no sightings there are some good views," said Mr Thomas.

The skywatch is scheduled to take place between 10pm on Saturday June 23 and 2am the following morning. To contact Utopia Investigations call Mr Thomas on 07005 906095.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY, London, England - Aug. 26, 2001

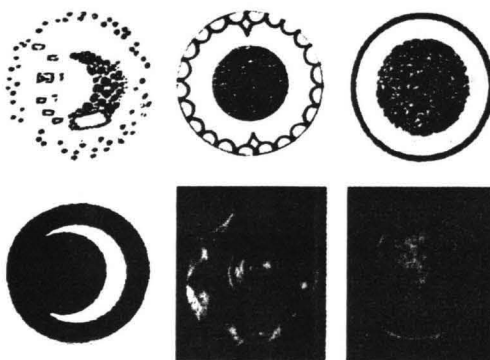
# Crop circles - something else the Chinese had first

BY CALUM MACLEOD  
in Urumqi, Xinjiang

Is it a teardrop, a beard, the sun or the moon? And why do alien visitors to Earth leave these mysterious signs in our fields? Some answers may lie in the wilds of north-west China. There is no Chinese equivalent for "croppies" yet, but the global army of crop-circle enthusiasts just gained a key convert the their cause, virgin lands ripe for speculation, and a great leap backwards into antiquity.

Close to the Mongolian border, a Chinese explorer has discovered a series of stone circles and other shapes he claims are the 2,500-year-old prototypes of crop patterns found in recent years everywhere from Wiltshire to Western Australia. More than 70 countries worldwide, embracing each continent, have reported ever more bizarre examples appearing in corn and wheat fields, or grass, flowerbeds and even snow.

China was among the last major nations to resist a phenomenon so intriguing it has spawned its own science - cereology - and survived the pranks of confessed circle-makers. In the past year, Chinese man of mystery Zhang Hui, research fellow at the Xinjiang Museum in Urumqi, has harvested more than 20



Parallel lines: sketches of China's ancient stone circles (top line, left) show remarkable similarities to modern crop circles in the west (bottom line). The 200ft 'Koch fractal' pattern, right, appeared in the wheat on Milk Hill, Wiltshire, in 1997

TOM PILSTON

patterns that appear to match examples found in other countries, but may pre-date them by up to 3,000 years. While croppies in the West debate which circles are genuine mysteries and which the "agrarian graffiti" of hoaxers, the Chinese finds are clearly man-made.

"The primitive peoples who lived there were inspired by the crop circles they saw," said Zhang, whose quest for the truth has taken him to the farthest reaches of China's Xinjiang Uyghur

Autonomous Region, an expanse of Central Asian desert, mountain and grassland seven times larger than the UK. "They thought the circles were a way of communicating with the gods, and so placed rocks in the shape of the circles."

Zhang found several circles in the grasslands of Qinghe county beside the Sino-Mongolian border, ranging from simple circles to more elaborate teardrop and other shapes. Bemused by their geometrical sophistication, he went to Beijing to consult Chinese translations of reference works by British croppies. "I was amazed by the similarities," he said. "Both sets show characteristics of modern, industrial civilisations, as you would need modern instruments to make such perfect circles, yet these could be the oldest records of crop circles world-wide. They show that the phenomenon is much older than people thought."

Zhang published his findings in the latest edition of a Chinese magazine, *Western*, which is devoted not to gunslingers but the vast and under-populated provinces of west China. The region is home to many non-Chinese ethnic minorities, including most of China's Muslims. Several of Zhang's stone patterns surround vast piles of stones gathered to commemorate not ancient Chinese but warrior nomads known as the Scythians, an Indo-Iranian people with Caucasian features.

The Scythian connection will fuel fevered cropie speculation, since their conquests were so extensive that Western historians have identified cultural interaction with the ancient Celts, whose religious sites have been among the leading locations for crop circles. Zhang suggests links to places such as Stonehenge, for luminaries such as John Haddington of the UK's Centre of Crop Circle Studies have noted that circles often appear close to the sacred sites of Celts, Australian Aborigines and Native Americans. Based in a region at the heart of the old Silk Road, Zhang is keen to explore these tenuous links between East and West.

The first publicly recorded crop circle, in 1678 in Stirlingshire, Scotland, came to be known as the "Devil's Circle". Zhang noted a similar reaction to a pattern in Qinghe, encircling a stone pile and tombstone with a deer engraving. "The nomads call it the 'magic circle', and believe whoever dares to touch the tombstone will offend the gods and be punished." He himself would have been punished if he had pursued such research two decades ago. For years, Chairman Mao waged war on "superstitious" beliefs he saw holding back his attempts to modernise China. "During the Cultural Revolution, a group of Red Guards in north-east China saw a crop circle appear in a field in a very short time," Zhang recalled from a rare eyewitness account of a formation actually in progress, published much later. "They were stunned, but at the time, nobody was allowed to believe in such 'superstition'."

In these more liberal times, 30-year-old Zhang has spent six years specialising in China's "mysterious culture". Other fans of the unexplained run China's booming UFO Society, with regional meetings and a newsletter of regular sightings. So does Zhang agree with some Western croppies that extra-terrestrial powers are creating these fields of dreams, and not bored border guards, wind vortexes, electromagnetic fields, or even hedgehogs as one theory goes?

"It's too early too say for sure," was his sensible reply, "but there is a definite connection with the cosmos. It could be a supernatural force, or even an alien civilisation." The truth is still out there.

## Crop Circles most interesting

It's been over a decade since they were first discovered in fields in England.

Since that time, the phenomenon of the crop circles has made it's way to North America. While many people scoff at them and call them a hoax, that can't explain many of the formations that we find.

Let me say one thing first: I'm not one of these "saucer people" who believes the circles are caused by UFOs. Personally, I don't believe in UFOs or extraterrestrial beings.

So far those of you who were about to label me a crackpot (not that all people who believe in UFOs are crackpots), and turn to page four, you can continue reading this editorial. A lot of radical, outlandish ideas will continue to spew from my mouth in the future, but defending the existence of

aliens won't be one of them.

On August 31, I had the chance to view a crop circle from up close. Having only seen them on TV, I wasn't sure what to expect.

What I saw was incredible. The formation was perfect, too clean and precise to have been caused by humans. There were also no tracks entering the field at Dayle Martinson's, adding to the circle's credibility.

