

UFO

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We're not alone — they want to prove it

By SARAH LEMON
Mail Tribune

Jordan Pease has never been abducted by aliens. And those strange flashes in the sky could be Earth lights, he says.

But Pease still preaches his pet philosophy that humans are not alone in the universe.

A self-taught student of UFO phenomenon, or "ufology," for the past 13 years, Pease has collected hundreds of tomes at used bookstores in out-of-the-way communities — and has amassed just as many audio and video tapes — in his search for the truth about life on other planets and, he believes, the U.S. government's mission to keep it all a secret.

"I don't want to describe myself as totally obsessed by all this," the Medford resident says. "This is like a controversy within a huge controversy."

It's a controversy that Pease feels must be brought to the public's attention, particularly if the world's energy problems could be solved.

That's the mission of The Disclosure Project, a Virginia-based research and investigative group with which Pease tours the country presenting videotaped testimony of "dozens of military, intelligence, corporate and government witnesses to highly classified rogue projects." Disclosure Project advocates say these witnesses provide proof that the government has withheld technology that could "reverse environmental destruction and end world dependence on fossil fuel," project representatives say.

Skeptical?

Pease expects those sentiments but says he hates hearing that if aliens, UFOs, the "black budget" and government conspiracies were real, they would be on "60 Minutes."

Yet The Disclosure Project grabbed a few national headlines in May when Project staff tried to lobby for congressional hearings on the existence of UFOs and extra-terrestrials.

The conference — hosted by the National Press Club — gave Pease the opportunity to work on the Project and to witness a "historic event" for UFO aficionados. But the scant media coverage the Project did receive immediately evaporated after Sept. 11, frustrating Pease and other Project staff, he says.

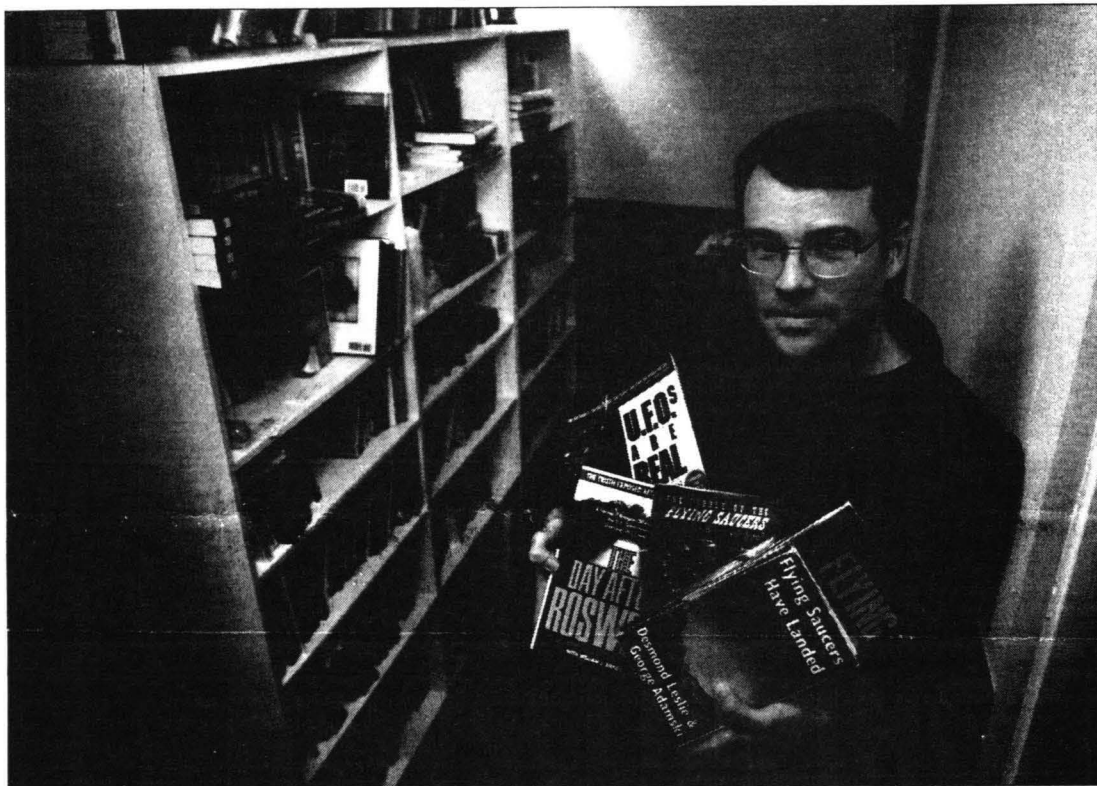
But even in today's pro-government and pro-military climate, Pease says he just can't ignore the testimony of people who claim to have personally experienced contact with alien technology.

One Project witness, Grants Pass resident Dan Willis, will host a Disclosure Project video presentation and lecture at Southern Oregon University today.

Willis will discuss transcribing top-secret messages as a U.S. Navy serviceman. He and Pease will answer questions near the end of the event, held in the Stevenson Union Rogue River Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

Disclosure Project books, videos and audio recordings will be available. Pease also offers his personal "ufology" collection for the public's use through the Rogue Valley Metaphysical Library.

The library Web site previews some of Pease's volumes, such as



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

Jordan Pease maintains a home library of books, video and audio tapes about UFOs and extraterrestrials. Pease is a member of the Disclosure Project, which has a goal of proving the government has withheld information about visiting aliens and their revolutionary energy technology.

2001 Kennewick crop circle reportedly in new film

■ 'Signs,' starring Mel Gibson, to be released in August

By Dori O'Neal

Herald staff writer

Crop circles have been mystifying people for decades.

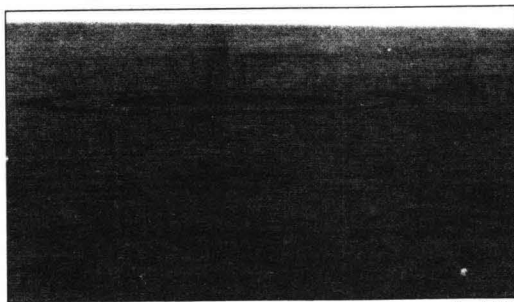
One even cropped up in the Tri-Cities back in 1993 when a circle mysteriously took shape all in one night in the middle of Larry Bateman's wheat field in west Kennewick.

Are they created by creatures from another world or just the handiwork of a few talented practical jokers?

Nobody knows for sure.

Hollywood, however, will release its version with the new movie *Signs*, starring Mel Gibson and scheduled for release in August. It's directed by M. Night Shyamalan, who also directed Bruce Willis in the thrillers *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable*.

Previews for the movie, including the reference to the Kennewick crop circle, can be



Herald file

The film *Signs*, scheduled for release in August, reportedly shows a photo and credit line identifying this crop circle, which showed up in Larry Bateman's wheat field in west Kennewick the night of May 28, 1993.

seen before showings of *The Lord of the Rings*, which is playing at the Uptown Cinema in Richland and Carmike Cinemas in Kennewick.

Signs is about a Pennsylvania farmer, played by Gibson, who finds a 500-foot-wide design of circles etched into the heart of his crops. The story centers around his mission to find out what it all means and how the world is affected by these phenomena.

A photo and credit line identifying the Kennewick crop circle reportedly is featured at the end of the film. Bateman said he's still unsure how the circle was formed in his wheat field sometime during the night of May 28, 1993.

It was spotted early in the morning by a Pasco man who was driving north down Interstate 82 off the Horse Heaven Hills. That stretch of road gives a

panoramic view of the Tri-Cities.

The pattern in Bateman's circle was described as a large one-eyed, hook-beaked creature standing atop a high pedestal. When discovered, the inner circle was 60 feet in diameter and the wheat laid in a clockwise pattern. The outer ring was 17 feet wide where the wheat was flattened counter-clockwise. The pedestal was 72 feet long with two arms that stretched about 50 feet wide. The long beak hooked at about a 60-degree angle.

Bateman didn't think aliens were responsible for his crop circle in 1993, and he hasn't changed his mind.

"I still have no idea who might have done it, though I got some calls after it first happened that some high school kids were responsible," he said.

But whether he believes in aliens or not, Bateman keeps a sense of humor about it all. When people ask him about it, he puts on a somber face and tells them this tale:

"Well, it was kind of strange

But as soon as I passed through the circle everything went back to normal."

For more information on *Signs*, go to the Internet at www.signs.movies.com.

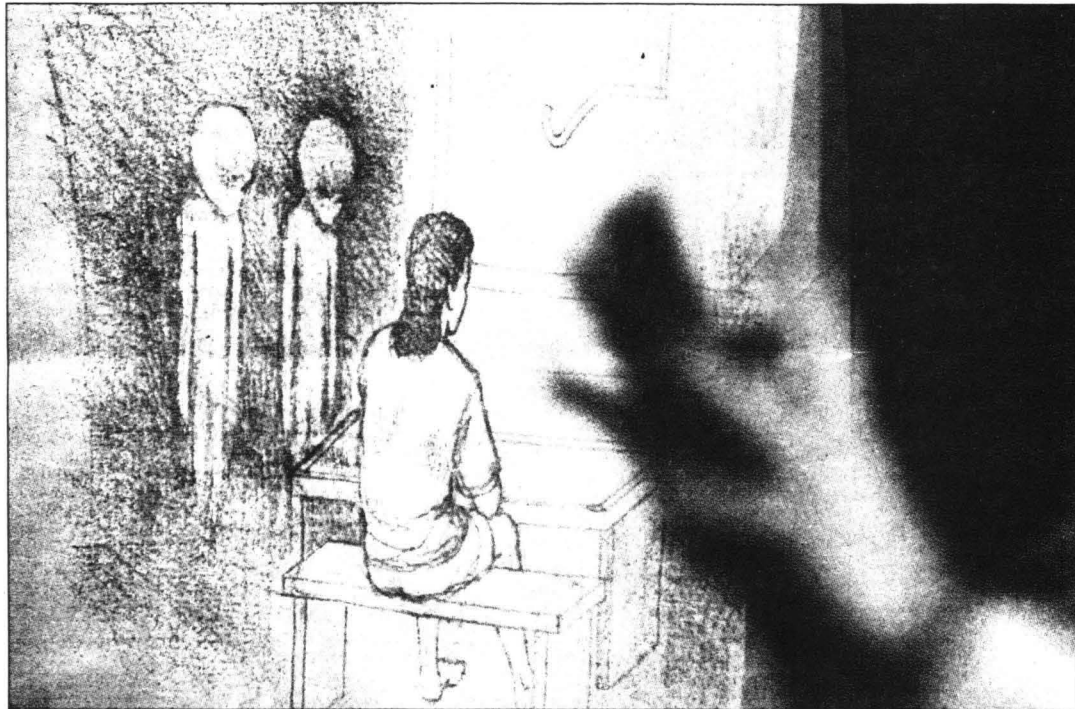
■ Reporter Dori O'Neal can be reached at 582-1514 or via e-mail at doneal@tri-cityherald.com

when I went to harvest that wheat. When I drove the combine through the circle it ran real rough for some reason, then the wheat started floating in the hopper and the combine felt real light on the ground, like it was drifting a little.

"Flying Saucers Have Landed," "UFOs are Real" and "The Day After Roswell," along with snippets of audio testimony. Materials can be borrowed by contacting Pease at www.rvml.org on the Web.

Reach reporter Sarah Lemon at 776-4487, or e-mail slemon@mailtribune.com

"Before 1988, I thought talk of aliens and abductions was nonsense, just pure hogwash. And then it happened to me."



Daily News/DEVON RAVINE

Jim Sparks, of Houston, describes his abduction by alien beings he refers to as "the Grays" during a program titled "Star People" held recently in Navarre.

Alien territory

The truth is out there, Jim Sparks says, and so are the Grays who abducted him time and time again since 1988

By LINDSAY TOZER
Daily News Contributing Writer

Jim Sparks took a long drag on his Winston as he chose his words. The press, he knows, isn't always kind to people who say they've been kidnapped by little green men.

"If what I have to say is hard to swallow, I understand," he said. "Before 1988, I thought talk of aliens and abductions was nonsense, just pure hogwash.

"And then it happened to me."

When the vivid dreams began back in the late '80s, Sparks said he was living the country club life in Houston. All that mattered, he said, was the "Mercedes Benz in the garage and plenty of dough in the bank."

By the turn of the century, he'd changed his mind — the newly committed environmentalist had moved to simpler digs near a Central Florida beach "where my hardest lifestyle choice was, 'Gee, what color shorts do I want to wear today?'"

Sparks credits his transformation to his years of abduction by and interaction with a variety of aliens he calls "the Grays."

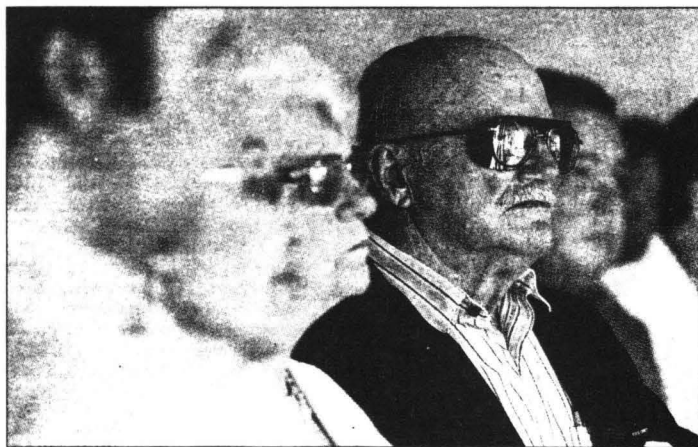
Already the subject of a documentary and the author of a soon-to-be-published book titled "Star People," Sparks brought his story to Navarre last weekend.

More than 100 people packed the Unlimited Horizons' January program to hear the 47-year-old chronicle what he said



Daily News/DEVON RAVINE

Jim Sparks, of Houston, describes his abduction by aliens he refers to as "the Grays" during a program titled "Star People" held recently in Navarre.



Daily News/DEVON RAVINE

Audience members listen to Jim Sparks describe his abduction by alien beings, which he says started in 1988.

was six years of regular contact with the creatures.

Dedicated to seeking what they call universal truths, Unlimited Horizons regularly hosts guest speakers on paranormal issues.

Although he said he is now abducted only once or twice a year, Sparks said there was a time he was transported to the Grays' spacecraft three nights a week for lessons and experiments.

"Sure, I thought there was intelligent life out there," he said. "But I learned there is as much life out there as there are kinds of life here."

Don Ware helped coordinate Sparks' guest appearance.

"I'm convinced the universe is far more complex than that which we are aware of," the Fort Walton Beach man said after Sparks' presentation. "People who come here are at least willing to expand their horizons and that's good. Too many people are afraid to do that."

For years, Sparks was one of the afraid.

His peculiar dreams of being escorted through the window of his guestroom and across the lawn took a disquieting turn, he said, when he began waking in the morning to a carpet strewn with grass and footprints.

Although he couldn't explain the occurrences, Sparks said he was uncomfortable approaching others with his experience.

"Yeah," he said, "everyone is going to believe you when you say, 'Yeah, these things came from outer space and walked through my wall.' Right."

And they didn't.

Promptly and firmly dismissed by everyone close to him — first his church, then his family and friends — Sparks resumed his silence as his world crumbled.

"Did I have my doubts about my sanity?" he said. "I felt I was on the edge of losing it, no doubt about it."

He lost weight. His marriage fell apart.

He didn't cut his hair or his beard or his fingernails.

He bought a gun.

"I looked like Howard Hughes in his last days," Sparks laughed.

But the visits and the abductions, he said, didn't stop.

The Grays would paralyze him aboard the spacecraft, he said, before putting him through "alien boot camp." The captors demanded he learn their language and forced him through a series of emotional experiments — including scenes of slaughter and the decaying ecosystem — to study his reaction.

Sparks, convinced his abductions were not random, explained to the crowd that the aliens produced pictures of his ancestors dating to Roman times as proof his family had been monitored for centuries.

Over time, what began as a rage "beyond any form of hate you can imagine" against the creatures, he said, shifted into a more respectful, trusting relationship. He sounded deflated as he spoke of his abductions becoming more sporadic.

As his visits tapered off, Sparks said he was no longer paralyzed in the aliens' presence and was allowed free roam of their spacecraft. He'd even, he said, been presented a gift.

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page 2 - N.W.)

FLORIDA DAILY NEWS,
Fort Walton Beach,
FL - Jan. 20, 2002)

Noticing he was perplexed when handed the box of brown goo, the Grays, Sparks said, communicated telepathically that the present was the tar that had collected in his lungs after years of heavy smoking.

Rapt audience members, who'd spent much of the three-hour program leaning forward and nodding along with Sparks' anecdotes, waived a planned question-and-answer session in order to cram in more stories.

While the crowd may have been receptive to anecdotes about Grays and telepathy, outside the doors of Unlimited Horizons the reaction can be very different. Others who've heard such alien abduction tales are less enchanted.

Joe Nickell, an investigative writer for *Skeptical Inquirer* Magazine in New York, said a common sleep anomaly coupled with a marketplace choked with alien books and movies and dolls might help explain the "visits" from outer space.

The *Skeptical Inquirer* is the journal of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The non-profit organization, founded in 1976, studies paranormal and fringe-science claims.

Catalogued by University of Waterloo psychologists as sleep paralysis with hypnagogic and hypnopompic hallucinations, the condition renders people on the edge of sleep unable to move or speak.

Although the condition typically lasts only a few seconds, researchers at the Ontario, Canada school reported people often feel an evil presence or sense of terror during its duration. Occasionally, a person who has experienced sleep paralysis will describe a feeling of strangulation or out-of-body sensation.