There was a large circle with two rings around it that measured approximately 70 feet in diameter. The crop had been pressed down by something, because it was lying flat, but the grain wasn't broken off. They were clearly not made by

somebody trampling in the field.

As impressive as it was up close, it was even better 1,000 feet in the air as I flew over it later that day.

Many circles are hoaxes, caused by copycats who are imitating what they've seen. I don't understand why people would do this for a hoax. You go into the field several miles from the main road where nobody will see it, spend all this time doing it, ruin part of a farmer's crop, and then run off. Not only that, but many farmers don't report them and work around them.

Like so many other things in our lives, there has to be more than just what our eyes

see. So many people want to take the easy way out and say they're all a hoax, they're just caused by a bunch of teenagers looking for a good time. But people aren't perfect, and it would be almost impossible for humans to create something that precise in those fields.

The technology it would take to create these things would be top-end. While we live in an amazing age for technology, is the equipment out there to create something like this. And how much would it cost?

Maybe one day a solution will be found to this situation. Until then, we'll get flooded with theories on how these develop. This could be one of those things that we were never meant to solve, but it's caused by something, not someone, and I think we should appreciate this mystery for just how truly great it is.

## Editorial

By David Willberg



MERCURY, Matlock, Derbyshire, England - Aug. 23, 2001

# The lights are on but nobody's there!

## Strange sightings over Causeway Lane

THE FLOODLIGHTS may not be in full working order but if there had been a game the players would have had no difficulty seeing the ball.



For last Friday night a

By Gareth Davis

spectacular array of lights and colours shone brightly above Causeway Lane and were seen from all around - but cannot be identified.

The sightings follow a long list of strange lights and objects over the Dales skies and were reported by a female resident of St Giles Walk.

The pensioner, who asked not to be named, says the lights were there from about 8.30pm - but had gone within 90 minutes.



"I looked out of my window at about half-past eight and there they were," she added, "and when I looked again half an hour or so later they were still there but I had another look about ten o'clock and they had gone."

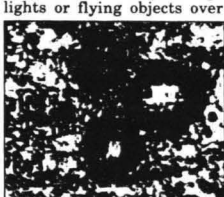
"I haven't a clue what they were, and there are times when I think to myself 'you're going funny' but they were definitely there."

"It was a beautiful sight to look at and they were not making a sound at all." The lights were projected like lasers into the sky, although no events of that kind took place at that time.

"At first they looked like the Blue Peter ship emblem, but they moved a little and were more like a horseshoe," the pensioner said.

"It is driving me mad because I am the only one who saw them and some of the other residents must think I'm going crackers."

Have you seen any strange lights or flying objects over



the Dales or Peak skies? If so, telephone our newsdesk on (01629) 582432.

● Extra Terrestrial: Some of the Dales sightings have been similar to those found at [www.yorkshireufo.home-stead.com](http://www.yorkshireufo.home-stead.com)

HIGH FLIERS...  
computer gener-  
ated images of  
some of the sight-  
ings



OUT OF THIS  
WORLD... TV  
documentary  
researcher  
Trevor Howes  
and director  
Owen Gaffney

# They're out there... especially over the Midlands

**THE East Midlands is Britain's UFO hot spot - and that's official.**

The Sunday Mercury has discovered the Ministry of Defence has finally confirmed the region as the centre of all things unexplained.

A Nottingham-based TV documentary team carried out a six-month investigation into UFO sightings throughout the country.

And it claims to have recorded many fascinating facts for a special programme to be screened in October.

The report will include:

- Interviews with credible eyewitnesses
- Footage of UFO sightings at Shirebrook and Lea in Derbyshire
- An interview with Nick Pope, a former UFO desk officer at the MOD
- Detailed drawings and a model of the craft from a sighting

Four Sheets Films - run by director Owen Gaffney, producer John Arnold and researcher Trevor Howes - claim the results are "beyond belief".

The unique documentary, called The Matlock Triangle, will form part of Carlton Television's First Cuts Scheme which provides opportunities for new directors.

## EXCLUSIVE BY DON HALE

It will be screened privately at the Odeon Cinema in Nottingham in September and broadcast throughout the Midlands region the following month.

The company has investigated a large cluster of alleged UFO sightings over a wide East Midlands area including Leicester, Mansfield, Chesterfield, Nottingham, Derby and in particular the Derbyshire Dales - with a reported epicentre believed to be within a 10-mile radius of Matlock.

Owen said: "I have been absolutely staggered at the findings. Many people obviously saw many different things."

"Some saw very bright white lights, others saw varied shapes ranging from triangular objects of pulsating lights, to a cigar-shaped craft, a dome-shape like a bowler hat and a large glowing millstone."

The triangular shape has been seen in the East Midlands for 10 years and consists of three triangular shaped lights with a dark

centre. It just seems to materialize.

"It looks like liquid mercury or something out of a special effects film."

Owen said he was both pleased and surprised by the interview at the MOD.

He said: "I didn't think Nick Pope would give an interview. He was the desk officer in charge of investigations at Whitehall for three years."

### Claimed

"But he was convinced extra terrestrials are entering British air space. He said there was no other explanation."

"Nick also claimed there may have been some abductions by aliens and says he interviewed several people who made plausible claims."

Trevor Howes, who appears on camera for the interviews added: "Nick said he had personally investigated many reports."

"He was adamant many UFO's had been seen in the Midlands and claimed the facts could not be explained. He said the East Midlands and the Derbyshire Dales region in particular was Britain's top UFO hot-spot."

New footage of a craft over a slagheap at Shirebrook in Derbyshire is said to be

excellent, and the team praised the efforts of a woman at Lea, who filmed a UFO over her house for nearly an hour.

Another woman from Bonsall, near Matlock, has since sold her six-minute camcorder tape to an American film company for a substantial fee.

Owen also mentioned an expert eye witness, Colin Saunders, an experienced aero draughtsman, from Hinckley, near Leicester.

He claimed to have made a positive sighting with his family at Pailton in Warwickshire in March 1999 when they were returning home.

He scribbled down the details then later made a detailed drawing and model of his experience.

Colin told the Sunday Mercury: "I saw what I first thought was a large diamond shape that was almost the same colour as the sky. But to my utter surprise and complete wonder this thing tilted its nose up in the air to reveal that it was a huge triangular-shaped craft."