"If they saw Donald Duck, they'd have laughed it off for what it was, a crazy dream," Nickell said. "Instead, they think, well, maybe it's happening to me. It's happening to all the other people, I've seen them on TV."

Fascination with the paranormal, including UFOs and aliens, he said, has erupted into a phenomenon all its own.

"We are watching, in our lifetime, the creation of a new mythology," Nickell said. "Aliens interacting with us, imparting messages to planet Earth. It's everywhere, it's the myth of the day."

The naysayers don't bother Sparks.

Back at work and active in his concern for the environment — something he attributes to the aliens' concern for the Earth — Sparks said he's at peace with the experience he once considered a curse.

"If people listen and they get something out of it and it does something for them, that's fine," he said of his story. "If they don't think it exists, that's fine too, I respect that. I want people to draw their own conclusions."

SUN, Edmond, OK - Oct. 31, 2001 CR: D. Farris

The visitors

Story by James Coburn



MARK ZIMMERMAN/The Edmond Sun

Thirty-six years ago, Wes Pitchford saw what he believed was a UFO at his Edmond home near Highway 66.

Nothing was ordinary about what Wes Pitchford saw hovering over Edmond 36 years ago.

He and his wife, Wilma, were sipping iced tea while sitting on top of their little watch tower on top of their former home located near Interstate 35 and Highway 66. They were not watching for unidentified flying objects — simply enjoying the warm August night as their five children were tucked in bed.

The 68-year-old pawn shop owner said he can't be certain what he saw above his home in 1965, but the object appeared to be "a flying saucer."

"It wasn't scary — you know — but astonishing to see (a UFO) that close out here," Wes Pitchford said.

He and three other witnesses of the UFO were quoted Aug.

3, 1965 on the front page of *The Sun* for haven seen the flying object.

"Several city policemen reported seeing mysterious objects in the skies Sunday night and early Monday morning," the story stated.

The object was brightly lighted and frequently changed color, reported now-retired Edmond police officer Joel Cobb.

He described the UFO as briefly being above his north central Edmond neighborhood before it hovering again for a few minutes over Gracelawn Cemetery.

The article reported that Jack Cook and his daughter spotted a "brightly lighted" UFO diving downward. Cook was traveling west of Luther when he spotted the object. Cook has

since retired from owning an Edmond hardware business. Neither he or Cobb could be reached for comment about the UFO sighting. Pitchford recalls the UFO having several illuminated port-holes.

"It did hover between our house and (Highway) 66. It hovered out there — it stopped," he said while glancing over an Aug. 3, 1965 *Edmond Sun* news article about the UFO sightings. "It (states) here that it 'whooshed on by, going west by southwest,' which is about right."

He doesn't recall telling *The Edmond Sun* the UFO was 28 to 30 feet in diameter, as stated in the article.

But it was "a good size," he recalls.

"It was kind of round with a hump on top and then porthole windows around that," he said. Since then, Pitchford has not spotted another one in town.

He said a lot of people

(continued on page 4)

Edmond claims share of flying saucers

Editor's note: This story appeared in The Edmond Sun, August 3, 1965.

Edmond got well into the "saucer-watching" action over the weekend, with several sightings of UFO's being reported here.

Several city policemen reported seeing mysterious objects in the skies Sunday night and early Monday morning.

Officer Joel Cobb told of observing a "brightly-lighted object, which changed color frequently" over his home in the north-central section of town.

"It appeared to hover briefly, then moved north where it again hovered over Gracelawn Cemetery for several minutes," said Cobb.

The policeman said that after he and his wife watched the object for several minutes, it suddenly "zipped away to the north." Cobb said the phenomenon occurred around 3 a.m. Monday.

Officer Chuck Jones reported a similar sighting earlier Sunday night.

"It was brightly lighted — it was not a plane and it was not a star," Jones declared. He said the object was seen by him and others to the southwest of Edmond, and observed for several minutes.

Jack Cook, 1912 S. Rankin, reported that he and his small daughter saw a UFO, "brightly lighted, and diving downward," while motoring home from Chandler Sunday night. Cook said he was traveling west of Luther, and saw the object shortly after 8 p.m. "off to the southwest."

Another report from Wes Pitchford placed one of the objects near the ground east of the city. Pitchford, who lives just east of the Interstate and north of 66, said he and his wife saw one of the "saucer-like objects" approach their place while moving about a half-mile or less off the ground.

"It shook us up somewhat," said Pitchford, who was watching from an elevated tower at this home.

He described the flying object as being circular, with a dome, and approximately 28 to 30 feet in diameter.

Pitchford said the object first appeared on the eastern horizon, approached his house rather rapidly and "whooshed on by, going west by southwest."

Pitchford said he has sighted similar objects several times in the past years while serving in the Navy and stationed in Kansas and California.

"I've seen them in both states," he related, "and this one Sunday night was much like the others."

Pitchford firmly believes the objects are interplanetary visitors.

"I've read reports of too many documented sightings to believe other wise," he said ... "coupled with what I've seen myself."

Others reporting the sightings would not commit themselves to that degree.

"They aren't stars and they aren't planes," the other sight-seers agreed, "but I wouldn't call one a flying saucer until I'd seen it on the ground and

maybe talked with someone riding in it."

Airforce officials, meanwhile, blandly ignore the eyewitness accounts and blithely issue reports "meteor showers, heat, invasion, airliners, ect."



Author David A. Farris holds his newly published book 'More Mysterious Oklahoma.' Farris writes about the Edmond UFO sightings that were witnessed by several residents in 1965 among thetals.

scoffed at the reported UFO sightings and talk of the incident became has since become a nearly forgotten topic.

"I think a lot of them think you're kooks," he said while referring with a laugh to other people's reactions of disbelief to UFO's.

The Edmond UFO sighting is explored in the newly pub-

lished book, "More Mysterious Oklahoma" by author David A. Farris.

Tinker Air Force Base reported four UFOs on radar at an altitude of 22,000 feet, according to Farris, who lives near the outskirts of southwest Edmond.

They were also tracked the previous evening by Tinker as

well as a Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas, he said.

After the sightings were the lead stories in many state newspapers, the U.S. Department of Defense concluded the UFOs were the result of scintillating stars, Farris said.

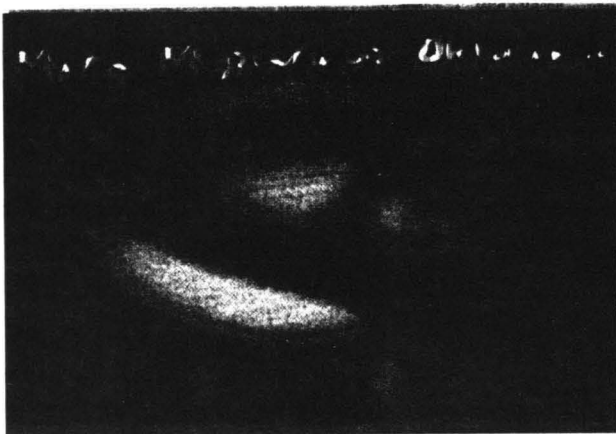
His book is not conclusive

but anecdotal in content.

It is intended for readers to come to their own conclusions about UFO sightings.

But certainly there are cases of flying objects which remain unidentified, he said.

(James Coburn is the features editor. He may be reached at [jacoburn@edmond-sun.com](mailto:jcoburn@edmond-sun.com))



This photograph of a UFO was taken over Tulsa by Tulsa paperboy Alan Smith on August 1965. And the photograph is discussed in the recently published book, 'More Mysterious Oklahoma' written by David A. Farris

The Oklahoma Journal/
Courtesy of Hayden C. Hewes

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - Jan. 12, 2002 CR: R. Timm

Pendleton should capitalize on UFO history

Roy Timm

Happy New Year! I would like to turn over a new leaf, and plant a new seed for 2002. I would like help from the people of Pendleton to make this seed grow.

Would you like to have more than 200,000 people come in to Pendleton from all parts of the world? The Roswell Research and Information Center (The UFO Museum) in Roswell, N.M., has been doing that. In the year 2001, the center drew 202,266 people, as many as 1,500 a day. This winter they've had to add three more rooms to the original theater, which was opened in 1992 by Glen Dennis and two of his enterprising friends.

I met Glen in October 2000, and he has become a very close friend. He is a retired mortician who's lived in Roswell since he was 3; he's now 76.

The museum's volunteers are very pleased and amazed at the amount and quality of materials I have sent them from the Pendleton area the past year. It could just as well have been shown in a facility here in Pendleton. The old Rivoli Theater in the 300 block on Main Street

would make an excellent location for a museum.

The term "flying saucers" was first coined here in Pendleton, on June 25, 1947. The day before, Kenneth Arnold flew in to Pendleton with news of his sighting over Mount Ranier. There's never been a plaque or acknowledgement of that historical event.

Mrs. Morton Elder and Bill Schuening were also documented in the Pendleton newspaper, along with two nuns in La Grande, as having seen saucers over the Pendleton area. My brother, mother and I, along with Vivien Lightfoot, also saw some saucers on June 24, 1947.

There's a huge market of resources for people to educate themselves about their extraterrestrial neighbors. I've been working with Dr. Stan McGough, who lived in Pendleton from 1952-1962 and now works full-time in Spray, at age 81.

Three local doctors, one of whose uncle helped guard the ship that

crashed at Roswell, plus nearly 100 other people, have come forth with their information, sightings and pictures. This includes a video taken over the housing project east of Pendleton. All of these people are familiar with visits from our "other worldly" neighbors.

I'm also working with a local law enforcement official and a deputy sheriff in northern Montana. I have materials I'm not ready to release now.

The owners of the oldest family-run business on Main Street are also aware of our "visitors." Many local people communicate with me because I care about them and the truth of what's going on around them.

Even if you can't believe there are other beings beside us, please give us a hand planting this seed that will greatly increase the money flow into Pendleton.

Roy Timm of Pendleton published a book last fall titled "Northwest History of Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More."



OTTAWA CITIZEN

Conspiracy theorists believe alien spacecraft crashed in Roswell, N.M., in July, 1947, and their bodies and spaceships were taken to the top-secret Area 51 installation in Nevada. An undated aerial photograph, below, shows Area 51 - which does not officially exist - at the Nellis Air Force Base, 150 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas.

IF YOU READ THIS, WE'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU

Security guard strike at Area 51 puts top-secret site in the limelight

BY MARINA JIMÉNEZ

A group of secretive U.S. security guards who work at a place that does not officially exist have walked off their jobs, bringing unwanted publicity to their workplace: a covert Nevada military installation and apocryphal alien landing site known as Area 51.

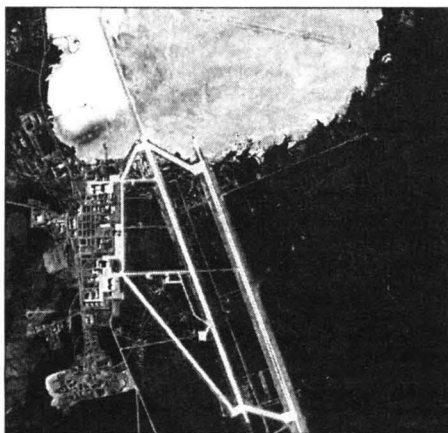
The guards, dubbed the "Camodudes" for their camouflaged uniforms, referred to the location of the clandestine site as "nowhere" and "out of town." The details of their assignment are unknown; their employer can confirm nothing.

"Use your imagination," said Vernell Hall, who represents the workers, in response to queries about the site.

Greg Rentchler, security manager for EG&G Technical Services Inc., which employs the 70-odd security guards, was equally vague about the installation:

"I can't talk about that," he said. "I can only say the guards work in remote installations. We do technical services for the government so some of things we do may be classified."

In fact, Area 51 is inside the Nellis Air Force Base, 150 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas, and is part of a classified military aircraft testing site - as well as the site of reported UFO landings,



AERIAL IMAGES INC. / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

visiting aliens and other unexplained phenomena.

The 15,540-hectare swath of desert located on the dry bed of Groom Lake goes by many names, including Paradise Ranch. Dreamland is the moniker used by pilots and military air-traffic controllers for the airspace above Area 51, a no-fly zone for everyone but the servicemen, officers and other officials working at the non-existent base.

The area has long fuelled the imaginations of conspiracy theorists who believe Area 51 is where the government took the aliens and their spacecrafts that supposedly crash-landed in Roswell, N.M., in July, 1947. At the time, the Air Force issued a statement saying the recovered craft was a weather balloon - but believers persist to this day. According to

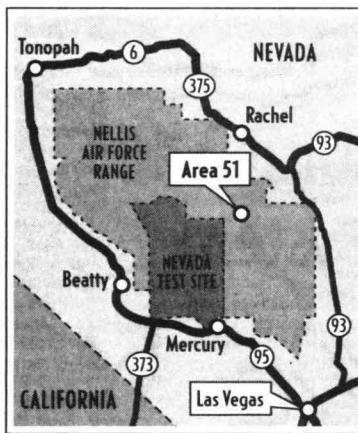
published reports, some locals claim to have seen bodies, while others say they worked on alien spacecraft there.

Locals revel in the lore. The two-lane road to the area is known as "The Extraterrestrial Highway." It runs where the Mojave and Great Basin deserts meet and is a desolate place, with a big desert sky.

Rachel, a town 70 kilometres from Area 51, has a cheeky sign for visitors: "Earthlings Welcome." A café in a trailer called the Little ALE Inn offers rooms for rent.

The town is described by one journalist as "a melting pot of Internet junkies, conspiracy theorists, anti-government militia types, scientists, entrepreneurs and military watchdogs."

The strike brings a more mundane element to this other-worldly place.



NATIONAL POST

Mr. Hall, leader of the Security Police Association of Nevada, the in-house bargaining unit, said the members decided to walk out after three months of negotiation failed to produce a new contract.

"There's been too much overtime since Sept. 11 - overtime on top of overtime," he complained. Mr. Hall said the guards work 12-hour shifts, staying four days "out of town" before flying back to Las Vegas for three days off. "We don't get break periods," he said.

Mr. Rentchler said negotiations continue, but could not comment further. "We have a good relationship with those guys. They are our employees," he said.

He has been fielding calls from across the country since the guards began their strike on Monday.

In the meantime, supervisors

have replaced the guards, patrolling the area in Jeep Cherokees and Ford pickups, peering at traffic through high-powered binoculars.

The "Camods" do not have legal authority outside the restricted area, marked by a line of orange posts, but may detain members of the public who trespass. One Las Vegas resident waged a failed battle to keep the government from classifying a nearby hillside and prime viewing site he called "Freedom Ridge."

The workers are shuttled to and from Las Vegas's McCarran Airport in passenger jets known as "Janet" planes, named for the radio call sign of the private airline operated by EG&G, according to the Web site www.dreamlandresort.com, which monitors Area 51.

Over the years, the U.S. military has used the installation to test such spy planes as U-2s, A-12s and SR-71s, apparently even testing former Soviet aircraft. B-52 bombers and the F-117A stealth fighter have also been flown there.

The "Camods" remain an integral part of Area 51's mystique. Observed one recent visitor on the dreamlandresort Web site: "We set out for Area 51. Before being greeted by the Cammo's (sic) at Groom Lake Road, we were buzzed by four, count 'em four, A-10 warthogs. This freaked my wife out and our video of the encounter looks like a cheap rip-off of the Blair Witch Project.... It was a blast!"

National Post, with files from news services

Cerra Wants UFO Anniversary Party

New Council Member Thinks UFO Incident Draws Interest

BY MICHAEL SADOWSKI
THE SCRANTON TIMES

CARBONDALE — For years, Carbondale residents have struggled to erase the city's past sins and change its reputation for the better.

But incoming councilman Tom "T.C." Cerra wants to revisit one faux pas.

"I think it would be great to have a UFO anniversary party every year," Mr. Cerra said, referring to the alleged UFO sighting near the Powderly Breaker in the summer of 1974.

"I know it's corny, but it's amazing how many people are in-

terested in that type of thing and how many people it could attract."

With the rest of his ideas leaning to the more conventional, Mr. Cerra is ready to assume his City Council seat Jan. 2 in place of departed 12-year councilman Mike Wall. Mr. Cerra ran unopposed in both the May primary and November general elections.

Mr. Cerra, 42, is a lifelong resident of Carbondale and a 1977 graduate of Carbondale Area High School. He and his wife of five years, Kathy, live at 27 10th Ave. with his 13-year-old stepson, Dan.

A Realtor with Ruddy Realty,

Mr. Cerra thinks his knowledge of real estate and land development could be an asset during his two-year term.

"There is some land around town ripe for development," he said. "And I think I have learned why people choose not to live in this city when it may be a cheaper place than where they buy their home."

Mr. Cerra promised to boost youth recreation activities and continue downtown improvements - anchored by a possible downtown hotel.

"With the new federal prison coming (in neighboring Waymart in 2003) it has a market here now," he said. "A hotel with a restaurant and office space would work."

Though he has not taken his

seat on council yet, he already has drawn criticism from some residents.

Carbondale Council of Neighborhoods President Joseph Carachilo called him the "mystery person" at the December council meeting, because he has not been a regular member of the public at the meetings.

Mr. Cerra admits he has only attended two meetings in the last two years, but has kept up with the issues thanks to some help.

"When (council President Dominick) Famularo saw I was running unopposed, he started sending me materials that all of council receives, and I have been studying them," he said. "I wasn't a member of council until now. I didn't necessarily have to be at meetings then. I won't be missing any now."