"I built a scale model complete with flashing neon lights and sent a copy to UFO magazine."

MERCURY, Matlock, Derbyshire, England - July 19, 2001

# Second UFO is caught on tape

## Two witnesses report strange objects in Dales sky

**THE sky above Lea was packed with unexplained activity on Saturday night after two separate sightings of mysterious flying objects.**

Joanna Tomlinson (17) was in a car travelling home to Matlock from work at The Jug and Glass pub when she saw a UFO.

She said: "We were looking towards Riber and it flew over Riber Castle."

"It was diamond shaped, at

### EXCLUSIVE by Matt Barlow

each point there was an orange and white light in the corner.

"I was quite excited about it, I have always believed in UFOs but not seen anything before."

Her mother Diane was driving and also saw the strange sight at about 11pm.

Their attention was alerted by two men outside the Lea pub who were staring upwards at the "huge object."

"There was no way it was a plane, I have no idea what it was," added Joanna from Hall Leys Close.

Just a few hours later in Lea a bizarre light believed to be a UFO was captured on home video.

A woman from Main Road, Lea, who didn't want to be named, spotted a bright white circular light with markings in the centre (pictured above right) at about 3am.

The recording was interrupted when her video recorder bat-

tery ran out, but she still caught about 30 minutes of UFO coverage.

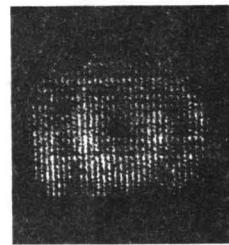
She said: "I thought it was something from outer space, I know it wasn't a star."

"It might have been waiting for something that had landed."

"I was hoping I would see it fly away but it remained still."

The woman has spent the last few nights looking again for the object, but cloudy skies have prevented her from making a repeat sighting.

The woman - who saw a sim-



ilar object above Cromford several years ago - added: "I was not scared, I would be frightened if I saw somebody climb out of it and come for me."

The video was shot from the woman's bedroom window, facing Tansley, until about 4am when she went back to bed - and in the morning it was gone. Dales residents have reported more than 25 UFO sightings in the last nine months.

Saturday's sighting is similar to a video filmed by a 44-year-old woman in Bonsall last October, of a giant disk with a chunk missing from the bottom.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England  
July 16, 2001

## Aliens drop in' for a dig

Circles found in a Russian wheat field suggest aliens have been collecting soil from the Earth, Russian officials say.

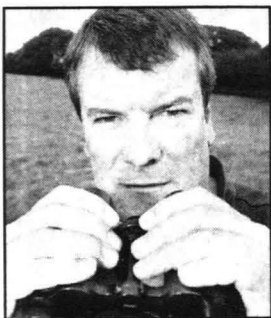
The Emergency Situations Department says the circles indicate aliens have returned after a previous visit was reported four years ago.

The circles of wheat that had been flattened in a clockwise direction were found in a field outside Maikop in Krasnodar region.



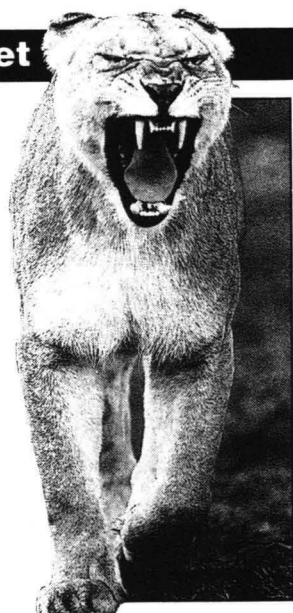


In hot pursuit of the 'big cat' that's stalking deepest Somerset



Bill Moulton on safari in the West

# Is the Beast of Blagdon a fierce lion or just Fido gone walkies?



**L**IKE a shrine where miracles have been seen of the weeping Madonna, the faithful were drawn to farmer Jack Lyons's rolling pasture yesterday as moths to a flame. It was pure coincidence - but delicious all the same - that Jack's surname more or less matched the sort of predatory beast said to have been strolling amid the ankle high, drizzle-soaked grass in the heart of one of the West Country's most popular tourist areas.

'It was a lioness, no doubt about it,' said Sandra Redgers, 50, manageress of the Rowberrow Filling Station which is just across the A38 Burnham-on-Sea to Bristol road where the animal was spotted in Somerset.

The garage sells Esso petrol and it was not long before Mrs Redgers and co-witness Karen Ritchings, 20, were heartily sick of those old jokes about putting a tiger in the tank.

'I'm adamant,' said Mrs Redgers. 'I have been working here for 15 years and I'm always on the look-out. It was too big to be a domestic cat. It was large and sandy coloured, and its thick tail was as long as its body. When it walked, it looked all muscly.'

'It came up to here,' said Miss Ritchings, indicating a height somewhere near the top of her thigh. 'When I came to close up the garage at 10pm, I was petrified that it would still be out there. Sandra told me not to bother to lock up the pumps but just lock the door, get in my car and go home.'

'When you think something like that is out there it is quite scary. Every time a leaf rustled, I jumped. I would not have believed something like that could be out there unless I had seen it for myself.'

What made talk of the Beast of Blagdon, the Muncher of the Mendips, the Lion of Lower Langford or the Cheddar Gorge Cougar more credible was the fact that so many had seen it.

An audience of up to a dozen people had gathered at Jack Lyons's gate when the big cat sauntered into view about one quarter of the way up his field.

**T**WO men from a builder's truck even vaulted the wall to investigate further whereupon their quarry turned a casual tail and ran over the crest of the hill, which offers distant but fabulous views of the M5, Weston-super-Mare and the Bristol Channel. Others are said to have taken holiday snaps and camcorder footage.

When everyone but Mrs Redgers and Miss Ritchings had gone, it casually walked back into view and lay in the grass, sunning itself. The police had been called, but as often seems to be the case these days, by the time they arrived, it had gone.

Their log book simply described it later as the sighting of 'a big brown cougar', which is the American name for a puma or mountain lion.

Officers were investigating yesterday whether the sighting could be linked with reports of a sheep mauling nearby.

'I'm 100 per cent sure it was a lioness,' said 22-year-old Sally Todd, who was one of the witnesses to revisit the scene yesterday. 'I had only just come back from a visit to Lon-

gleat so I know what a lion looks like.'