Saucers Full of Secrets



Decades later, Washington's fabled UFO invasion has witnesses, skeptics, and true believers asking: "Where were you in '52?"

By Dan Gilgoff

Illustrations by George Toomer

Howard Cocklin, assistant chief of Washington National Airport's control tower, was working the graveyard shift on Saturday night, July 19, 1952. Just after he settled into a chair behind a radarscope, an unidentified white blip blinked onto his screen.

"We were tracking a flight that had just taken off, when all of a sudden, we had another target show up," says Cocklin, now 82 years old and living in Fairfax, Va. "It was very erratic. It went left and right. We knew it wasn't an airplane, because a plane flies in one direction. But it was a strong signal, just like an airplane. Then a man named Harry Barnes in the Air Route Traffic Control [ARTC] center down below called the control tower. He wanted to know if we had seen what he saw, whatever it was."

Three days later, the muddled headline "Radar Spots Air Mystery Objects Here" ran in three decks across the front page of the *Washington Post*. Controllers at National Airport, the article reported, had picked up a gaggle of unidentified flying objects—"perhaps a

new type of 'flying saucer'"—on radar over the weekend.

The article supplied the opening paragraphs to the story of history's biggest UFO flap. More than 500 UFO-sighting reports were reported to the U.S. Air Force that July, still a record. Pulp magazines had long lavished pages on the subject, but the Washington sightings stole front-page headline space from the 1952 Democratic National Convention and had President Harry Truman hounding the Air Force for an explanation. The Washington invasion, as it's referred to in the UFO literature, had the CIA wringing its hands over how to squelch the public hysteria.

UFO sightings had been steadily mounting since World War II, when the atmosphere was clogged with more Earthling-manned vehicles than ever before, but the Washington sightings marked a seismic shift in UFO history. And not for the reason that the *Post* reported: "For the first time...the objects were picked up by radar." That had happened before.

But the *Post* didn't report that, as morning

broke on July 20, the U.S. Air Force sent an F-94 fighter jet to intercept the airborne objects, which had been tracked in the restricted airspace over the White House and the U.S. Capitol. Or that at one point that night three separate radars, two at National and another at Andrews Air Force Base 10 miles east, simultaneously picked up the same unidentified targets before they vanished. Or that, for one of the first times ever, a batch of unidentified radar blips had been complemented by a spate of ground reports of strange lights in the sky.

Before calling Cocklin in the tower that night, Barnes, National's senior ARTC controller, had a technician inspect the radar equipment at ARTC for glitches. The tech could find nothing wrong.

Around 1 o'clock in the morning, an ARTC controller radioed Capital Airlines Flight 807, which had just taken off, to ask about any suspicious lights in the air around it. A moment later, 17-year veteran pilot Casey Pierman's voice roared through the radio: "There's one—off to the right—and there it goes." And a controller

on the ground watched the blip to the right of the airplane's blip disappear.

Pierman reported a half-dozen more lights in the next 14 minutes, describing them as "like falling stars without tails." All of them corresponded to blips on the ARTC radarscopes. Some of the lights, he said, moved faster than shooting stars. Every time Pierman "reported that the light streaked off at high speed," Barnes wrote in an article for a New York newspaper a few days later, "it disappeared on our scope."

Over at Andrews, Air Force personnel were spotting lights in the sky. "I saw a strong light South of Andrews AFB traveling from east to west at a terrific rate of speed," around 2 o'clock in the morning, wrote Sgt. Charles T. Davenport in an Air Force report dated July 21, 1952. "The light traveled from Andrews to approximately the Potomac River in about 5 to 15 seconds.... Its color was orange red. Later on we spotted what seemed to be a star northwest of the field. It was very bright but not the same color. This was a bluish silver. It was very erratic in motion, it moved from side to side. Three

(continued on page 7)

times I saw a red object leave the silver object at a high rate of speed and move east out of sight."

Davenport saw a second string of strange lights that night; that sighting ended near 3:30 a.m., about a half-hour before a commercial pilot closing in on National from the south called the control tower to report a light off his left wing. The object showed on the scopes both at the tower and at ARTC, where a half-lit hall glowed with lavender from all the radars. When the pilot gave word that the light was trailing off, the corresponding blips faded.

The runways at Washington's Bolling Air Force Base were undergoing repairs, so an F-94 left New Castle Air Force Base in Delaware at dawn to investigate the capital's airspace. The Air Force Command Post had been stonewalling ARTC's requests for help all night, according to a controller's Air Force report.

In a 3 a.m. phone call, a combat officer at Air Force Command "said that all the information was being forwarded to higher authority and would not discuss it any further," wrote a controller. "I insisted I wanted to know if it was being forwarded tonight and he said yes, but would not give me any hint as to what was being done about all these things flying around Washington."

By the time the F-94 left the runway, the targets had already vanished from the radarscopes. After a few minutes of searching, the jet hooked a U-turn and went home.

Barnes plotted out Saturday night's events in an article he penned for the New York *World-Telegram and Sun*, which ran on the same morning as the *Post's* account. "For six hours on the morning of the 20th of July there were at least 10 unidentifiable objects moving above Washington," he wrote. "I can safely deduce that they performed gyrations which no known aircraft could perform. By this I mean that our scope showed that they could make right angle turns and complete reversals of flight....[We] could detect no pattern to the movement of these objects. However, they did seem to become most active around the planes we saw

on the scope."

The Air Force had already been investigating UFOs for five years by the time of the summer of '52 sightings. Capt. Edward Ruppelt, the recently appointed head of that investigation—code named Project Blue Book and based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio—landed in Washington at 10 o'clock in the morning on July 20 on a previously scheduled visit and stumbled across news of the sightings in the morning paper. The press had scooped Air Force intelligence.

By late afternoon, after a day of briefings and meetings and staving off the press at the Pentagon, Ruppelt was anxious to crack the weekend mystery. He planned to visit National and Andrews, the airline offices, and the Weather Bureau.

But the Pentagon wouldn't give him a staff car; its finance office suggested riding in cabs and charging his expense account. Ruppelt's \$9 per diem, designated for a hotel room and meals, wouldn't begin to cover a long night's worth of cab fares. He caught the next flight back to Dayton.

When asked what he thought was behind the blips on his radarscope that night, Cocklin gives a long chuckle that puts into a dry, staccato cough. "At the time, I thought it was something alien," he says. "I still do."

Exactly one week later, on the night of July 26, several pilots flying over the D.C. area spied peculiar airborne lights, like a string of five glowing orange-and-white objects. A B-29 Air Force pilot cruising at nearly 10,000 feet eyed "three amber edged white flashing objects," according to an Air Force report dated July 31, 1952. "Traveling at approximately speed of sound each caused [a] yellowish trail. First object moved across sky in horseshoe path; second appeared to drop vertically; and the movement of the third not identifiable."

On the ground, a sergeant at Andrews saw "a bluish white light move...at an incredible rate of

speed," according to an Air Force report. "About one minute later...I saw the same kind of light. These lights did not have the characteristics of shooting stars. There was no trails and [they] seemed to go out rather than disappear, and traveled faster than any shooting star I have ever seen."

At exactly the same time, 10:23 p.m., an Air Force report shows, a sergeant on a radarscope at Andrews noted "a great many targets....We observed targets following very erratic courses, sometimes appearing to stop, then reverse course, accelerating momentarily, and then slowing down....The biggest problem appeared to be the large No. of targets present which made it difficult to have any definite targets singled out for checking."

Al Chop, Blue Book's civilian PR man, was in bed with his wife at their Alexandria, Va., home when the telephone rang just before midnight on July 26. A Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) official from National's ARTC room was on the line. "He told me they were getting UFOs on the radar and that they were getting the same returns at Andrews," says Chop, now 85 and living in Palm Desert, Calif. "He said that there were a lot of reporters there and that they were practically banging down the door. He told me to get down there. I said that I'd be there as quick as I could."

Chop arrived at the ARTC with his wife, whom he says he was afraid to leave home by herself, just past midnight. "I looked at the radarscope and there were about 10 or 14 unknowns," he says. "They looked just like aircraft—they had the same kind of strong signal—but we couldn't contact them. We just looked at each other as if to say, 'What should we do?' We just watched them. We were kind of helpless."

When a pair of F-94s was dispatched for Washington from New Castle shortly after midnight, something strange happened, even by the standards of what had already transpired: "The

very instant those planes appeared," Chop recalls, "the UFOs disappeared. After about 20 minutes, the pilots decided there was nothing for them to do. So they left. But the minute they left, the UFOs came back. It was the most eerie thing I've ever witnessed in my life."

According to Ruppelt's 1956 Blue Book memoirs, titled *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, the blips didn't vanish when the jets nosed into Washington's airspace. Instead, they relocated to Newport News, Va. The Air Force's own records jibe with Ruppelt's account. Stargazers phoned Langley Air Force Base near Newport News with reports of lights poking through the night sky. An F-94 climbed up from Langley, its pilot locking his radar onto a target. After three successful lock-ons, he lost it. That's when, according to Ruppelt, the blips crept back onto Washington's radar.

Before the F-94s had lifted out of New Castle, a *Life* magazine reporter named Robert Ginna had phoned Ruppelt in Dayton to ask how the Air Force was responding to the latest sightings. Ruppelt hadn't heard about them—as had happened the previous weekend, the press had scooped military intelligence—so he hung up. He called Maj. Dewey Fournet, who'd been designated Blue Book's government liaison, in Washington, and told him to get over to National. Fournet picked up a Navy electronics expert named Holcomb and headed to the airport, where Chop was waiting.

In the early-morning hours of that Sunday—Air Force records don't give the exact time—Fournet dialed the Pentagon's Air Force Command Post and two more F-94s swept out of New Castle to scour the Washington sky. The pilots were steered toward the radar targets by ARTC controllers. Chop says he scribbled down the conversation between the pilots and the ground crew for an Air Force report.

"The ground asked one of the pilots, [Lt.] William Patterson, if he saw anything," Chop recalls. "And he responded, 'I see them now and they're all around me. What should I do?' And nobody answered, because we didn't know what to tell him."

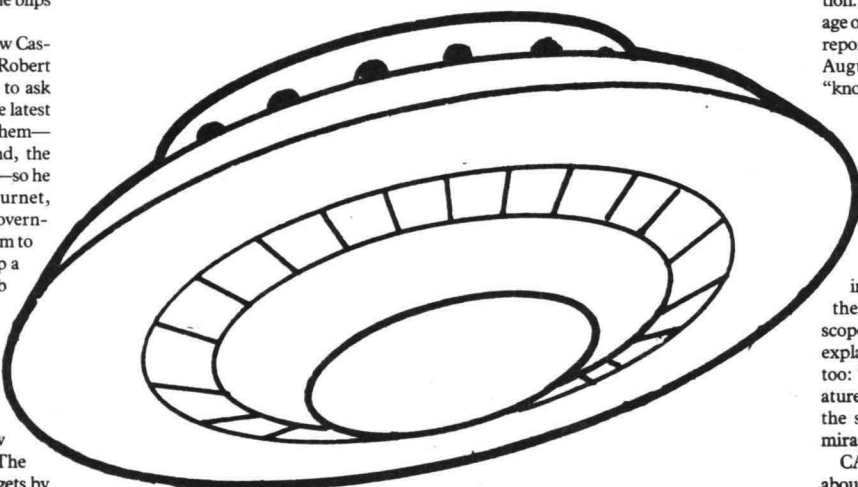
According to Ruppelt's account, Patterson told reporters about the enveloping lights the next morning. "I tried to make contact with the bogeys below 1,000 feet, but [ARTC controllers] vectored us around," he said. "I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed, but even then I had no closing speed. I

ceased chasing them because I saw no chance of overtaking them."

By the time the first rays of light ushered in Sunday morning, the radarscopes were clear of any unknown targets. Fournet, Holcomb, and Chop drove home. The "invasion" of Washington, D.C. was over.

When asked the same question as Cocklin—What did he think was behind the blips on the radarscope that night?—Chop gives nearly the same reply: "At the time, I felt that we were being visited by somebody from another planet," he says. "I still think so after all these years."

Ruppelt touched down in Washington again on Monday afternoon, July 28, 1952. The city was abuzz.



Evening newspapers were assaulting the Air Force with headlines like "Fiery Objects Out-run Jets Over Capital—Investigation Veiled in Secrecy Following Vain Chase." Newspapermen smothered Ruppelt as he checked into a downtown hotel. President Harry Truman had an aide ring Ruppelt the very next morning for an explanation.

The Air Force had to say something, so Maj. Gen. John Samford, the director of Air Force Intelligence, announced an afternoon press conference at the Pentagon for that very afternoon. According to a July 29 memorandum circulated by the office of the Air Force's inspector general, there wasn't much to tell. The memo chided

the Air Force for stoking news reports of the sightings. "Much of the publicity has been based on authorized news releases by the Air Force," it read. "The Director of Intelligence advises that no theory exists at the present time as to the origin of the objects and they are considered to be unexplained."

If Air Force Intelligence did get the memo, it ignored it. That afternoon at the Pentagon, its top brass gave their longest and best-attended press conference since the close of World War II seven years earlier.

Samford told reporters that the sightings were most likely due to temperature inversions—blankets of warm air that lie atop cooler air in the Earth's atmosphere. The blankets are called inversions because air temperature

normally declines at a regular rate as altitude increases. These anomalous pockets, the theory went, act as airborne mirrors, bending radar beams back to the ground. When those beams pick up solid matter on Earth—say, a building or a truck—radarscopes are fooled into detecting "airborne" objects.

Ruppelt observed that the press was uneasy. "Major Dewey Fournet and Lieutenant Holcomb, who had been at the airport during the sightings, were extremely conspicuous by their absence," he wrote in his memoir. "Especially since it was common knowledge...that they weren't convinced the UFOs picked up on radars were weather targets."

According to a transcript of the press conference, one reporter brought up the name of Pierman, the pilot who had radioed reports of darting lights to ARTC on the first weekend of the sightings. "Pierman described it as a light that was zooming and all such things and this was not once but Barnes told me he instructed him on that target three times," the reporter said. "Then, this past Saturday night, when they all saw these blips, Barnes vectored at least a half-dozen airline pilots and planes into these things and they all reported seeing lights."

"I can't explain that," Samford responded. "I can't explain it at all."

But the Air Force's temperature-inversion hypothesis won over most reporters, even though Samford called it a "50/50 proposition." As the summer faded, newspaper coverage of UFO sightings thinned with the sighting reports themselves, though *Life* ran a story that August suggesting that the Air Force had "known more about the blips than it admitted."

Nearly a year after the press conference, in May 1953, the CAA released a report that was supposed to close the case on the sightings. It concluded that unidentified radar blips, "do not represent new phenomena; nor are they peculiar to the Washington area."

The report argued that temperature inversions often drift on the wind, giving the illusion of moving targets on radarscopes. It devoted a couple of sentences to explaining the corresponding visual sightings, too: "It should be noted that abrupt temperature inversions aloft can refract light in much the same way as radar waves and produce mirage effects."

CAA investigators had interviewed Cocklin about the first Saturday night of the sightings. "They were very careful to discount anything that we had to say," Cocklin remembers. "So we just kept quiet. As I recall, we saw several things that night but made no mention of them because they just kept laughing at us. We didn't particularly care for it."

Oddly, the CAA report drew on weather data from Aug. 13 and 14, 1952, not from the two July weekends that sent UFOs to the top of the CIA's priority list.

Previous sightings had usually involved small numbers of observers. In January 1948, a pilot with the Kentucky Air National Guard on a low-altitude training flight from Georgia to Kentucky chased what he thought was a flying saucer until he reached around 25,000 feet. Then he

(continued from page 7 - CITY PAPER, Washington, DC - Dec. 14, 2001)

fainted from lack of oxygen and his plane spiraled back to Earth, breaking up completely before it got there. Later that year, another Air National Guard pilot entered a "dog fight" with what he claimed was a UFO over Fargo, N.D. It had him flying so fast that he temporarily blacked out.

At the same time, sightings were gaining space in the mainstream press. In April 1952, *Life* magazine carried an article headlined "Have We Visitors from Space?" about recent accounts of floating "discs" and "globes of green fire" that could not "be explained by present science as natural phenomena—but solely as artificial devices, created and operated by a high intelligence."

Over the next couple of months, the letter-sized envelopes that Blue Book used to collect UFO-related newspaper clippings from around the country were replaced first with big manila envelopes and then with shoeboxes.

The previous year, 169 UFO-sighting reports had trickled into Air Force Intelligence, 22 of them never fully explained. In 1952, April alone brought 82 reports. And by the close of July, the month of the Washington incidents, 536 reports buried Blue Book's staff and persuaded at least some of them that interplanetary spacecraft had indeed pierced the stratosphere. "Project Blue Book was still trying to be impartial," wrote Ruppelt. "But sometimes it was difficult." UFO hysteria was running full throttle.

And Hollywood was cashing in. The 1951 film *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, which opens with a flying saucer landing on the National Mall, anticipated the following year's Washington "invasion." But the invasion itself set the paradigm for subsequent UFO films, such as 1959's *Plan 9 From Outer Space* and 1977's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, that hinge on government cover-ups.

In the wake of the Washington sightings, public opinion increasingly did, too. Publicly, the Air Force was dismissing the threat of UFOs; privately, it was still looking for explanations for many sightings. And its reluctance to publicly address the UFO issue was interpreted, at least by some, as a conspiracy.

An Air Force document in the declassified Blue Book files, housed at the National Archives at College Park, Md., lists dozens of sightings

around the country for the end of July 1952. Explanations like "Balloon," "Aircraft," or "Astro (METEOR)" sit beside descriptions of the time and place of each sighting. Beside the Washington, D.C., and Andrews Air Force Base July 26 sightings, typed in blocky letters, is the word "UNIDENTIFIED."

For the Central Intelligence Agency, determining whether the 1952 Washington invasion could be written off as a case of Mother Nature toying with primitive radar technology was half the problem. Since the summer of 1947, when a pilot passing over Mount Rainier in Washington State claimed that he happened upon a chain of nine saucers cruising at an estimated 1,700 miles an hour, UFO sightings had been steadily mounting.

The CIA had been monitoring UFO reports

always depend upon a combination of radar scanning and visual observations. We give Russia the capability of delivering an air attack against us, yet at any given moment now, there may be a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial. At the moment of attack, how will we, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom?"

At base level, the U.S. government was itching for an explanation as to what UFOs were. According to Fred Durant, a retired Navy test pilot who was on assignment with the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence in 1952, the CIA queried the White House about any secret military activities that could be causing the UFO sightings. Truman said he had no information on any such covert operations.

"No one seemed to have a handle on these UFO reports," Durant, 85, says over the phone

attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles...."

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1953, a CIA-sponsored team of distinguished civilian scientists gathered in Washington for a four-day review of the evidence on UFOs. According to a 1997 article "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90," the group undertook an analysis of "the possible danger of the phenomena to U.S. national security." It was dubbed the Robertson Panel, taking its name from H.P. Robertson, the physicist who chaired it.

The Robertson Panel reviewed 50 UFO reports from around the country and watched a pair of films of weird aerial phenomena, which the Air Technical Intelligence Center, the Air Force division that housed Blue Book, considered the best proof that the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis rang true.

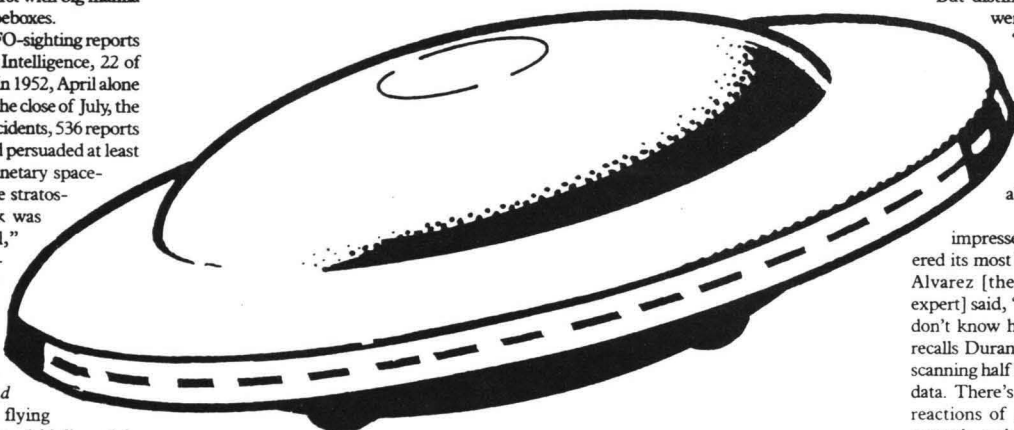
But distinguished scientists on the panel were wary about their assignment.

"The panel members insisted that their names not get out," recalls Durant, who served as the group's secretary and authored its report. "They didn't want to be associated with flying saucers. They were concerned about their reputations."

The panel wasn't much impressed by what the Air Force considered its most baffling sightings reports. "Luis Alvarez [the panel's radar and electronics expert] said, 'These [ground controller] chaps don't know how to handle the equipment,'" recalls Durant. "He threw up his hands after scanning half the reports, and said, 'There's no data. There's no facts. These are all personal reactions of people with all sorts of backgrounds, and the great majority have no knowledge of science or technology.'"

The Robertson Panel's final report only underlined the CIA's national security concerns. "The continued emphasis on the reporting of [UFOs] does, in these perilous times, result in a threat to the orderly function of the protective organs of the body politic," it reads. "We cite as examples the clogging of channels of communication by irrelevant reports, the danger of being led by continued false alarms to ignore real indications of hostile action, and the cultivation of a morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority."

Speculation on the causes of the UFO sight-



since the Mount Rainier sighting and was fixing for a major investigation. According to Curtis Peebles' 1994 book *Watch the Skies*, a series of top-secret CIA briefings issued in the months following the Washington sightings warned of escalating national security concerns: "A fair proportion of our population is mentally conditioned to the acceptance of the incredible. In this fact lies the potential for the touching-off of mass hysteria and panic.... Perhaps we, from an intelligence point of view, should watch for any indication of Russian efforts to capitalize upon this present American credulity."

The other prime CIA fear was purely military: "Our air warning system," an August 1952 CIA briefing read, "will undoubtedly

from his retirement home in Raleigh, N.C. "The feeling was, If we don't find out what [UFOs] are, they may be something that the Russians could use as a weapon against us. That may sound silly today, but nobody knew what these things were."

Faith in what had come to be known as the "Extraterrestrial Hypothesis" spread into upper levels of government. H. Marshall Chadwell, the assistant director for scientific intelligence and the author of a major fall 1952 CIA briefing on the national security threats posed by UFO hysteria, wrote, "Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitude and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not

ings was consigned to the meeting minutes, also written up by Durant. "Reasonable explanations could be suggested for most of the sightings and by 'deduction and scientific method it could be induced that other cases might be explained in a similar manner,'" wrote Durant. "Because of the brevity of some sightings and the inability of the witnesses to express themselves clearly, conclusive explanations could not be expected for every case reported...."

The Robertson report offered only one concrete recommendation to the CIA: Quash the public discourse on UFOs. According to the 1997 CIA article, included in the agency's semiannual *Studies in Intelligence*, "The panel recommended that the National Security Council debunk UFO reports and institute a policy of public education to assure the public of the lack of evidence behind UFOs. It suggested using the mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation to get the message across. Reporting at the height of McCarthyism, the panel also recommended that private UFO groups...be monitored for subversive activities."

Durant still adheres to the Robertson Panel's findings. "After nearly 50 years, I wouldn't change a single bit of its conclusions," he says. "You can't prove a negative. There's no proof that some of these sightings were extraterrestrial visitors."

"But," he adds, "there's no proof that they weren't."

In the mid-'70s, more than 20 years after the sightings and the Robertson report, a D.C.-area UFO enthusiast named Don Berliner heard through the grapevine that a recent Air Force study had debunked the CAA's explanation of UFO ground sightings as mirages caused by temperature inversions.

A former member of the National Guard, Berliner moved to Washington from the Midwest in the early '60s to volunteer, and later work, for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), the largest international group devoted to UFO phenomena in the '50s and '60s.

Investigating the tip on the Air Force's new report, Berliner scheduled a meeting with Bill Coleman, the last Air Force public information officer designated to handle UFO queries. When Berliner arrived at the Pentagon, Coleman's office mates were streaming by his desk, offering their hands and wishing him a happy retirement.

"All his old cronies had come to wish him well," says Berliner, 71, who's worked as a freelance aviation journalist and author since NICAP's demise. "While all these colonels and majors were cooling their heels, he and I sat there for three-quarters of an hour talking UFOs. He stuck by the official Air Force line, but he told me about his own sighting: He'd been flying a B-25 across the country with two other guys and they spotted an aluminum-colored disc-shaped thing. They decided to chase it. They chased it down to treetop level and got within an eighth of a mile of it before it finally flew away."

Before Berliner left the Pentagon that day, Coleman handed him a copy of the rumored report, titled *Quantitative Aspects of Mirages*. It didn't broach the subject of radar sightings, but the 1969 study—conducted by the Air Force's Environmental Technical Applications Center—found that, contrary to what the CAA had concluded more than 15 years earlier, mirages associated with temperature inversions could not give rise to visu-

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- Paula: What happened, Jeff?
- Jeff: I saw a flying saucer.
- Paula: A saucer? You mean the kind from up there?
- Jeff: Yeah, or its counterpart. It was shaped like a huge cigar. Dan saw it, too. When it passed over, the whole compartment lighted up with a blinding glare. Then there was a tremendous wind that practically knocked us off our course.
- Paula: Well, did you report it?
- Jeff: Yeah, radioed in immediately and they said, 'Well keep it quiet until you land.' Then, as soon as we landed, big Army brass grabbed us and made us swear to secrecy about the whole thing. Oh, it burns me up. These things have been seen for years. They're here, it's a fact. And the public oughta know about it.
- Paula: There must be something more you can do about it.
- Jeff: Oh no, there isn't. Oh, but what's the point of making a fuss? Last night, I saw a flying object that couldn't possibly have been from this planet. But I can't say a word. I'm muzzled by Army brass! I can't even admit I saw the thing!

-Plan 9 From Outer Space, 1959

al UFO sightings. "Thus far," it read, "we have been unable to find any UFO sighting explained as mirages."

The report debunked the science behind the inversion theory. "Our results clearly show that the temperatures and temperature gradients needed to produce mirages which occur at an angle of one degree or more from the horizontal are extraordinarily large," it reads. "[T]hese temperatures and temperature gradients are not found in our atmosphere. The inversions postulated by Menzel [a scientist cited by the Air Force at its July 29, 1952, press conference] would need temperatures of several thousand Kelvins in order to cause the mirages attributed to them." In the 1953 CAA study, temperature inversions above Washington of just 3 degrees for July 20, 1952, and 1 degree for July 26, 1952, were reported.

The 1969 Air Force report argued that although inversions could produce mirages, the inversion layer would need to be drastically warmer than the air layer underneath in order to produce a mirage visible from the ground. "That kind of inversion would turn everything on the earth to cinders," Berliner chuckles in his dimly lit Alexandria apartment. "There would have been nobody left to make UFO reports."

Although Berliner was delighted that a government-sponsored report had stamped a question mark on Washington's 1952 sightings, it had come a decade and a half after the fact. "Nobody paid attention to it," Berliner says of the report. "It wasn't news anymore."

Even before obtaining the report, Berliner had felt dubious about the government's flip-flopping on UFOs. As a young reporter with the now-defunct Painesville, Ohio, *Telegraph*, Berliner had written up a local UFO sighting and contacted the Air Force for an official explanation. He says the Air Force told him records showed that a

research balloon had been launched in the area that day, which was likely the cause of the UFO. But Berliner says the balloon was actually floating over Iowa when two men separately eyed a shapeless, multicolored light in the northeastern Ohio sky at dawn.

He'd also written to NICAP for an explanation. In a reply letter, the fledgling group cited a scientific research rocket launched from Wallops Island, Va., the morning of the sighting. That rocket was visible from Ohio, according to NICAP. When Berliner wrote the Air Force again with this information, the Air Force retracted its original reply and took up NICAP's explanation as its own.

"What interested me was the Air Force's behavior," says Berliner, reclining on his plaid sofa with a pillow propped up behind his head. "They obviously tossed off something initially, then had to correct themselves. Something was wrong."

A 1974 trip to the Air Force Archives in Montgomery, Ala., where the declassified Blue Book files were housed before they moved to the National Archives later that year, left Berliner even more suspicious. In Ohio, he had "fast-talked" his way into the local filter center for the Civilian Ground Corps—a national government-run network of volunteers who monitored the sky for Soviet planes. "People went out on rooftops and into the fields with binoculars, and they'd call reports into filtering centers," he says. "Of course, they didn't see any Soviet bombers; there's never been any over here. But they did see UFOs."

Over the course of two years, Berliner looked over hundreds of UFO reports from northern Ohio at the filter center in Columbus. But when he dug through Blue Book files—which served as the national depository for UFO reports from 1951 until the project's closure, in 1969—

Berliner couldn't find a single report from his Ohio days. "Where they went," Berliner says, "is anyone's guess. That got me interested in the government's behavior."

After more than 40 years on the UFO trail, Berliner says he's still not a true believer in the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis. "I'm not ready to say absolutely that UFOs are of alien origin, but I'm creeping closer to that," he says, his fingers walking down the arm of the sofa. "I just want to see an answer. Mysteries are supposed to be solvable. On TV, they do it in 40-some minutes. We've been working for half a century."

The dozen or so books that Berliner's authored—with names such as *Crash at Corona* and *Airplanes of the Future*—stand proudly in a row atop a short bookcase near the door of his bare-walled bachelor pad. The apartment doubles as the home office of the Fund for UFO Research, a group that came together 20 years ago out of "crying-in-our-beer sessions" attended by former NICAP staffers. The old NICAP headquarters, vacated soon after Blue Book was dismantled, was knocked down in the mid-'70s to clear space for the north entrance to the Dupont Circle Metro station.

About 9 o'clock at night, Berliner's phone rings. He picks up the receiver, listens for a couple of seconds, then drops into a swivel chair behind a dark wood desk, the lone piece of distinctive furniture in his Spartan living space. He reaches for a pen, grabs a sheet of a clean white paper, and begins scribbling. "In what part of the sky is it? No, I can't see north from my window.... Is there any pattern to the blinking?... Is there anybody else there with you?... Can you make a sketch of it for me?"

After three or four minutes, Berliner hangs up the receiver and lets out a sigh. "You can't get much information from seeing a light at night," he says, "because what's it attached to? I'm much happier with daytime sightings. Plus, the fact that it wasn't doing anything. If it's a UFO, it will let you know. It will do something very unusual to let you know."

Calls from UFO witnesses are pretty rare these days, says Berliner. Just about one every two weeks. And there hasn't been a major

sighting wave for more than a quarter of a century.

In fact, Berliner says he's skeptical about most of the calls that do come in, adding that reports from folks convinced that UFOs are interplanetary spacecraft drive him up a wall.

"You run into anyone who claims to have the answers to UFOs, turn around and run like hell," he says a few days later, driving his dusty red 1992 Toyota Tercel to a UFO conference at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland. "Because they don't know what they're talking about."

Which isn't to say Berliner's exactly a skeptic. At the mention of Philip Klass, a retired magazine editor and probably the 20th century's most outspoken critic of the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis, Berliner cringes. "I have reason to believe Klass is a covert government agent," he barks. "He's the only journalist I've ever known who always followed the government line, no matter what. I've pulled out of TV interviews because I knew he would be there. He's universally hated in the UFO community. He'll show up at UFO conferences just because he knows everyone detests him. He loves it."

A ribbon of white tape across the front door of Klass' house in Southwest Washington bears the message: "Resident is handicapped needs five minutes to come."

Atop a staircase fitted with an electronic chair lift, Klass, 82, slouches in a swivel chair behind a computer in his office. Two round ashtrays, overflowing with the butts of Marlboro 100s, flank his keyboard. A half-finished 10-pack of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups stares up from the floor near his feet.

Six months before the July 1952 sightings in Washington, Klass took a job as an editor with *Aviation Week* in New York. A 10-year stint as an engineer with General Electric, where he helped develop the remote-control turret system for B-29 bombers during World War II, left him doubtful that the Air Force took UFOs very seriously. "At no time did any Air Force or military guy say that we had to develop a defense against UFOs," he

whispers. An anesthesiologist's slip-up five years ago damaged one of Klass' vocal cords. Everything he says comes across as a secret.

One of Klass' early pieces for *Aviation Week*, "That Was No Saucer, That Was an Echo," summarized the 1953 CAA study concluding

attention, as they tend to shine upward." A 1983 letter from another Air Force retiree reads, "During the UFO mass hysteria of late



that the Washington radar sightings had been caused by temperature inversions. He still adheres to that theory. But the visual sightings, which in 1953 he attributed to inversion-triggered mirages, he now chalks up to a much simpler phenomenon: people looking too hard at the sky.

"If you go out tonight and spend three hours looking up at the sky," Klass says, "you'll see something unfamiliar. It's a psychological effect. Have you ever heard of Bigfoot? In 1976, the *Washington Post* ran a story about a Bigfoot sighting out in the California or Oregon woods. Next day, there was a dozen reports of Bigfoot in the Washington area."

Klass says that radar technology in 1952 wasn't sophisticated enough to filter out many ordinary objects, such as flocks of birds, weather balloons, or temperature inversions, that might clutter radarscopes. UFO proponents argue that seasoned controllers even then could differentiate between spurious targets and solid, metallic objects. Klass disagrees. It may be that "we had two dumb controllers at National Airport on those nights," he says, adding that the introduction of digital filters in the late '70s precipitated a steep decline in UFO sightings on radar.

Then there are the Air Force accounts that weren't included in the Blue Book files. In 1978, Klass received a letter from a retired Air Force pilot who'd flown one of the F-94s over Washington the night of July 26, 1952, the second weekend of the Washington sightings. "The one transmission by Lt. Patterson keyed the entire incident to get it blown out of all proportions," it read, referring to the pilot who'd seen "several bright lights." "All other air crew were sure that nothing was 'out of order' over the capitol that night. And we were quite certain that Patterson simply confused light from a ground vehicle with an airborne light. This is most easy to do when at low altitude. Lights from a vehicle climbing a gentle hill will get a pilot's

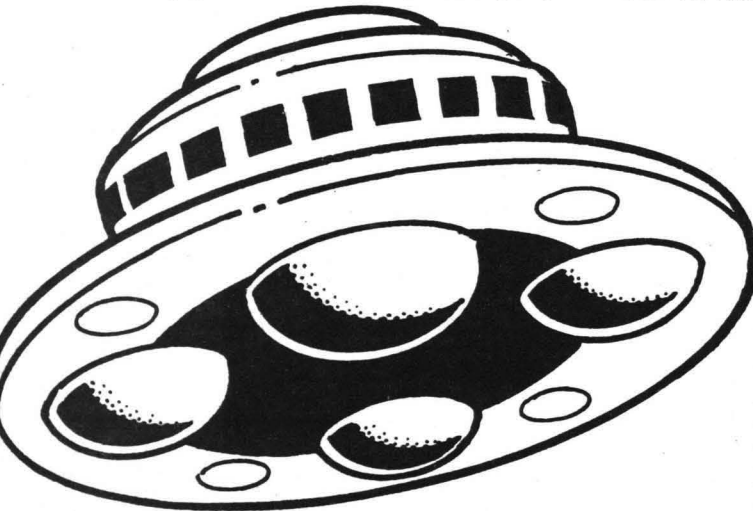
(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9 - CITY PAPER, Washington, DC - Dec. 14, 2001)

1951/52 I was on active duty as Group Intelligence Officer at Andrews AFB. We received an alert one evening of a UFO in the Washington, DC area. An F-94 was scrambled and directed to the vicinity of Washington National Airport. When vectored to the location of the UFO, the pilot asked the National Airport controller 'Where is it?' The tower controller responded, 'You're in it.' I debriefed the air crew on their return and, like so many other debriefings on UFO alerts, nothing further was heard. These UFO debriefings were long and tedious to complete—air crews disliked the chore—especially after a tiring night time search."