Miss Todd, who was with her father Ken, mother Susan and six-year-old daughter Shannon when they pulled into the filling station to buy cigarettes, added: 'My mum just turned round and said, "That's not what I think it is, is it?"'

'I looked in the field and said, "It is". It was a lioness just walking across the field. These men got out of their van and jumped over into the field and started whistling at it. It crouched down low and then just ran off.'

Not everyone was so convinced. 'It was a fluffy alsatian, you wait and see,' said one cynic from the nearby village of Churchill as she stopped for petrol. 'It will be pink elephants next.' Unlike the believers, however, she was not prepared to be named.

A stroll up the field offered few clues, but plenty of speculation. A thorn bush took on the appearance of a fully-maned male lion in repose. Every stump of wood, every yellow boulder looked like a tawny coat in the undergrowth. For good measure, a buzzard circled overhead, its thin cry drawing the eyes upwards to the thick branches of trees where the beast could be waiting to spring at any moment.

**O**N the ground, it did not take much imagination to turn two muddy indentations in a patch of hay into the pawprints of a giant-striding beast. Only the sheep grazing passively in the next door fields gave the lie to the thought that it might spring out at any moment.

At School Farm, Jack Lyons's daughter Kathryn, 32, who is in charge of the place while her parents holiday obliviously to the fuss in France, worried about the 150 ewes and their lambs.

'It's a bit worrying,' she said. 'I have been trying to get the police but they are not being very helpful. We have been trying to count up the sheep to see if any are missing. At the moment we're not quite sure.'

Big cats expert Terry Hooper, who runs the Exotic Animal Register in Bristol, sought to calm nerves by saying the animal was 'not very likely' to be a lioness. That was the good news. The bad news was that it was more probably a puma whose family might have been running wild in the Mendips since Victorian times.

'We have never had any proper lions recorded,' he said. 'But lots of people do confuse things like pumas with the lion. They do look very like females, although they are smaller. Our records of sightings go back to the mid 19th century. The Victorians were big collectors of everything and there were private menageries all over the country until the First World War.'

No one ever found remains, he said, because the cats would slink away to die in their hidden lairs. As for being dangerous, he added, a puma would have plenty to eat in the wild without raiding the food shelves of the Rowberrow Filling Station.

■ Did you stop and take a photograph of the Beast of Rowberrow? If so, call the Daily Mail News Desk on 0207 938 6372.

b.moulton@daily mail.co.uk

READER, Chicago, IL - Aug. 17, 2001 CR: F. Reid

## THE STRAIGHT DOPE

BY CECIL ADAMS

I'm reading this book about Australia that mentions an enormous explosion in the middle of the Australian outback, circa '94, and some dark hints that it occurred on a site occupied by those wacky Aum Shinrikyo cultists. It is further averred that they went there specifically to mine uranium in order to build an A-bomb, end of W. Civ. as we know it, yadda yadda. This didn't happen, right? This couldn't happen, right?

—elucidator, via the Straight Dope Message Board

**W**ell, Western civilization didn't end, if that's what you're asking, notwithstanding the impression you may get from reality TV shows. It's unlikely the Aum Shinrikyo people went to the outback intending to mine uranium, and it's really, really unlikely they detonated a nuclear bomb there. But—this is the weird part—the cultists did buy some property in the outback, and about the time they did, there was a massive seismic event nearby, accompanied by a fireball in the sky. Probably it was just a coincidence. But who knows? Maybe they just



didn't know that if the barbie's knackered, you shouldn't have a gander at the propane with a match.

The book you're reading is undoubtedly Bill Bryson's *In a Sunburned Country*. In it he reports that: (1) At 11:03 PM local time on May 28, 1993, a large-scale seismic disturbance, elsewhere reported as measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale, was detected near the Banjarnan sheep station in remote western Australia. The few observers in the area reported seeing a flash in the sky and hearing an explosion. (2) The blast was 170 times more powerful than the biggest mining explosion ever recorded in the region and was consistent with a meteorite strike, but no crater could be found. (3) In 1995, after the Aum Shinrikyo in Japan had released nerve gas in the Tokyo subway system and killed 12 people, it was revealed that the cult owned a 500,000-acre property in western Australia near the site of the mysterious boom. (4) The cult has two former Soviet nuclear engineers in its ranks, hopes eventually to destroy the world, and maybe wanted a bit of practice, eh? (5) In 1997, scientists finally got around to investigating

this disquieting possibility. "You take my point," Bryson writes. "This is a country...so vast and empty that a band of amateur enthusiasts could conceivably set off the world's first nongovernmental atomic bomb on its mainland and almost four years would pass before anyone noticed."

Nicely put, but of course we can't leave it at that. On further investigation, it appears that the Aum Shinrikyo connection was publicized through the efforts of one Harry Mason, an Australian mining geologist and sometime UFO investigator. Having heard about the 1993 event a couple years after the fact, Mason interviewed every observer he could find within a 300-kilometer radius of Banjarnan. Several reported seeing a large fireball streak across the sky and disappear at the horizon, followed by a near-blinding burst of light accompanied by a loud blast, a massive seismic ground wave, and a huge red flare that shot into the sky. This in turn was followed by "a deep red-orange coloured hemisphere of opaque light" that hovered above the apparent explosion site for hours, then suddenly disappeared; another fireball an hour after the first one; and possibly a third one still later (or earlier—the observers didn't remember). Numerous other fireballs have supposedly been spotted in western Australia in the years before and since.

Mason wrote up a report describing all this and pointing out the Aum Shinrikyo link. His report found its way into the hands of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, headed by U.S. senator Sam Nunn, which asked Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), a university research consortium based in Washington, D.C., to look into the possibility that the cultists had somehow detonated an atom bomb. On the basis of the sketchy seismic data available, IRIS concluded that an explosion was unlikely and found that "the observations are consistent with a meteorite scenario," notwithstanding the lack of a crater or other physical evidence.

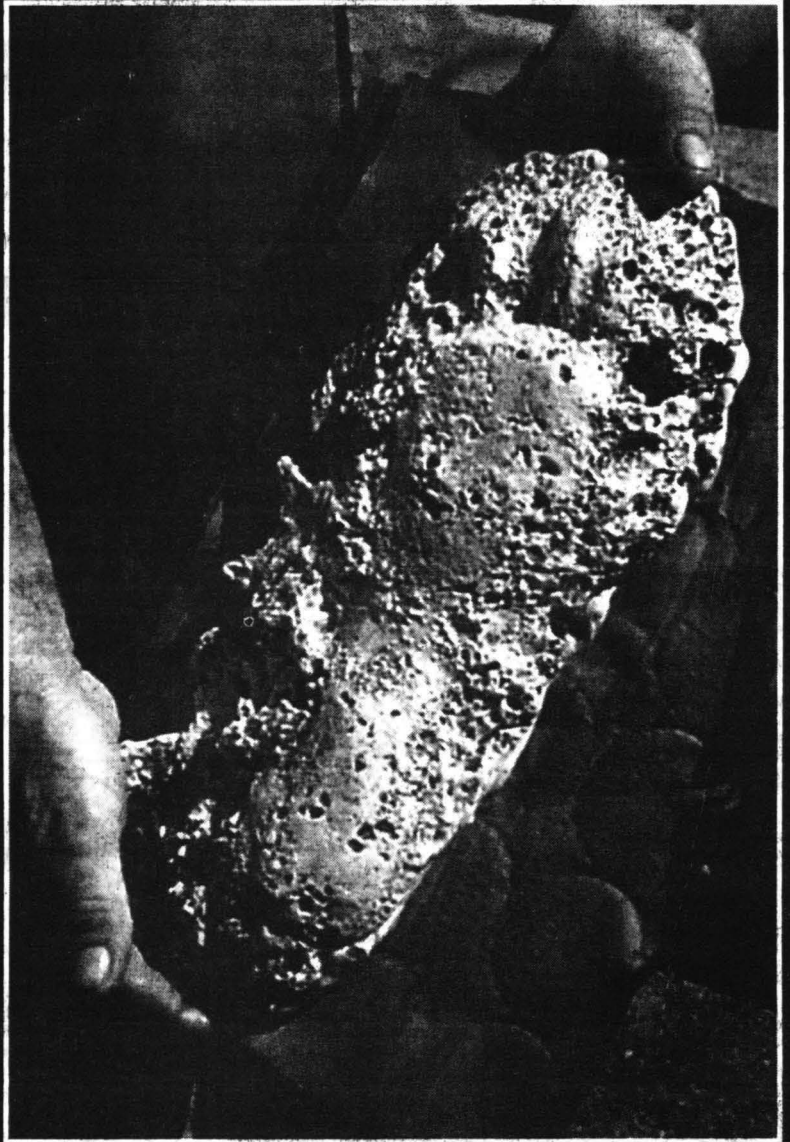
I've been in touch with Harry Mason, a published version of whose report can be found at [www.cheniere.org/misc/brightskies1.htm](http://www.cheniere.org/misc/brightskies1.htm). Harry doesn't buy the meteorite explanation, conjecturing that the fireballs were actually "concentrated slugs of infolded Tesla ray-wave E/M energy, emitting light (photons) as a by-product of interaction with air molecules to provide a hologramlike spatial form." Harry was very kind in sharing his research with me, but still one has to say: Cheezit, man, lay off the comic books. His paper also had section headings like "Oklahoma City 'Bombing,'" which made my lip curl before I'd read any further.

Let's get serious. The likeliest explanation is that the boom was a meteorite strike, and the reason they haven't found any physical evidence is that it happened in the middle of a wasteland the size of England, by Mason's estimate. It's like my office. You think if an asteroid fell on it, anybody could tell?

Comments, questions? Take it up with Cecil on the Straight Dope message board, [www.straightdope.com](http://www.straightdope.com), or write him at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611. Cecil's latest compendium of knowledge, *Triumph of the Straight Dope*, is available at bookstores everywhere.

# The Fouke Monster

A look at how the media recorded the reports of the 1971 alleged sighting of a large creature in rural Miller County, Ark.



After the 1971 reported sighting of a 7-foot, hairy creature in Fouke, Ark., monster mania swamped the small, Miller County community. A Little Rock radio station offered a reward of more than \$1,000 to anyone who could find the creature. Willie Smith, a soybean farmer, made a mold of a three-toed footprint he found in his fields. Smith later made copies of the mold and sold them as souvenirs. The original cast was destroyed in a fire.

It was not a monster story by any measure. It didn't even make Page One of the local newspaper.

Yet 30 years later, the tale spawned from that first bit of basic news reporting is still alive and growing. From its humble beginnings, the Fouke Monster developed a life of its own.

Jim Powell, now building manager at the Bi-State Justice Building, wrote the first story when he was a reporter for the *Texarkana Gazette* and the *Texarkana Daily News* in 1971. The Monday, May 3 headline read: "Hairy 'monster' hunted in Fouke sector." Here is the text from the original story:

By JIM POWELL  
Staff Writer

Miller County Sheriff's Department officers said early today a search of the area where a mysterious creature was spotted near Fouke early Sunday failed to reveal a clue.

"Members of my department searched the area but didn't find a thing. I don't know what it could have been," Sheriff Leslie Greer said.

Bobby Ford, 25, of Rt. 1, Box 220, Texarkana, Ark., who lives approximately 10 miles south of Texarkana on U.S. Highway 71, said the unidentified creature attacked him at his home shortly before midnight Saturday.

Ford was treated at St. Michael Hospital for minor scratches and mild shock and released.

"After the thing grabbed me and I broke free, I was moving so fast I didn't stop to open the door. I just ran through it," Ford said.

The "creature" was described by Ford as being about seven feet tall and about three feet wide across the chest. "At first I thought

(continued on page 19)

## AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

"I saw the curtain moving on the front window and saw a hand sticking through the window. At first I thought it was a bear's paw but it didn't look like that. It had heavy hair all over it and it had claws. I could see its eyes. They looked like coals of fire ... real red. It didn't make any noise, except you could hear it breathing."

—Elizabeth Ford, describing her strange encounter in 1971



it was a bear but it runs upright and moves real fast," he said.

Ford, his brother Don, and Charles Taylor saw the creature several times shortly after midnight and shot at it seven times with a shotgun.

"It first started Wednesday when our wives heard something walking around on the porch. Then Friday night about midnight the thing tried to break into the house again.

"Last night it tried to get in again," Don Ford said.

Elizabeth Ford said she was sleeping in the front room of the frame house when, "I saw the curtain moving on the front window and a hand sticking through the window. At first I thought it was a bear's paw but it didn't look like that. It had heavy hair all over it and it had claws. I could see its eyes. They looked like coals of fire ... real red," she said. "It didn't make any noise. Except you could hear it breathing."