Klass hasn't always shared those pilots' skepticism. A 1965 string of sightings in Exeter, N.H., which began when a local civilian and a pair of police officers witnessed a "brilliant, roundish object" that bathed a field in red light, nearly had him persuaded of the possibility of alien visitors. "I thought, *If I can be the first aerospace journalist who could prove we had extraterrestrial visitors, I'd win a Pulitzer*," Klass says, "and I'd get a big bonus."

But when Klass began writing a review of John Fuller's 1966 book *Incident at Exeter* for the *Washington Post*, he discovered that engineers at the Exeter Power Plant who were quot-



ed in the book had never spoken with the author. Klass wound up theorizing that the sightings had been caused by electrical phenomena associated with the power lines, near which the sightings usually occurred.

Thirty-five years later, Klass insists, "If we have E.T. visitors, I want to be first to report the details." In the meantime, however, "it's fun being the voice in the wilderness."

When told that Berliner has used the word

"skeptical" to describe himself, Klass cracks a smile. "If he's a skeptic," he says, "you're an Arab terrorist. But I'm considering making a donation to the Fund for UFO Research to help them stay alive. They provide ammunition for my newsletter."

Klass pulls a stack of stapled yellow-paper packets, back issues of his *Skeptics UFO Newsletters (SUN)*, from his desk. He's published *SUN* since 1989 but switched from monthly to quarterly editions last spring because of his poor health. A pair of recent spinal surgeries has slowed him down considerably. Last year, he missed the Mutual UFO Network's annual conference, the biggest of its kind, for the first time since 1987.

The March 2001 edition of *SUN* includes an update on Klass' condition. "My future, and that of *SUN*, is most uncertain," it reads. "Fortunately, there is not much of great importance transpiring in UFOlogy at the present time. WE HOPE TO KEEP SUN SHINING BUT WILL REFUND IF UNABLE TO DO SO."

Klass remains secure in his skepticism. "If we have extraterrestrial visitors and they want us to know, they can land," he says. "If they want to keep those visits secret, why don't they turn off their lights?" CP

NEWS@NORMAN, Denver, NC - Jan. 9, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

Denver's unexplained 'circle' gets the attention of UFO newsletter

A mysterious circle that appeared overnight in the parking lot of a Denver business has attracted the attention of an Arkansas man who publishes a UFO newsclipping service for UFO enthusiasts around the world.

An article about the circle that appeared in *news@norman* was published in the Nov. issue of the news clipping service.

As a result of the article, UFO researcher Michel M. Deschamps of Canada contacted the news-

paper to say that similar circles were found near Spring Bay, Ontario, Canada in mid-September 1990.

Steve Deskus, owner of FabTech in the Denver Industrial Park, arrived at work last fall to find a mysterious circle in the parking lot. The circle had not been there the previous evening.

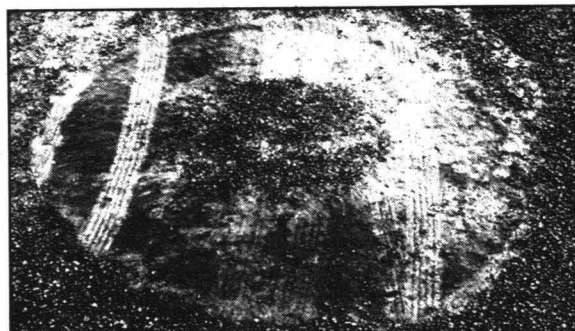
The circle was made as a depression in the gravel and the gravel seemed to be solidified by whatever or whoever made the circle.

As recently as two weeks ago, the circle was still plainly visible, even though vehicles have repeatedly run over it in the ensuing months.

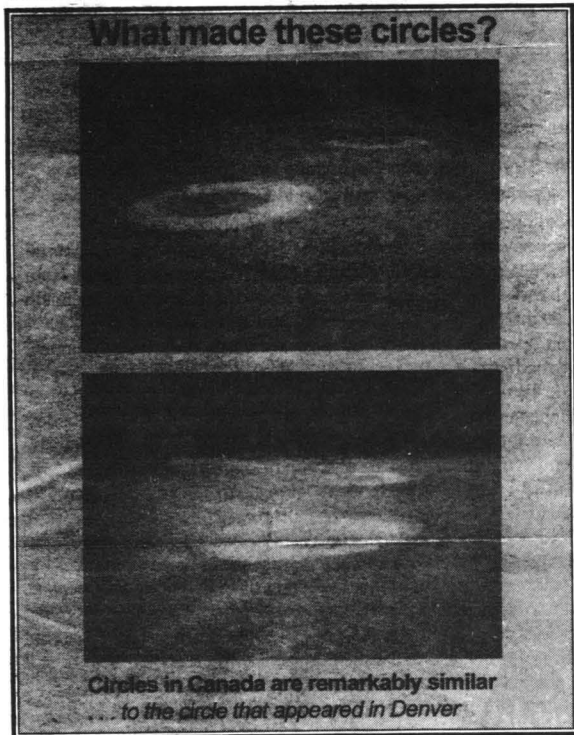
Deskus, who was perplexed by the circle, said he has no idea how the circle was made.

The Canadian circles lasted for two years before they disappeared, according to Deschamps who visited them nine months after they appeared.

Like the Denver circle, they were almost perfectly round and were made on gravel.



Circle at Denver Industrial Park remains mysterious



USA TODAY, Washington, DC - Aug. 31, 2001 CR: W. Matthews

TELEVISION

Sci Fi, DreamWorks 'Taken' with mini

At a time when networks worry that viewers won't commit to a four-hour miniseries, Sci Fi Channel, DreamWorks Television and Steven Spielberg are beginning production on *Taken*, a 10-part, 20-hour miniseries, Thursday in Vancouver, B.C.

"It's one gigantic movie," says executive producer Leslie Bohem, who is writing the entire script, which looks at 50 years of alien abductions from the perspectives of three families over three generations. Filming is expected to take about 10 months, with broadcast scheduled for fall 2002.

Screenwriter Bohem (*Dante's Peak*, *Twenty Bucks*) has been discussing the project for two years with DreamWorks principal Spielberg, who direct-

ed *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*.



Spielberg: An epic UFOlogy story.

The miniseries, whose cast includes Steve Burton (*General Hospital*) and Julie Benz (*Angel*), is designed as "an epic UFOlogy story," touching on such subjects as the Foo Fighters (mysterious balls of light seen by pilots during World War II) and the claimed UFO crash in Roswell, N.M., in 1947, Bohem says.

— Bill Keveney

The Scoop

Lincolnton man releases UFO data

Lincolnton resident George D. Fawcett, who describes himself as a UFO researcher, has issued his "first annual UFO report in 10 years."

He says North Carolina and South Carolina rank fourth and 12th in the nation, respectively, in UFO sightings reported to the National UFO Reporting Center Hotline in Seattle. He said 34 N.C. sightings and 11 S.C. sightings were documented last year.

Among the area encounters he cites: Two race car mechanics "spotted a large flying silver cigar-shaped object" on a clear day above N.C. 150 near Cherryville; a Mooresville resident "saw a military helicopter in pursuit of a red-dish colored disc-shaped UFO at low altitude" after his house near N.C. 150 and Interstate 77 shook one night; and an "almost perfect 8-foot circle in the gravel drive in front of Fab Tech at the Denver Industrial Park."

Fawcett notes he has not received any UFO reports from the war in Afghanistan, unlike during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, but said he would not be surprised to hear reports in the near future.

His report says the U.S. government has concluded through "private channels" that, among other things, "some UFOs are friendly and some are hostile." It's important to keep in mind, he said, that "some UFOs are provoked (and) others (are) testing advance devices."

He concludes that 1 percent of UFO cases are hoaxes. — JULIE BIRD



FOREIGN NEWS

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

NEW BRUNSWICK READER, Saint John, N.B., Canada - Nov. 17, 2001 CR: S. Friedman



UFO expert Stanton T. Friedman says he has never seen a UFO himself, but "I've never seen Tokyo either, and it's there."

Noel Chenier/Telegraph-Journal

Who's out there?

Almost 40 years later and Anna Borden still refuses to watch movies featuring alien invaders. She won't watch the *X-Files*, won't sit through UFO documentaries and most certainly won't join the millions of fans across North America flocking to theatres to see Kevin Spacey play the delusional Prot; a man so convinced he's from a dimly-lit egalitarian planet called K-Pax we want to believe it, too.

From the opening scene, in which Prot gently appears in a beam of light in New York's bustling Penn Station to the often abrupt expositions in the alien's sessions with psychiatric ward doctor Jeff Bridges, we listen. Could K-Pax be real? Could there be a world without money, without government, murder, greed or punishment? Can the energy in a beam of light be harnessed for space travel; will humans ever become members of this inter-

New Brunswickers are among those waiting and hoping maybe there are aliens out there who will welcome us into the 'cosmic kindergarten'

By Michelle Porter

galactic society?

It's with this same hope with which we'd coax Ms. Borden's story from her reluctant tongue. We'd have to coax; she doesn't like to talk about it. It happened so long ago; she hasn't seen anything since. And besides, she'd protest, "I don't know what it means." But we'd ask her to, just the same. Tell us, we'd say, tell us what you know, tell us the secret of the universe - tell us if it's true.

Ms. Borden's story isn't unique. In Canada alone, there are between 200 and 250 sightings reported each year. In New Brunswick there's an average of 3.5 sightings reported each year. And, says University of Manitoba UFO researcher Chris Rutkowski, that's only the tip of the iceberg. Only about 10 per cent of sightings are ever reported.

Mr. Rutkowski is a man who doesn't necessarily believe in UFOs, and he's certainly never seen one himself. That's why he studies tales of glowing ships and hovering lights in the sky. "It's up to science to say - is there something to these sightings after all?" he said.

The university's public affairs officer began keeping track of UFO sighting on his own time in 1989 because he wanted to know just what it was people were seeing. He found that "most of it isn't tabloid stuff. It isn't flying saucers and green aliens. The typical report is very dull - a light in the sky that can't be explained away."

But Ms. Borden, after a few minutes, lets her story slip. "I was an early teen, about 13," she'd say. And then you'd have her. She'd remember the excitement she felt as a child watching a cone-shaped object with "lights as big as dinner plates" hover - or land, she's not sure which - just over her neighbour's land on a small Fredericton farm in 1964.

But Ms. Borden would still talk cautiously, telling you if you asked, that people from the military appeared the next day

(continued on page 12)

to test for radiation, look at the three circular indentations in the grass, about nine metres wide all together, and ask a lot of questions. But other than answering those questions, "I didn't talk too much about it afterward, mostly with other people who saw it." Her father, sisters and neighbour all saw the same glowing ship and all took a lot of ribbing when the story got around. That bothered them enough to keep as quiet about it as possible.

She did sit down the next day to write down what happened from beginning to end - but is reluctant to show the 40-year-old account to anyone. She says she misplaced it. Maybe she did, too; lost it somewhere in the day-to-day life of growing up, having children and welcoming grandchildren.

After listening to all that, you wouldn't be sure if you were relieved or disappointed to hear her explain that it didn't change her life, not at all.

"Except I don't watch UFO shows. I don't care for them."

Oh, and one other thing. "I'm leery of driving on dark roads at night. You know, in case something happens again. It's always in the back of my mind."

New Brunswick accounts for a small percentage of Canada's reported sightings. In 2000, the province didn't report any at all. British Columbia reported 102 UFO's last year, more than even its higher population would account for. B.C. regularly accounts for 30 to 40 per cent of Canada's sightings. Do aliens also gravitate toward our warm west coast? No, says Mr. Rutkowski. "Ufology is marketed more aggressively out there so more people come forward with their stories."

An aberration that cannot be explained away is the relatively higher-than-expected number of sightings reported in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Last year sightings there made up 10 per cent of Canada's total, far higher than the population would account for.

"The UFO hot spot is the cold spot," Mr. Rutkowski said. "Why? These are some of the puzzles that remain in ufology."

More UFO sightings were reported last year than ever before. "There were 263 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2000, about 11 per cent more than the average recorded since 1989," Mr. Rutkowski said.

After comparing sightings to possible causes, about 13 per cent of these were left unexplained. This percentage falls to about five per cent when factors such as witness reliability, probability of "other" explanations and number of witnesses are taken into account. Most UFO sightings, however, have more than one witness and the typical UFO sighting lasts between five and eight minutes.

Are you still convinced hundreds of people across Canada are reporting air-planes in the skies, not UFO's? Think about this.

While data for this year hasn't been compiled yet, Mr. Rutkowski said UFO sightings did not disappear after planes were grounded across North America in the week just after the attacks against New York on Sept. 11. "There may have been a slight increase even," he said. "I collected data only for Canada, but there were also sightings during that time in the United States that I know of."

Canada is the only country on earth that regularly studies and tabulates UFO sightings in this manner, of that Mr. Rutkowski is certain. "Britain is thinking of copying our methods," he said. How many intergalactic countries or planets are thinking of copying his methods? Of that, Mr. Rutkowski isn't so certain.

You wouldn't expect UFOs to be a hot topic in Fredericton, New Brunswick, says Halifax filmmaker Paul Kimball. California maybe, or even Roswell, New Mexico - but New Brunswick?

Still, the big-little city is home to Stanton T. Friedman, one of the world's foremost UFO researchers and lecturers. He's the subject of Mr. Kimball's latest documentary, Stanton T. Friedman IS Real. The title is a play on the name Mr. Friedman gives the lectures that take him around the world, Flying Saucers ARE Real.

The documentary is slated for Canada's Space network next spring and on Bravo within the next year and a half. It's a look at the life of a man few in New Brunswick could name but thousands across the world adore.

It's also a look at UFOs. "You can't look at Stan's life without looking at UFOs," Mr. Kimball says. "He's the person responsible - for good or for ill - that Roswell has become a cultural phenomenon."

During a lightning storm in July, 1947, something fell from the sky and crumbled into pieces among the scrub bush and buffalo grass of the New Mexico desert. A sheep ranch foreman stumbled upon a strange mass of metal wreckage scattered across an open field about 100 kilometres

northwest of Roswell. A few days later he presented samples of the debris to the sheriff in Roswell. The sheriff called the army base. Intelligence officers came to investigate. On July 8 the base's public information officer wrote a press release announcing that the military had discovered a "flying disc." Four hours later, the military released a new statement, this time penned by a general at Fort Worth Tex. This statement claimed that the debris was from a weather balloon - not a flying saucer. End of story. The world forgot about the incident.

Mr. Friedman didn't forget. He's convinced the first press release was the accurate one and has spent his life trying to prove it. With several books documenting his research and evidence to his name, proving Roswell has been his life's work. With little else on his agenda, it's become his life's obsession. "I don't bother much with lights in the sky anymore," he says. "Once you've got Mount Everest, a few pebbles on top won't make much difference."

Each year people from all over the world celebrate the anniversary of the UFO crash, with what Mr. Kimball terms a "religious fervour."

It isn't the Roswell incident that fascinates Mr. Kimball. For Mr. Kimball the fascination lies in the man himself. "He's a

I've talked to women
who've had fetuses
taken from their
bodies at three months
and shown this hybrid
being a year
or so later.

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN UFO expert

Jewish immigrant from working class 1930s New Jersey who became a successful nuclear physicist," he says. "How does he wind up the world's foremost lecturer and proponent on UFOs? How did he get here from there?"

When asked if he believes, Mr. Kimball neatly dodges the question. "Do I believe that Stan is real? Stan may or may not be real, I don't know."

When pressed further, he caves. "I'm like Fox Mulder. I want to believe," he says. "But I'm a lawyer by training. If the question were put to a civil trial where the burden of proof was 50 per cent plus one, I'd say yes, I believe. If the standard were beyond a reasonable doubt, as in a criminal trial, I'd have to say no, I can't believe."

Stanton Friedman believes; unequivocally. The physicist-by-training has never seen a UFO himself, but "I've never seen Tokyo either, and it's there."

He's talked to people who have seen UFOs, who've seen aliens, who've been abducted by aliens. "People from around the world have talked to me about [a UFO experience] that happened 20, 30 years ago and it's like it happened yesterday."

He describes the experience of listening to someone talk about UFO encounters as "incredible." Abduction stories have the greatest impact: "A lot of people who've been abducted resent being taken. They feel like saying 'Hey, you didn't ask my permission.' Of course, they're resentful. I've talked to women who've had fetuses taken from their bodies at three months and shown this hybrid being a year or so later."

Why are aliens coming here? It's like asking why people fly to Saint John, Mr. Friedman says with a baffling confidence. Ask for clarification and he'll elaborate. "They're coming here to do graduate research on primitive societies; we're somebody's crop or colony. We could be the honeymoon corner of the galaxy, or maybe Auntie Paulie lives in this corner of the universe and is sick or maybe they're stealing genetic material."

Or, he adds, a trip to earth could be punishment for some intergalactic crime, "that could be punishment enough for anybody." Or, maybe they're quarantining earth to prevent us from taking our rather violent brand of friendship into the galaxy.

OK, so why isn't the mainstream press jumping all over the biggest story in history? Why don't more people come forward with stories? Many don't want to be ridiculed, Mr. Friedman explains. "They're



UFO expert Stanton T. Friedman pours through documents in his filing cabinets at his Fredericton home.

afraid they'll look foolish." Yet others have had unpleasant encounters with the military about their experiences and been told to shut up, Mr. Friedman elaborates.

And, of course, the government conspires to keep the reality of UFO visits from the public. Stories in the tabloids with three-headed monsters, that's OK; nobody treats that seriously. But imagine if, say, the Globe and Mail and the New York Times began investigating and exposing the truth. Imagine; "the younger generation would push for a new definition of ourselves as earthlings, instead of Canadians or Americans," Mr. Friedman says. "I don't know of a single government that wants its citizens to owe allegiance to earth rather than their country. Nationalism is the biggest game in town."

OK, so we make contact with aliens, we establish their presence as a universal truth and define ourselves as earthlings. Then what?

"Maybe we will start to grow up," he says. "If we play our cards right maybe we will qualify for admission to the cosmic kindergarten."

"The biggest hope is that they have more sociology than technology. We're big on technology but lousy on sociology. One would hope they live decent lives, they don't die of starvation in droves like we do here, don't live 10 to a room in some hovel the way most of earth's population does."

When earthlings go searching for aliens in our skies, what we really seek is help, says St. Thomas University English professor Tony Tremblay. We want someone to make our world better, to stop our wars, to give everybody enough to eat and make everybody happy.

"It's a phenomenon visible in times of high anxiety," he said. "The 1930s was another time of great interest in aliens, during a period of high anxiety because of the depression and economic collapse. We're at a similar time now, economically, politically and spiritually depressed."

In the months after Sept. 11 we welcome the alien world of K-Pax. It's not as much because we really believe, but because we want to believe. Collectively we're the befuddled Manhattan psychiatrist, played by Jeff Bridges, unable to grasp how a society could function without laws or violence, but hoping it can.

Not only that, but we've lost faith in religion. "People still have the need to believe, to have faith," Mr. Tremblay says. Where some feel God failed, will aliens step in?

Don't forget the profit motive, Mr. Tremblay adds. "Hollywood imagery and aliens are simply good for the economy." And when Hollywood starts talking aliens, people believe.

All this makes Mr. Tremblay sound like a non-believer. But that wouldn't be an accurate description. It would be more accurate to call him a fence-sitter. "I am open to the possibility," he said. "But, I'm waiting to be contacted."

Thomas Boleyn isn't just waiting to be contacted by aliens - he's searching.

When the Moncton resident became a part of an international search for extraterrestrial intelligence in 1999, his wife shook her head and said he was "listening to the sky."

He's one of 187,470 SETI@home (The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence at

Home) users in Canada; one of almost 3.5 million worldwide; and one of four who are registered as New Brunswickers.

SETI is a scientific experiment that uses Internet-connected computers in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The SETI institute in Berkeley uses a big telescope to scan space for a narrow band of radio frequencies that do not occur naturally; which scientists assume would be an alien transmission. What would an alien signal sound like? A simple, pure tone apparently - at least that's what SETI scientists are listening for.

But if scientists ever want to find that tone, a whole lot of broadcasts will have to be analyzed. Hence the idea to bring the public into the effort.

"If one computer had done all the calculations to date it would have taken 782273.565 years [to complete]," Mr. Boleyn wrote in an e-mail interview. "The amount of computing time that has been used so far and the calculations that have been done is mind-boggling."

The SETI institute sends packets of information to participants' computers. This information is analyzed when the computer is idle. Results are then e-mailed back to Berkeley and another information packet is again sent out to be analyzed.

Response has been so incredible that a SETI@home II project is being planned for this year, with an increased radio band coverage.

It's the only chance many people ever have of participating in a scientific experiment attempting to make contact with UFOs. He admits the experiment can seem a little like a shot in the dark. In three years nothing encouraging has been found. "If SETI@home does find something, it could be this afternoon or it may be never," he says.

Because SETI is looking for radio signals in a certain area of the radio spectrum, the contacted alien society would have to be much like us and developed our kind of technology. "A life form of Stone Age-like people could exist or a more highly evolved life form may even communicate in ways we don't even know is possible," he says.

But still he and millions of people across the world continue to listen. More pressing than curiosity, stronger than the fear they might hurt us, what people like Mr. Boleyn want is much simpler. They want to know they aren't alone. "It would prove to [people] that life on Earth is not a one-in-a-billion chance," he wrote.

But he adds caution, too. Not that aliens might want to conquer and destroy earthlings; but they may not be terribly interested in us. "If there is really more intelligent life in the Universe we might be so far behind them in technology that they might find us about as interesting as we [find] observing ants crawling on the ground."

New Brunswick author Dorothy Dearborn just can't get Perc Elkin's UFO encounter out of her mind. She was conducting research at a Friedman seminar for *Legends, Oddities and Mysteries*, a book which includes provincial UFO encounters, when she spotted Ms. Elkin. She approached her old friend and told her about her new book. And Ms. Elkin said, "Well, Dorothy, I've seen one, too, you know."

Now, I have a feeling that there is something out there that comes in to look us over.

PERC ELKIN
UFO sighter

Ms. Dearborn was blown away. Not because Ms. Elkin had seen a UFO - she'd been interviewing a lot of those people. But because it was her friend who had seen one. "I already had an assessment of her. As a result I put a lot of credibility in her story," said Ms. Dearborn.

Ms. Elkin hadn't talked about her story to anyone for years. "Really, I never think about it," she insisted. But she does occasionally look out around sunset, wondering if she'll see again what she saw one evening in June, 1970.

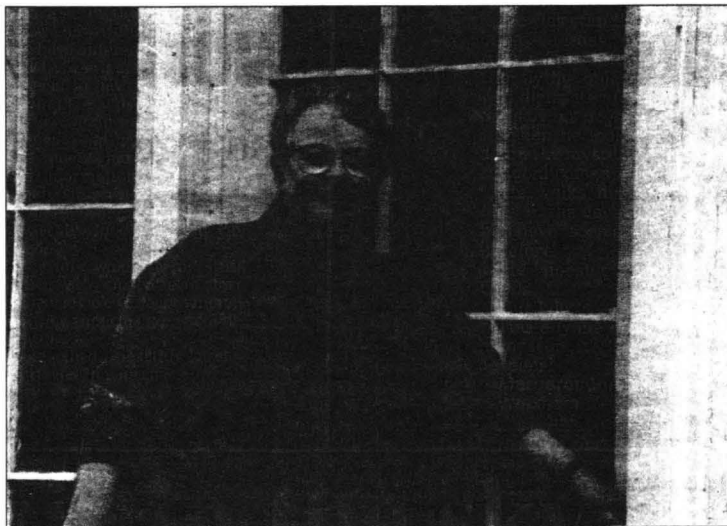
The sun had set. Ms. Elkin was outside on her deck. In the sky, just over the horizon she saw a red light, about as big as a small plane. "I thought it was a plane rising over the horizon, but it stayed in one position for a long time," she said.

She called her son Peter outside with her, just to verify what she was seeing. After he came outside, the object split into two pieces. One fell into the Bay of Fundy. The other floated toward Ms. Elkin and her son. "It was a boomerang shaped-thing, no sound, no light. It just floated right over our deck."

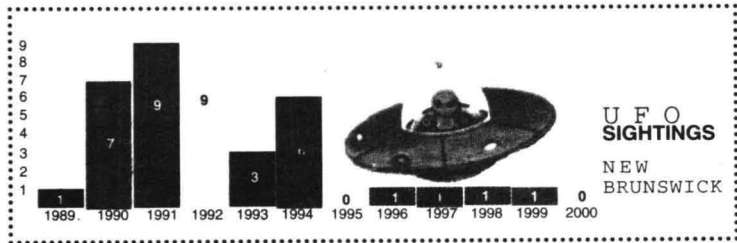
Before that evening Ms. Elkin had never thought about UFOs. "I'd heard stories of other people's experiences, but you took it with a grain of salt," she said. "Now, I have a feeling that there is something out there that comes in to look us over."

And every once in a while she scans the horizon at sunset.

Michelle Porter is a reporter and editor extraordinaire with the Telegraph-Journal. She can be reached at porter.michelle@nbpub.com



New Brunswick author Dorothy Dearborn says that when a friend of hers - whom she trusted - saw a UFO it made the story credible.



BECKENHAM: Author says governments are aware of other life forms

Aliens are out there!

by SARAH WARDEN

A BECKENHAM author claims to have answered one of the major questions troubling humanity. We are not alone.

And the truth from out there was brought to Bromley when Timothy Good, of The Avenue, Beckenham, visited The Glades to discuss his research, which shows aliens are here on Earth already, with bases beneath the sea and on land.

The 59-year-old's interest in aliens was sparked from a childhood desire to be a pilot which made him think about UFOs.

Since then the violinist has spent years travelling the world to find out more.

His expertise has been displayed in lectures all over the world and he was invited to the Pentagon for discussions in 1998.

America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain and Italy were all research sites for the latest book.

But he claims aliens can be found closer to home, too, and believes he saw a UFO hovering over Orpington back in December 1980.

He has gleaned much of his informa-



● NON-SCEPTIC: Timothy Good with his latest book

tion from high-ranking military sources and sees his work as a battle against scepticism.

Mr Good said: "I certainly don't enjoy

preaching to the converted. I want people to learn the truth about what is going on. From what I have learnt, I know there are alien bases under the sea and underground in various points of the world. Contact has been made between aliens and military forces.

"I don't believe all of these aliens are hostile, I think we have different races on Earth and they have different intentions.

"One thing which might give a ray of hope is they seem to have some sort of vested interest in the Earth and I certainly don't think they would stand by and let us blow the planet to smithereens.

"I think governments have a calculated campaign of disinformation to make sure people don't get too interested."

The Glades marketing executive Andy McLean was at Mr Good's talk in Ot-takar's book shop.

He said: "The talk was stirring stuff and the audience was gripped from start to finish. His theories are very convincing and, as conspiracy theories go, this one takes some beating."

The new book, called *Unearthly Disclosure*, is currently out in paperback.

I believe the UFO sighting

While enjoying a friendly cuppa with an elderly friend I was amazed to read an article entitled "Calls flood in over UFO sightings" (November 24) Shropshire Star.

Why, might you ask?

Because every detail including the day and time matches his description given to me two to three weeks previous to the Telford sighting.

I'm convinced it is the same object as seen over Telford.

He describes it as oblong shaped, flashing lights, hovering motionless silently towards the east over Wrex-ham.

He was standing in a field on a Tuesday night, same time 6-7pm after observing the flying object when he was distracted for a few seconds by his dogs.

When he looked skyward again the mystery object had suddenly disappeared.

He walks his dogs regularly in the dark and says he had never seen anything like it before.

He doesn't believe in UFOs.

But I do.

Has anyone else in Wrex-ham seen it? The mystery deepens!

Margaret Jones
Wrexham

UFO park no pie in the sky

By Bob Smyth



PLANS FOR a multi-million pound UFO theme park in Scotland will be unveiled this week, The Sunday Post can reveal.

The massive visitor attraction is designed to cash in on the worldwide fame of the small town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, dubbed the UFO capital of the world.

It's been the scene of thousands of mysterious sightings in the skies over recent years and has become a Mecca for flying saucer enthusiasts across the globe.

Attraction

The proposal for a theme park in the Bonnybridge area will be revealed in a blaze of publicity at a launch in Falkirk this week when artists' impressions and models of the attraction will be made public for the first time

It's understood a consortium of businessmen who have links to the Scottish tourism industry has pledged to plough money into the ambitious

initiative. It's thought the park could cost several million pounds and create up to 6000 jobs.

Details are being kept under wraps, but previous suggestions for a park in the area have included a giant UFO-shaped building and an attraction based on the International Space Station that includes a zero-gravity simulator.

The community has featured on numerous TV programmes and been visited by UFO enthusiasts from America, Japan, Australia and throughout Europe.

Flying saucer

A theme park would help Bonnybridge emulate the US town of Roswell, scene of an infamous incident in 1947 that led to claims that a flying saucer had crashed in the area and that bodies had been recovered from the wreck.

Moves are already under way to twin the towns and now the Scottish community could have a visitor attraction to rival Roswell's International UFO Museum. The New Mexico town benefits to the tune of millions from visitors each year.

Crop circles found in MD of Brazeau

By Linda Arlia

Western Review staff

There's the believers and the non-believers.

The religious and the superstitious.

The faithful and the skeptics.

The squares and the circles?

Two crop circles were discovered in the early morning hours of Aug. 18 in an oat field just outside of Drayton Valley.

If it isn't a hoax then a mother ship with her cub ship that needed a breather could possibly be an alternative explanation for the phenomenon. After all, a light year can seem like forever.

However, if the latter explanation isn't the correct answer then these crop circles, like many of the others found all over the world, may continue to stand as unexplainable phenomena despite the reports of various admitted hoaxes in the past.

The larger circle discovered on Robert Masse's property is approximately twice the size of the other, smaller circle that is situated nearby.

According to the landowners, Masse and Heather Anderson, no tracks were found leading out to the first, larger circle and no marks or tracks were seen between the larger and the smaller circle when Masse first discovered the circles while swathing

his oat field early Saturday morning.

"He saw them while he was swathing and stopped...he came to get me and I went out to see them...we've never seen anything like them before," Anderson said.

She says the reason it's difficult to believe that people caused the circles is because of the sharp and crisp borders of the circles.

She also says she and Masse made tracks while looking at the circles; however, no tracks, marks or crimping of the stalks were found when they first observed the scene.

"I don't know what happened," Anderson said.

Anderson says Masse has been farming on this particular field for approximately 30 years and he has never seen anything like this on his property before.

Dr. James Butler, professor of conservation biology at the University of Alberta, is a scientist who was drawn into the unusual phenomena when he joined experts in England when the crop circle phenomena was coming to a peak.

Butler says there are three different kinds of crop "circle" explanations; however, the "circle" attribution is no longer sufficient in naming the phenomena as some of the formations found are patterned in different sizes and shapes. Butler says the

"good classic circle" isn't what is always found. Some, he says, are differently shaped and the ones found in Canada aren't as elaborate as the ones discovered and studied in Europe.

However, the explanations for the various formations begins with "hoaxes" that people are motivated to create for various reasons. He says there is also a second level of motivation that people possess who create the next level of circles found. He says the people involved in these types of creations are gratified with special feelings by performing and creating the formations. "There are people who seem to have touched on something or made a connection with something that is beyond their life...it's a fascination that causes them to repeat the behaviour," Butler said.

The third level, he says, are the "circles" that are found that scientists simply don't understand what causes their creation and what they mean.

"We know they mean something...and they're interesting to scientists because so many other types of phenomena don't leave physical traces for us to study...there's something happening...but we don't know what they mean or how they got there," he said. "Some are quite elaborate

designs...the key feature in these are that the stalks of the plants don't get broken down."

"The nodes swell up and melt and become malleable so the stalks bend but don't die...the stalks then take any form."

Butler says these types are pretty hard to fake for these reasons and partly due to the fact that various instruments often show some sort of magnetic energy detection after examinations of the areas are performed.

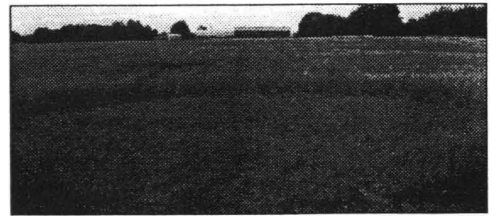
"The stalks are also laid down in different patterns which would make it very difficult to think that people could be responsible for these because of the scale of them and the criteria found in them," Butler said.

He says there are various theories as to how these "formations" appear including some scientists hypothesizing and questioning whether or not they appear due to energy forces derived from the earth.

"Some people claim to have seen them forming...they say it's like watching a wave of wind and some say there are even high pitched sounds heard while they're forming."

"Some are considered more mysterious," Butler said.

Butler says scientists who study the phenomena of crop circles usually can test



A close view of the larger circle found in an oat field near Drayton Valley.
—Photo by Linda Arlia

the soil structure as well. When analyzed, some have magnetic properties detected in the soil tests.

Typically, he says the "circles" are found in cereal crops. However, there are reported cases of findings in rice crops in Japan and even treed areas in other parts of the world.

"They tend to occur at night but some have taken place during the day as well."

"There are usually 10 to 12 found in Canada per year...we get about the same amount that the United States gets," Butler said.

The circles found on Masse's field are circular in form; however, the cause of their development is still unknown. Whether certain people were motivated to work at creating them for their own reasons and they subsequently prove to be a hoax remains unknown to date. On the other hand, whether the circles were elaborate, genuine designs caused by some sort of force or energy presence is still unexplainable and may remain intriguing until their origin is hopefully understood at a later date.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 17, 2002

City rated No. 1 destination for alien abductee hopefuls

Vancouver the scene of 300 space snatches, says British newspaper

By JOHN ARMSTRONG

Supernatural B.C.? More than you know.