Ford said they spotted the creature in back of the house with the aid of a flashlight. "We shot several times at it then and then called Ernest Walraven, constable of Fouke. He brought us another shotgun and a stronger light. We waited on the porch and then saw the thing closer to the house. We shot again and thought we saw it fall. Bobby, Charles and myself started walking to where we saw it fall," he said.

About that time, according to Don Ford, they heard the women in the house screaming and Bobby went back.

"I was walking the rungs of a ladder to get up on the porch when the thing grabbed me. I felt a hairy arm come over my shoulder and the next thing I knew we were on the ground. The only thing I could think about was to get out of there. The thing was breathing real hard and his eyes were about the size of a half dollar and real red.

"I finally broke away and ran around the house and through the front door. I don't know where he went," Bobby Ford said.

"We heard Bobby shouting and by the time we got there everything was over. We didn't see a thing," Don Ford said.

Everyone at the house said they saw the creature moving in the fields close to the house. All said it could move fast.

Walraven said he was called to the scene about 12:35 a.m. (Sunday, May 2) and searched the area without finding anything. "I looked through the surrounding fields and woods for about an hour. Then, I gave them my shotgun and light. A short time later they called back and told me they had shot at it again. I went back and stayed until 5 a.m."

Walraven said several years ago resident of the Jonesville Community near Fouke reported seeing a "hairy monster" in the area.

"Several persons saw the thing and shot at it, some from close range. They said nothing seemed to stop it. They described it as being about seven feet tall and looking just like a naked man covered with brown hair," Walraven said.

All that remaining Sunday morning at the Ford house was several strange tracks—that appeared to be left by something with three toes—and several scratch marks on the front porch that appeared to have been made by something with three claws.

Several pieces of tin nailed around the bottom of the house had been ripped away and another window had been damaged by the creature, according to Ford.

"We plan to stay here tonight and see if we can get the thing if it returns,"

Don Ford said.

"I'm not staying her anymore unless they kill that thing, Patricia Ford said.

As for Bobby Ford, he said, "I've had it here. I'm going back to Ashdown."

The next day, the *Texarkana Daily News* and the *Texarkana Gazette* both published the same follow-up story indicating sentiment was shifting away from the monster theory and towards another, less abominable, wild thing. The *Gazette* played the short story on its front page. Its headline read: "Fouke fields combed in search of monster."

The *Daily News* played the story inside. Its headline read: "Monster may be mountain lion."

The story itself contained the first published reference to the Fouke Monster.

The text reads, in part:

"We think now it might have been a big cat, like a mountain lion or puma," Don Ford

said Monday while sitting on his porch watching people wander through his fields looking for a trace of the "Fouke Monster."

After a few paragraphs of background information, a few more new bits of information emerge:

The people said they had been living in the house for five days and had heard something around the house on Wednesday and Friday nights. "It is always around midnight every time," Mrs. Ford said.

The family said about 100 persons had been to the house Monday looking under the porch and in the fields. "I work nights and haven't been able to get any sleep today," Don Ford said.

Less than three weeks later, reporter Powell was working another sighting. The headline in the Monday, May 24 edition of the *Daily News* read: "Monster is spotted by Texarkana group."

The Fouke 'monster' has been seen again, the first sentence began. It continued outlining the sighting of a large hairy creature about midnight Saturday crossing the highway about two miles south of Fouke. What follows are the eyewitness accounts excerpted from the story:

Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Woods Jr., and Mrs. R. H. Sedgass all of Texarkana, who were returning from Shreveport said the creature crossed the highway in front of their automobile.

"It was hunched over and running upright. It had long dark hair and looked real large. It didn't look too tall, but I guess that's because it was bent over. It was swinging its arms kind of like a monkey does.

"I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me but there it was. My husband turned to me after it crossed the road and asked me if I saw it too," Mrs. Wilma Woods said.

Mrs. Woods said when the creature started across the highway, "we were just awed.

"It was just unbelievable what we saw. I had been reading about the thing but thought it was just a hoax. Now I know it's true. It wasn't a bear," she said.

Woods said when he first noticed the creature he thought he was going to hit it.

"It was really moving fast across the highway ... faster than a man. I thought we were going to hit it. The thing didn't act like it even noticed us. It didn't look at the car.

"I looked like a giant monkey in a way. It had dark long hair and I would guess it would weigh well over 200 pounds," he said.

Mrs. Sedgass, who was riding in the back seat of the Woods automobile said, "I heard them say they saw the thing and glanced up. All I saw was a large shadow as it entered the woods to our right. I don't know what it was, but it was something big. Some people don't think there is anything to it (the monster) but I do."

Other stories were written in the ensuing days, yet the big monkey speculation never completely died. In a Wednesday, June 16, 1971, story written by *Texarkana Gazette* staff writer Barry Powell under the headline "He's been sighted again: Monster—a monkey's uncle," this theory raised its ape-like head again.

**FOUKE, Ark.**—The more skeptical persons in the Fouke area have dismissed the Fouke Monster as "so much monkey business."

They may be closer to the truth than they realize.

Miller County Sheriff Leslie Greer said a sighting Tuesday of a creature on a gravel road two miles south of Fouke has led officers to believe the creature is a member of the ape family—maybe even a "monkey's uncle."

Sheriff Greer said he believes the creature sighted Tuesday is the same creature that has been seen several times in the Fouke area since the first monster incident May 1.

Sheriff Greer said Al Williams and A. L. Tipton, both residents of the rural community, spotted the creature as it "slouched" across the road in front of the car early Tuesday.

Greer said the two men told officers they were close enough to see that the creature was either a small ape or a large monkey. "It appeared to be about three or four feet tall as it crunched over and walked across the road," Tipton told officers.

Williams and Tipton were traveling a gravel road about one-fourth of a mile from the soybean field where officers investigated the discovery of strange animal tracks in the field.

Sheriff Greer said he believes the creature spotted Tuesday morning fits the various general descriptions of

creatures spotted in the Fouke area since the creature allegedly attacked a resident May 1.

Since that sighting, residents of the Fouke area have been reporting "strange noises" and several have seen creatures and described them as being "seven feet tall, with hair all over and real red eyes."