As a travel destination Vancouver has always bragged (in a quiet, Canadian sort of way) of the variety of things to see and do while visiting the Lower Mainland, but we have been sadly lax in promoting the one activity where we are acknowledged as the No. 1 place to be. You can ski, snowboard, hike, sail and fish in countless other locations, but only in Vancouver do you have the best odds on Earth of being abducted by aliens.

The news is out, though, after a report in the British newspaper *The Guardian* that lists Vancouver as one of 10 destinations for tourists desiring "spiritual enlightenment or a brush with the paranormal."

Travel reporter Paul Gogarty writes: "If the possibility of an extra-terrestrial abduction is high on your list of priorities when it comes to choosing a destination, Vancouver is reputed to be just the place."

"According to Ann Druffel in *How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction*, it has witnessed more space snatches — 300 at the last count — than any other city. So it's no wonder that the city spawned the cult TV series, the *X-Files*. Vancouver's ethereal quality on a misty morning probably reminds the aliens of home. [Given the number of repeat visits they are reported to make, maybe some enterprising Vancouverite should open an alien hotel.]"

Druffel, a Los Angeles UFO researcher and historian of long standing is on solid ground in making this claim; a 1999 survey of UFO activity and sightings showed more than half of that year's national total were from the West Coast. B.C. had 118, Ontario 79, Yukon 20, Alberta 19, Quebec eight, Manitoba and Newfoundland six each, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan one each, and none in Nova Scotia or the Northwest Territories.

The survey team also reported that B.C. and Yukon were the only areas of the country where sightings were rising each year. Aside from the obvious cause of alien abduction reports, there are other theories.

Sleep-disorder researchers have found that patients with narcolepsy can also have an associated disorder called hypnagogic hallucination, where threatening, inhuman forms appear during the night and attack the sleeper, who is convinced of their reality.

Sleep paralysis, which can be triggered by stress, drugs or genetics, is a dysfunction of the brain during REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, during which the most vivid dreams occur and at the same time paralyzes the large muscles leaving the dreamer feeling helpless. A third cause may be parietal lobe epilepsy, which commonly induces otherworldly visions and voices during a seizure. None of these possibilities explains why there would be a preponderance of cases of such disorders in one city, though.

The *Guardian's* other recommended locations are:

- Peru's 1,200-year-old Nazca Lines, which appear to be enormous outlines of animals, birds and, author Erich Von Daniken proposed in *Chariots of the Gods*, extra-terrestrial astronauts.

- The Grotte de Massabielle at Lourdes, France, where 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous saw visions of the Virgin Mary in 1858.

- Roswell, N.M., site of a reported UFO crash in 1947 (with the saucer debris and the corpses of its occupants alleged to still be hidden in a secret government location) and the self-proclaimed UFO capital of the U.S.

To read the full article, go to www.travel.guardian.co.uk

CR: G. Conway

More strange happenings

By Genevieve Poirier
Prairie Post

Saskatchewan

Did you know that 13 crop circles appeared in Canada last year?

According to the Canadian Crop Research Network, a non-profit research organization, southern Saskatchewan seems to be a 'hot spot' for crop circles.

In August 2000, Hazlet farmer Ellis Randy found a 22-inch diameter circle while combining his durum wheat field. It was a tight, clockwise, spiral, lay pattern shaped in a 'perfect circle.' There wasn't any damage to the plant stalk. No entry or exit paths were found.

"Such circles are quite common in Saskatchewan and Alberta," says Canadian Crop Circle Research Network fonder and director Paul Anderson. He says August and September seem to be the 'crop circle season' in Canada.

Anderson is currently in Saskatchewan on a field study expedition. Once a year, usually at this time of year, the CCCRN packs up its gear and hits the road to investigate these strange phenomena. Often complex geometric and mathematical patterns are formed.

Fourteen crop circles have already been reported this year and CCCRN just finished investigating one in Drayton Valley, AB.

Two circles, one 40-feet and the other 20 feet, were found in an outfield. CCCRN did a scientific investigation, which included photos, soil and plant analysis, video taping the area and documenting all the details. It's too early for a conclusion, but Anderson believes it was not a hoax.

Since the early 1970's unexplained crop circles have been appearing around the world and in the last few years, people have attempted to copy the circles.

Mass hoaxing has become the standard accepted explanation, by most of the mainstream media and general public, says Anderson. This is despite the fact, that recent scientific evidence strongly indicates that hoaxing only accounts for a limited percentage of all reports.

According to the CCCRN, plant and soil samples from many formations have repeatedly shown a variety of unexplained biophysical effects, including swollen, stretched, or split nodes on the plant stems, which comes from a rapid internal heating of the plant stems. Studies have also shown that the seeds are often dehydrated or shrunken.

"These effects are not reproducible by conventional hoaxing methods, such as rope, boards or feet," says Anderson who's on route to investigate a circle found in Estevan, SK. last October.

CCCRN encourages people to report any strange phenomena, such as a crop circle, to the organization as soon after discovery as possible so a proper investigation can be initiated.

For the next month, Anderson can be reached at (604) 727-1454. ■

ANOTHER UFO IS SIGHTED IN THE WEST YORKSHIRE SKIES

Calling Mulder and Scully...

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds,
England - Nov. 29, 2001



● REAL LIFE X-FILES: TV's UFOlogists - Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny - would have their work cut out for them in West Yorkshire

BY NICK AHAD

A LARGE orange ball has been seen hovering over South Elmsall - and not for the first time.

But this was not that well known large orange ball which is regularly seen in the south of Britain and makes occasional guest appearances in Yorkshire - the sun.

This large orange ball is being billed as a UFO - an unidentified flying object.

People of South Elmsall were stunned to see the ball of light hovering above their town - first on Thursday, November 15 and then again on Monday, November 26.

South Elmsall resident Karl Eastwood was one of the many people who saw the inexplicable light as he was driving towards his home from Hooton Pagnall on Monday night.

After seeing the UFO he contacted Paul Westwood, the director of UFO 2000 - a group which investigates sightings of

strange ariel phenomena.

Mr Westwood said: "When he described what he had seen I immediately realised it was the same thing that had been reported to me a couple of weeks ago."

"It was reported on Wednesday, November 15 by someone who described seeing three large balls of orange light as he was driving towards his home at South Elmsall."

This man told Mr Westwood that he did not want to be identified but Mr Eastwood had no such worries.

"He told me he was driving home at around 6.30pm when he and his wife saw a large orange ball hovering over South Elmsall," said Mr Westwood. "He stopped and watched it through binoculars, which he carries around in his car, for about 20 minutes. It then disappeared and he carried on home."

Mr Westwood wants to hear from other people who saw the orbs on either November 15 or Monday to ring him on 01977 609068.

nick.ahad@ypn.co.uk

RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS IN YORKSHIRE

- Tuesday November 6, 2001. At 8.03pm a police officer witnessed bright lights over M62, they then shot off.
- November 5, 2001. A motorist aged 31 nearly lost control of her car when she saw low flying bright red light over Bradford.
- February 23, 2001. A man in Ackworth near Pontefract witnessed a bright orange triangle at 5.50pm. At the top of the triangle was a bright white light.
- February 9, 2001. Two people witnessed a large orange ball over South Kirkby near Pontefract at 0730am.
- February 8, 2001. At 7.40pm numerous people witnessed a huge fireball streaking across the skies of West Yorkshire.

COALVILLE TIMES, Leicestershire, England - Dec. 14, 2001 The truth is out there

And it might even be in a small South Derbyshire village where Anne Harvey has seen strange lights, recorded their movements and appearances.

KAY MOON talked to Anne, watched the videos and studied the pictures. She is baffled too

I WAS invited to review a book entitled *Are we being watched?* by Margaret Anne Harvey. I read this carefully, realising immediately that it was more like a diary than a theory or story.

This is Anne's second book. Her earlier publication, *Strange Lights in the Night*, was printed early in 1999 and the current book follows on from where the first book finished.

Anne did not urge me to read her book, she did not insist that I watched the videos of what she has seen and recorded with her camera. She merely accepts that 'they are there' and she has the courage to bring to the attention of any interested party the fact of 'their' visibility.

Anne has had sightings of the strange, unexplained lights from her house which borders onto open countryside. There are no other properties in the vista apart from her next door neighbour - no buildings, main

would not even go to bed knowing that this huge object was outside, making a continuous buzzing noise."

When Anne eventually managed to buy a video recorder, she was able to capture some of the lights and their movements on tape. She does not try to explain what they are doing or why. How could she know?

She does ask questions out loud and feels that attempts are being made to relay replies.

Anne said: "The replies come at such speed that I cannot even be sure that they make any sense but I have written down everything that I had time to perceive."

Anne is 'not a deeply religious person' but has seen things which suggest to her that the intelligence behind the lights is aware of the Christian religion.

Anne is a full-time carer to her daughter who requires 24-hour attention and therefore Anne has little time to do more than note down times and dates of sightings and use the video when she can.

Anne is not seeking the limelight and indeed seemed rather timid that she had become involved in something so extraordinary.

She merely invited me to watch the videos 'if I wished' and asked if I wanted to see the lights. This was about 9.30am on a rather dull day, little or no sunlight. I was surprised as I looked over the very pretty view from her kitchen window as I could see nothing but beautiful countryside, woods and fields.

She said I had to view through the camera, they were not visible to the naked eye.

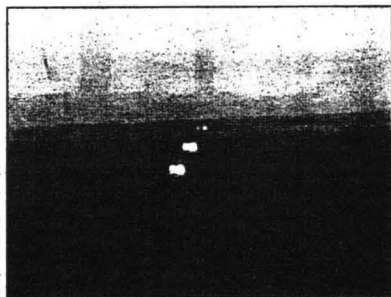
I looked through the camera and could clearly see what appeared to me to be line of four brilliant white lights, perhaps not more than half a mile distant.

They reminded me of overhead football floodlights but they were lower to the ground than that and much, much brighter. There are no buildings or roads there, just dense woodland.

Before I left the house, I looked again towards the light through the camera lens. Two of the lights had moved to the right about eight or ten feet and risen about 15 feet higher. The other two remained in more or less the same position.

Below and to the left of the two stationary lights were two more, not nearly so bright and much smaller, each about the size of a beach ball. They were not headlights, they were much too far apart for that. As I watched the two smaller lights moved towards each other and merged into one.

I asked if she and her husband had been



The lights as filmed on video from Anne's house.

down there to see what it could be.

Anne said: "My husband and I have been down there and there is nothing to see and there is no sensation of anything there."

"The woods just there are so dense it is very difficult to try and walk through, let alone drive a vehicle through."

Reflections then, I thought, but from where or what? I have no idea. There were no buildings to reflect from windows or daytime lights and hardly any daylight came to that.

Anne told me that after one encounter with the lights moving right up to the house and flooding the room with light, she does not feel threatened any more. She has a sense of calm and peace. She does not get frightened as she did at first.

She is however very much of the opinion that 'they' are aware that she is watching them. They even take control of the camera and close it off. It becomes inoperable - just like some people have reported losing control of their cars when confronted by unexplained lights.

A famous UFO author and broadcaster who has experienced very similar incidents in the Norfolk area told Anne that they had tried to set up TV cameras to record what they could see but again the cameras were turned off by force so no recordings could be made.

I watched the videos later and can only say that I could not begin to explain, there are so many differing forms. There are bright 'headlights' type lights which change shape and/or colour as they move through the skies. There are huge global shapes which appear to have corridors right through the centre and window type apertures. There were many others too numerous to mention.

Since Anne and her husband have had the camera for such a short time, I cannot believe that they could imagine, create, concoct and film so much in such a short time (two video tapes full). I feel that even Spielberg would be pushed to complete such a rapid result.

Anne quietly stated: "They are watching me as much as I am watching them."

Is there someone collating all the information that we read about, internationally? Is there somewhere we can report these sightings without fuss and/or being thought slightly unbalanced.

Does anyone understand what these lights represent and why out of the hundreds of reports we hear or see, we are still dubious about the whole subject of UFOs?

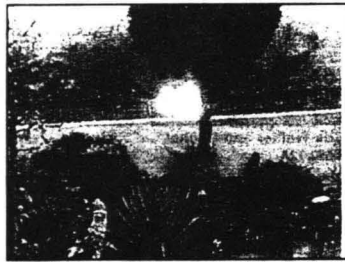
Can so many thousands of people be wrong?

There must be many more thousands who have not reported what they have seen because they do not wish to be viewed as being 'different' or 'a bit soft'.

When are we going to start getting some explanation?

Information is not going to cause panic, rather the reverse I should think.

So, are we being watched - I wonder?



The lights are much closer in this clip from Anne's video.

roads or motorways are within the scope of her vision in any direction.

She is not alone in what she sees but whereas most know and just accept what is happening, Anne feels it is important to place on record what is occurring.

She has spoken to other people in the village who have seen the same as her but do not want to be thought of as 'daft' so they do not trouble to try and find out whether or not it is strange phenomena or something else.

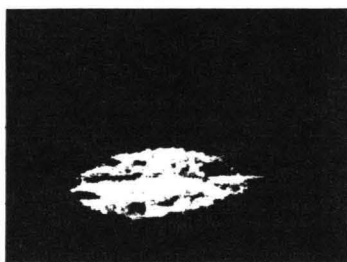
Anne has on occasions, telephoned the local airport to see if they can explain what she can see. The local airport could not explain her sightings and she was asked to try Birmingham. She did and was also connected to Bristol and eventually to a radar operation unit but still it remained unexplained.

She tried helicopter firms and although she

was told by one helicopter pilot that he had seen, 'three bright lights travelling alongside our craft for quite a distance', he had not reported it, nor had his crew although they had all seen the same, because he could not explain what it was.

Anne had her very first sighting 'over 20 years ago' and felt frightened and threatened.

She told me: "I



Could this be a flying saucer?

My cod! Chip shop trip is really alien

An amazed Telford man couldn't believe his eyes when he spotted what he believed to be a UFO hovering in the sky over The Wrekin as he popped to the chip shop.

The 23-year-old was so stunned by the brightly lit apparition that he immediately stopped his car to watch the craft.

The man, who does not wish to be named, is convinced the object was not a plane or an airship and telephoned Malingsgate Police Station.

"I just couldn't believe that

nobody actually saw it," he said.

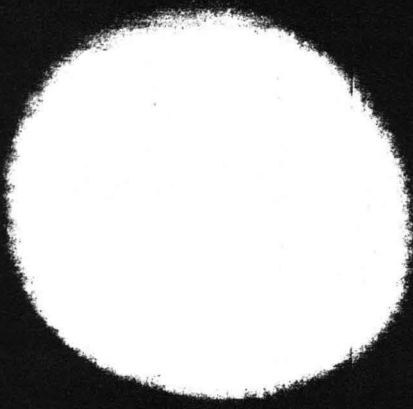
"It was so low and so strange."

He watched as the unidentified flying object hovered in the sky for almost a minute before revolving and slowly going back the way it had come.

With a clear view of the "unbelievable" craft he said it was covered in different coloured flashing lights.

He said the craft, which was spotted at 6.15pm on Tuesday, did not look like a flying saucer or a space ship and he described it as two planes joined together by scaffolding.

Red sky at night gave duo a fright



12:32 AM
9 SEP 2001

by Krista Beighton

kbeighton@derbytelegraph.co.uk

THIS mysterious light was captured on film by a Derby man when he spotted it hovering in the skies above his house.

The image is just one of many filmed by Andrew Garlick near his home in Milton Street, over the last few months.

He says he has no idea what the objects are or why they suddenly appeared.

Mr Garlick (18) and his wife, Danielle (19), first saw a strange object outside their house on Friday, September 7.

They claim they looked through their patio windows and saw a slow-moving oval-shaped white light.

As they went to the window to watch the light, a small, white teardrop shape slowly fell from it and floated towards the ground.

The experience left Mrs Garlick terrified and her husband confused.

He said: "I am not the sort of person who believes in UFOs and that sort of thing but I could not explain what I saw that night."

"It was the weirdest thing I have ever seen."

Mrs Garlick said: "I can't think of any logical explanation for what we've witnessed."

After seeing the light, the couple began to watch the skies outside their home more often.

They saw the oval object a second time and they also saw another strange formation - three white shapes in a triangle.

They saw the hovering single, red-coloured light a few weeks later.

The sightings come months after Bonsall hit the headlines after 19 UFO sightings were reported in four months - including one captured on video by housewife Sharon Rowlands.

UFO enthusiast Peter Edwards, of Lyttelton Street, Derby, has looked at footage of dozens of possible UFO sightings and says he does not think Mr Garlick's footage is a hoax.

"These images could be stars or satellites but there is also a possibility that this is a UFO."

"This footage is very similar to some that was caught on film about five years ago near Blagreaves Lane - and as far as I am concerned, that was certainly a UFO."

East Midlands Airport has confirmed that the area of Derby where Mr Garlick lives is not one of their main flight paths.

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment.

Anyone who thinks they have seen strange objects in the sky should call Krista Beighton at the Derby Evening Telegraph on Derby 291111 extension 6502.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England - Nov. 22, 2001

Leading UFO expert to speak in Dales

'Not all reports can be dismissed' - organiser

A LEADING UFO expert who brought the question of extra-terrestrial life before the UN will speak in the Dales.

Alien boff Dr Raymond Nielsen will deliver a speech called "Why Are They Here?" at UFO hot-spot Bonsall.

Event organiser, Natu Patel said: "Dr Nielsen was involved in the late 1970s in trying to get a United Nations resolution to investigate UFOs."