Sightings of the creature have been reported in the Southwest area of Texarkana, mostly in wooded areas on Oats street. Tracts of a strange animal were reported found in a vacant part of the fertilizer plant near the intersection of Oats Street and Dudley Avenue.

Sheriff Greer said he and several deputies, along with several residents of the area of Fouke where the creature was spotted Tuesday, attempted to set dogs on the trail of the creature.

"The dogs refused to follow the trail," Willie Smith of Fouke, said Tuesday.

Smith, owner of the soybean field where tracks were found Monday, said the dogs could not follow the trail because "It was too hot and the woods are too dry to hold a scent."

Sheriff Greer said another attempt to locate the creature and capture it will be made "if the weather cools off and it rains." Greer said the dogs would be able to follow the trail of the creature if the ground holds some moisture so that the scent of the trail can be followed.

"Evidently the creature is harmless, unless cornered," Sheriff Greer said. "We certainly don't want anyone to shoot the creature, since it does appear to be harmless. We'll try and track it again, and probably shoot it with a tranquilizer gun to capture it."

The sheriff said he feels certain the creature would remain in that area of the county.

The Tuesday sighting of the creature was the second sighting of an ape-like creature in the area since the tracks were found Monday. Sheriff Greer said several women and children who had traveled to the area to look at the prints in the soybean field reported seeing he ape-like creature on Monday.

"I feel like this creature that was seen Tuesday is the same creature that has been reported seen in this area since early May," Sheriff Greer said.

Believe what you want, but he sightings of this creature have never stopped in this region. There were even a few reported last year, to various organizations that track these type of sightings.

Yet none of them has ever captured the imagination that the first few experiences with the Fouke Monster did.

If you have tales or theories to tell about the Fouke monster, please send them to us. We'd like to publish your thought on the whole deal on this, the 30th anniversary of the famous sighting. Mail them to: Fouke Monster c/o *Texarkana Gazette*, 315 Pine St., Texarkana, Texas. Or by e-mail to lminor@texarkanagazette.com.

INDIA ABROAD, New York, NY

Aug. 10, 2001

## Scientists baffled by red rain

Scientists are perplexed by the bizarre phenomena of multi-colored rain, collapsing wells and sinking earth in parts of Kerala last week.

Showers in three colors -- red, yellow and green -- were recorded in four districts of the southern state.

Some frightened citizens have given religious overtones to the colored rainwater and the collapsing of wells. George Isaac, a farmer in Pala, pledged to dedicate seven holy masses to save the people of the area from the wrath of god.

Some geologists say a tectonic pressure is building up at deeper levels under the earth due to the alteration of the ground water regime.

-- George Iype in Kochi

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TIMES, New York, NY - Sept. 17, 2001 CR: R. Horan

# Unsolved Mystery Resurfaces in Montana: Who's Killing Cows?

By JIM ROBBINS

DUPUYER, Mont. — On the rolling prairie that rises up here to become the wall known as the Rocky Mountains a few miles away, Mark Taliaferro points toward the field where the carcass of a cow was recently found. "It is not a natural death," said Mr. Taliaferro, a cattleman who has been ranching in north-central Montana for more than 25 years. "When you see it, I tell you, it makes a believer out of you that something weird is going on."

Eight cow killings have been reported in Montana since June 12, the most recent on Aug. 31. And they all appear similar to the ones that occurred in the 1970's.

For ranchers and law enforcement officials in this remote part of Montana, the last few weeks have dredged up those memories. For sev-

eral years the prairie country along the east front of mountains was rocked by dozens of cattle deaths in which the carcasses were mutilated. Some law enforcement officials and veterinarians who investigated said they had never seen anything like it.

"We had a bunch of them," said Pete Howard, the Choteau County justice of the peace, who was sheriff when the first mutilations hit their peak. "I've lived in this county all my life and worked on ranches and seen plenty of dead animals, but never did I see an animal with its face mask removed like that."

Brian Schweitzer, a cattle rancher near Whitefish, Mont., who was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the United States Senate last year, recently found one of his cows killed in the same inexplicable way



Eight cow killings have been reported in Montana since June 12.



Mark Taliaferro at his ranch in Montana with his wife and daughter. One of his cows recently died what he insists was "not a natural death."

CABINET, Milford, NH - Sept. 12, 2001 CR: G. Mangiacopra

## Did TV 13 find the monster?

By Michael Cleveland  
Cabinet Press staff

NASHUA—Channel 13, the local cable station that serves several communities in southern New Hampshire, might have found the Loch Ness Monster, the fabled water beast of Scotland. Or perhaps not.

But in the hands of the producers of the CBS Television show "60 Minutes II" is a video shot by Gordon Jackson, one of the two managers of TV 13, that might show the monster swimming down the loch. Or perhaps not.

No one is really saying, but Carolyn Choate, the other manager of TV 13 and its long-time on-the-air hostess for a number of interview programs, seemed very excited Monday when she discussed the video.

But she won't say what she really thinks. And neither will Dr. Robert Rines, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology physics professor, president of the Franklin Pierce College Law Center in Rindge, and founder of the Academy of Applied Science — which directed the latest search of the monster known as "Nessie."

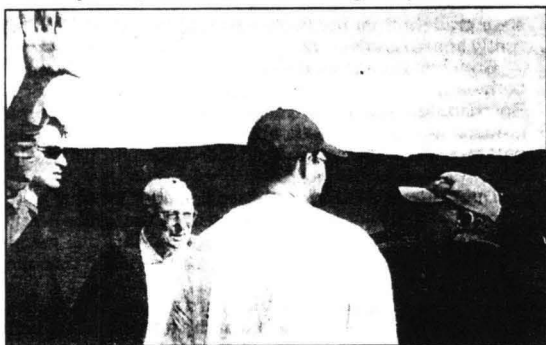
And Harry Moses, "60 Minutes" producer for the segment, seems to be hedging his bets, but of everyone who spoke about Jackson's video, he was the closest to positive.

According to Choate, Jackson caught Nessie on video. When Rines saw the video, he said, "This could really be it." When "60 Minutes II," which had filmed some of Rines' latest search for the monster but wasn't there when Jackson got his video, saw the footage, they redid the segment on the monster search.

But still no one will go on record saying, "This is it."

But Moses, who started out by saying, "I have no idea" what was found, followed up by saying that Jackson's film was taken "on a dead calm lake with no wind or boats around, so unless there's a submarine in the lake which no one has told anyone about, there's no reason for it."

And, he said, whatever Jackson filmed "matches the description (of Nessie) that was given to us by a guy who's been living on the loch for 10 years trying to find the monster... it matches exactly what Gordon captured on film."



TV 13's Gordon Jackson, right with camera, talks with Dr. Robert Rines, second from left, and Rines' son Justice at Loch Ness in Scotland.

Asked what she thinks, Choate would only say, "I think that the mystery goes on. Personally, I don't know what it was; I don't know if it was or it wasn't, but this gives us hope again. The mystery lives on."

And Rines? Asked what he thinks it was that Jackson shot, he said in a telephone interview Monday, "I don't think anything. You'll hear about it when '60 Minutes' announces it."

According to Choate, that will be on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m. Moses, however, said the air date isn't yet sure, but should be decided in the next few days.

All of this began in July when Rines took two boats out onto Loch Ness to continue what has been a nearly three decades-long interest in Nessie. He brought Choate and Jackson along — the Academy of Applied Science holds the license for TV 13 — to film the first two weeks of the more-than-month-long process, and later "60 Minutes" showed up.

Choate and Jackson lived in a rented farmhouse for a week, but had to leave it for other lodgings. On a Friday night, they threw a dinner party for other Nessie searchers. Jackson decided to videotape the dinner.

"We sit down for dinner at this huge, beautiful mansion," Choate recalled, "and we look out over the lake about a quarter of a mile away and Gordon says, 'Hey, look at that wake out there.' It was a huge wake. Everyone came over and Dr. Rines had them turn the camera on."

No one was sure at that point what they had, and no one looked at the footage until Choate and Jackson returned to the states. And despite her reluctance to say

exactly what it is she believes is on the video, Choate was clearly excited about it.

"Two weeks later, Dr. Rines looked at it and he was excited," she said. "He said, 'This could really be it.'"

"60 Minutes" was contacted and had already put together what Choate called a "rough draft" of the show on the search for Nessie but, she said, "Now everything changed."

Dr. Rines was brought down to New York for another interview, and CBS made plans to enhance Jackson's footage for clearer viewing.

"After we sent them the footage, producer Harry Moses called," Choate said. "He also wanted footage of the dinner party."

So on Sept. 19 — or sometime, anyway — Carolyn Choate, her guests and her dinner will be on "60 Minutes II" and so will Gordon Jackson's three minutes of... Something.

Exactly what, Choate won't say, and Rines won't say, but Moses would say this: "It's unexplained, you don't know what it is. But I certainly couldn't tell you there isn't one."

as the others. "The brand inspector said it was lightning," Mr. Schweitzer said, "but there was no lightning that night. And it very much looked like those incisions were done with instruments. But I said fine, there's a lot of things I can't explain." Mr. Schweitzer valued the loss of one grown steer at about \$850.

Now, as then, law enforcement officials and ranchers are split over whether the deaths merit investigation as anything more than a lightning strike or a wolf kill.

In all the cases, part of the animal's face, called the mask, is removed, along with reproductive organs. There is usually no blood, and predators will often not touch the carcass.

"This publicity is awful," said Leland P. Cade, who was editor of The Montana Farmer Stockman, a trade magazine, in the 70's and wrote four articles about the killings then. "City people don't know what's going on, and they envision crazy people doing weird things to animals in the night."

Law enforcement officials in the 1970's erred in thinking the deaths were mysterious, Mr. Cade said, although the cause was never determined. The cattle, he said, were probably killed by predators, who have been known to remove faces and organs. "Now we have a brand-new crop of ignorant people who don't know what goes on on the range," he said.

But Dan Campbell, who was raised on an area ranch and is now the Pondera County sheriff's deputy, says people who dismiss the deaths are not looking hard enough. No vehicle tracks or footprints have been found around the animals. Cuts made to remove the tissue are very clean. "There are smooth edges on those cuts," Mr. Campbell said. "They are not bite marks."

Part of the problem, investigators say, is that if someone accepts that these deaths are not run-of-the-mill,

finding any way to explain them requires a long stretch of the imagination. The mystery and savagery of the deaths have led the more fanciful to speculate that the cattle, which can weigh nearly a ton, were killed by a band of satanic cultists, by U.F.O.'s or by secret military testing.

Keith Wolverton, a retired detective with the Cascade County sheriff's office, investigated 67 mutilation cases as the director of a five-county task force from 1974 to 1977. The mutilations are a real phenomenon, Mr. Wolverton said. "I don't think little green men have come from another planet to kill cows." Neither does he think the killings back then were the work of a cult, an angle he and other investigators pursued for a while. "Someone always talks," he says, adding that who did it and why is a question that still haunts him.

One organization that takes the killing seriously is the National Institute for Discovery Science, which is financed by Robert Bigelow, a real estate and aerospace mogul. With a team of six investigators that includes academic researchers and former law enforcement officials, the organization has studied cattle killings for six years. It receives six to eight reports a year, primarily from Western states and investigates the deaths with forensic techniques.

Colm Kelleher, a biochemist who is deputy administrator of the group, said the only thing research showed for sure was that "someone is cutting up the animals with sharp instruments, and chemical substances are sometimes added." One cow found dead in Utah had a hole in its head with the preservative BHT and formaldehyde in it.

Who might be doing it? "We don't know, and the last thing I would do is speculate," Mr. Kelleher said. "This field is full of speculation."

BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR

Sept. 28, 2001 CR: L. Willett

## 'Boom' goes unexplained

A loud boom or explosion late Wednesday night in southeast Mountain Home left officials puzzled as to its cause.

Mountain Home Fire Marshal Ken Williams said 911 personnel received a call at about 11:30 p.m. from a person who said he heard an explosion in the area around RLH Sanitation, in the Rossi Road area.

Williams said Mountain Home Patrol Officer Jason Pace also heard the explosion. Police and fire personnel responded to the area but could not find any sign of an explosion or what might have caused the loud sound.

"No one could verify where it came from," Williams said.

The owners of RLH were called, and they went to the scene. They went through their facility and could not find anything out of the ordinary.

"There was nothing to determine what caused the loud boom or explosion," Williams said.

The caller also reported seeing a light at the same time as the noise, Williams added. Fire Department officials determined that the caller saw a light that was on at or near the RLH facility.

—ARMANDO RIOS