"He is one of the leading experts - you can't get anyone more knowledgeable."

Both Dr Nielsen and Mr Patel belong to the Aetherius Society - an international group which began in 1955.

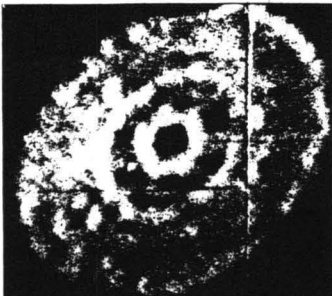
Aetherius is a Greek word literally meaning "one who comes from outer space" and the group's nearest branch is the East Midlands headquarters in Derby.

"Usually we give talks and lectures in towns and cities but because there is so much UFO activity here, we chose Bonsall," added Mr Patel.

"Gone are the days of 30 to 40 years ago when if you mentioned UFOs people kept away from you."

"It is no longer a subject for ridicule."

"The authorities thought the subject would die away but there have been more and more sightings, throughout the world. Not all the reports can be dismissed."



● BIZARRE: The infamous Bonsall UFO.

By

Matt Barlow

Bonsall's Sharon Rowlands who caught bizarre UFO activity on film and sold it to American production company Fox Studios, has also been approached to speak.

A panel of experts will also be on hand to answer questions at the talk in Bonsall Village.

Admission is £3 or £2 for concessions for the event on Thursday, December 6.

● THE UFO mystery in the Derbyshire Dales has baffled experts and the public since it began last summer.

Strange lights were first reported in August, and since then the

Mercury has received more than 25 reports of objects and colours seen in the skies.

Have you seen anything strange? If so, contact one of our reporters on 01629 582432.

EVENING STAR, Ipswich, England - Dec. 29, 2001

Couple saw night-time UFO lights over town

By NICK RICHARDS

nick.richards@ecng.co.uk

AN Ipswich couple were treated to an extra special sight on Christmas Day when they saw what appeared to be an unidentified flying object.

The family, who asked not to be named, saw the strange flashing object from their house in Valley Road, just 24 hours after Santa would have been in the middle of his Christmas deliveries.

The mother of the family said: "At about midnight my husband noticed a very bright light. He called me to look at it and I saw what seemed to be a large star. The strange thing was that our

room was illuminated by the very strong light, which it emitted."

"I would normally have likened it to moonlight, but there was no moon to be seen. My husband continued to watch it as I fell asleep. He called me a few minutes later to tell me that it was flashing and emitting a blue hue around its base. He also saw two diagonal protrusions from either side towards the bottom."

The object, which was oval in shape, was smaller in the sky than the moon but bigger than a star

and was viewed from Valley Road towards the Portman Road area.

The family said they knew it was not an aeroplane, a helicopter or even Christmas lights.

They said if it was a star it would have been there the following night but it left the Ipswich skyline after performing its ten-minute light show.

Did you witness the strange phenomenon over Ipswich at around midnight on Christmas Day/Boxing Day? Perhaps you photographed it?

If anybody knows what the peculiar sight was, contact the Evening Star newsdesk on 01473 282257 or e-mail nick.richards@ecng.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Telford, England - Nov. 24, 2001

Calls flood in over UFO sightings

The mystery deepens over a UFO sighting in Telford after bemused onlookers described spotting a strange craft hovering over the town.

The Shropshire Star has been flooded with calls following the revelation in last night's paper that a noiseless aircraft with flashing lights had been spotted in the skies over Telford.

Bus driver Brian Morris could not believe his eyes when he spotted the "unbelievable" aircraft whilst walking his dog.

He said: "I have been an avid sky watcher all my life and I have never seen anything like this."

Several other callers described their shock as they confirmed sightings of the craft between 6pm and 7pm on Tuesday.

Tracey Thomas, of Starchley, said she almost drove off the road when her son pointed out the object.

The callers described the craft as looking like two planes joined together.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England Jan. 11, 2002

Price tag on 'UFO' piece

A Florida man wants 10 million dollars for an object he claims is from a UFO which could hold the secret to defying gravity.

Physicist James Hughes has advertised the piece of metal in a newspaper. He claims he's been offered \$7.5 million.

He says his friend was in a New Jersey landfill site 45 years ago when a UFO dropped the piece. He gave it to Mr Hughes because of his scientific background.



Cattle mutilations back



Tribune photo by Wayne Arnst

Glen and Ruby Bouma show the carcass of a yearling steer Dec. 19 that was mutilated in late October on their farm about three miles west of Conrad. The carcass has been moved from a dry creek bottom where it was found and a veterinarian has performed an autopsy.

Ranchers, lawmen baffled by crime wave

By KATIE OYAN
Tribune Staff Writer

CONRAD — This is the kind of déjà vu Everett King could do without.

About 15 years ago, he discovered the grisly remains of one of his cattle that had died mysteriously.

In October, it happened again. King said it looked as though a surgeon had sliced into his 7-year-old Charolais, the way its right eye and ear were cut off — not to mention the way its reproductive organs had been cored.

What King finds most unusual, however, is that two months later the

here more than a decade ago, Campbell said.

Most of the cows had the skin scraped off their faces. Often, the tongue, one eye and all or part of an ear had been removed. Part of the udder usually was cut off, as well as the genitals. And in most cases, the anus had been cored.

A majority of the cows were age 4 or 5; one was missing its teeth.

Inside on 5A:

New Las Vegas company investigates mutilations.

carcass lies right where he found it, untouched.

"Predators won't eat it," said King, who ranches outside Valier, south of Lake Frances. "It should have been cleaned up and gone a long time ago."

Ranchers reported four mutilations between June and August. Since then, there have been 11 more, and investigators are still searching for answers.

The same bizarre circumstances haunted area ranchers and baffled law enforcement 20 years ago, sparking rumors about UFOs, cults and government conspiracies.

The mutilations went away in the '90s but began again this summer.

In the late '70s, a high volume of alleged mutilations in southwestern states prompted a federally funded investigation. The resulting 300-page report concluded that animal predators were responsible.

Although some dismiss the Pondera County deaths as a hoax or chalk them up to natural causes and predators, Campbell and fel-

The most recent victim — a 12-year-old Hereford — turned up earlier this month on a ranch northwest of Conrad.

"They skinned off the belly from her front legs to her back legs all the way around," Pondera County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Campbell said. "The complete bag was removed."

The last few mutilations occurred within three miles of each other in the Dry Forks area, about 10 or 15 miles west of Conrad.

In October, members of the New Miami Colony, 18 miles west of Conrad, discovered two mutilated cows at the same time, about 30 yards apart.

The scenes were remarkably similar to mutilations ranchers reported



Campbell



Dailey

low investigator Sheriff's Deputy Dick Dailey say they aren't convinced.

Cuts on the cows are often circular or oval and — as with Everett King's Charolais — seem

to be made with surgical precision.

The animals seem to bloat faster than normal, and their missing hide doesn't reflect the work of predators, Campbell said.

"I've never seen an animal eat just the face off a cow when there's lots of other stuff to go after," he said.

One mutilated cow looked like it had been burned. Another seemed to have bruises around its neck as though it had been strangled. One had a long cut with a perfectly ridged edge, as though the hide had been sliced with a tool similar to pinking shears.

Also strange is that in most cases, no tracks or footprints were detected around the animals' bodies, even in mud or snow.

A misconception is that the cows have been drained of blood. Natural coagulation only makes it look like the creatures' fluids have been drained, Dailey said.

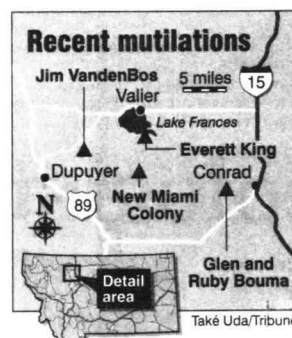
Dailey, who lives in Dupuyer, spent several nights this fall camped out in dark fields, trying to catch the culprit in the act. He has reviewed all the facts and checked out dozens of Web sites looking for answers.

Still, nothing.

"I've read everything I can read on it, and I really don't know what in the heck it is," he said.

Ranchers aren't sure what to think, either.

In September, Jim VandenBos discovered the body of one of his \$850 2-year-old Angus lying dead in his pasture.



The right side of its face was skinned, and the exposed jawbone was so smooth it looked like it had been polished, VandenBos said.

Its tongue was cut off along with its right ear, eye and reproductive organs. A tennis-ball-sized patch of skin on its shoulder was hard like plastic.

Again, coyotes — even other cattle — steered clear.

VandenBos has been ranching southwest of Valier for more than 30 years and remembers the last wave of mutilations well.

"It's kind of a spooky thing," he said. "I haven't worried about it too much because it's something I can't control — but I'd like to find an explanation."

Toward the end of October, a neighbor found the 750-pound steer that died in Glen and Ruby Bouma's dry creek bed, three miles west of Conrad.

"There was a little trail of grass pushed up like it was shoved up underneath it," Ruby Bouma said.

The hide was missing from the calf's stomach and its reproductive organs were gone, but there were no tracks, no bullet holes and no claw marks.

The calf, No. 55, was almost a year old and was worth about \$600. It was one of the friendliest animals the Boumas owned.

A local vet said it died of dust pneumonia, but Glen and Ruby have their doubts.

"That's possible, because it's so dry," Ruby Bouma said. "But I think we would have known if it was sick. We took special notice because it was one of two calves that were like pets to us. It would come up and smell your hand or your pantleg."

The whole thing is peculiar, if you ask the Boumas. When a cow dies of natural causes, for instance, predators will usually chew into its flesh.

Glen and Ruby's calf was missing only its hide. And when they checked on Thanksgiving Day, predators still were keeping their distance.

Some folks in the area think the U.S. Air Force or aliens are behind the mutilations, but not Ruby.

"I'm sorry, but I personally think it's somebody local ... that's doing it for kicks," she said.

One difficulty local investigators have encountered in cracking the case is gathering evidence.

After two or three days, collecting evidence becomes a lost cause because the cattle are so badly decomposed.

And in the summer, carcasses rot faster and often go undiscovered for weeks.

"We have to fight time," Campbell said. "We're hoping that this time of year, ranchers are gathering and feeding every day so we'll get a better jump on them and come up with some more clues."

Pondera sheriff's deputies also are hoping a Nevada laboratory will answer some of their questions.

This fall, Campbell and Dailey chopped the head off a mutilated cow, packed it in dry ice and shipped it to the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas.

The privately funded institute pays scientists and retired police officers to investigate bizarre phenomena including mutilations and UFO sightings.

A spokesman from the institute said researchers are nearly finished with their study and will be sending a copy of the report to the Pondera County sheriff's office in a couple of weeks.

"If they could come up with something, that would really help us," Dailey said.

Until investigators reach a satisfactory conclusion, theories continue to spread through local coffee shops and bars.

Some say the mutilations are a government ploy to get Montanans' minds off global issues. Others finger satanic cults or spaceships.

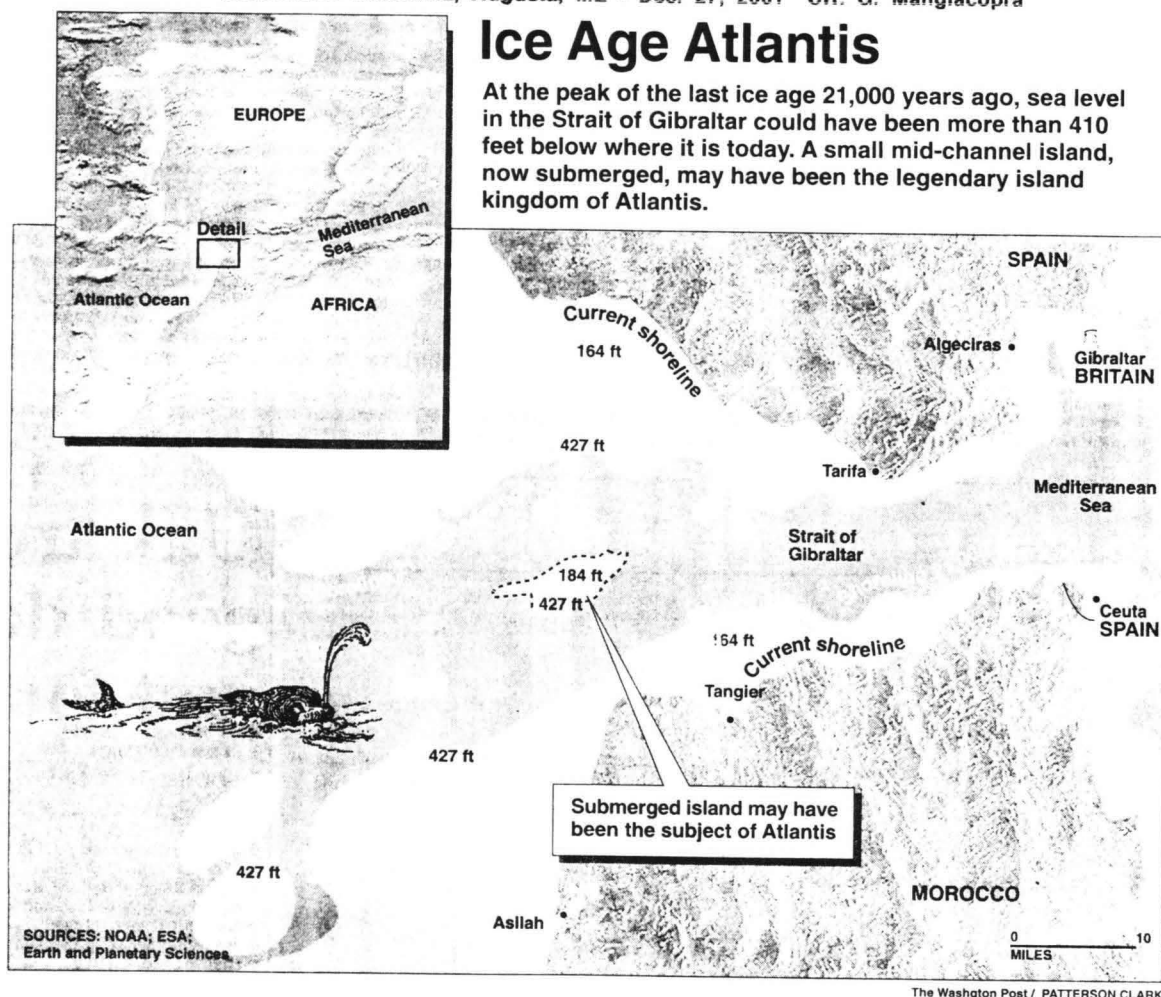
Most say they don't believe in all that eerie X-Files stuff. But even some of the staunchest skeptics are beginning to wonder.

"I just can't believe little men are coming from outer space," said Conrad resident Jack Rowekamp, a retired bus driver and custodian.

"But I guess you never know."

Jim VandenBos discovered a mutilated cow on his ranch southwest of Valier in September. The \$850, 2-year-old Angus was missing its tongue, a right ear, an eye and its reproductive organs.

Photo courtesy of Pondera County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Campbell



Geologist's ice age Atlantis

By GUY GUGLIOTTA
The Washington Post

It was Plato, around 360 B.C., who first described an ancient, exotic island kingdom catastrophically buried beneath the sea when its once-virtuous people angered the gods with their pronounced tilt toward sin and corruption.

Since then, creative souls ranging from Jules Verne to Kirk Morris, Maria Montez, Fay Spain, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Michael J. Fox and Walt Disney have sought to explain and exploit the terrible fate that befell Atlantis.

Scientists and scholars, meanwhile, for 2,000 years have mulled the tale recounted by Critias in Plato's "Dialogues" in hopes of finding clues as to whether Atlantis actually existed, and, if so, where it was, and how exactly it vanished.

This fall, French geologist and prehistorian Jacques Collina-Girard presented research suggesting that Atlantis was a real place — a small mid-channel island sitting in what is now the Strait of Gibraltar.

Its doom was sealed 11,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age, when rising seas swamped it along with six other nearby islands, Collina-Girard said. Today the islands are shoals crouched anywhere from 175 feet to 410 feet below the ocean's surface along the coasts of Spain and Morocco.

Collina-Girard said the legend of Atlantis likely grew as storytellers embellished it on its way to Plato and Athens 9,000 years later. He compared the story to Noah's flood, an

idea that he said probably arose after the rising Mediterranean overran the Bosphorus 7,600 years ago to cascade into what is now the Black Sea basin.

"It is the same thing," Collina-Girard said. "Everywhere — in the Middle East, Europe and Asia — people have stories that speak of the time when the sea came in. Atlantis is another discrete story of the flood."

The world has not lacked for theories about Atlantis, whose location has been placed anywhere from the Atlantic abyss to waters off the Americas or even the South China Sea. The most popular current view among scholars is that Atlantis was probably the Aegean island of Thira, about 70 miles north of Crete, destroyed by volcanic eruptions in 1470 B.C.

The flaw here, Collina-Girard said, is that the Thira story ignores Plato. "The trouble up to now has been that geologists are not generally interested in Atlantis, while the people who are interested in Atlantis are not geologists."

Reporting this fall in the Proceedings of the French Academy of Sciences, Collina-Girard instead suggested that Atlantis can probably be found where Plato said it was: "an island situated in front of the straits which are by you (the Athenians) called the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar)," as Critias tells Socrates.

Oceanography shows that sea level at the height of the ice age about 20,000 years ago was more than 400 feet lower than it is today, Collina-Girard said. For the next 15,000 years the sea rose as ice melted — as little as two feet per century at first and as much as 12 feet per century later on.

When the thaw began, there were seven islands at the western end of the Strait and a bit further west, framing a section of the Atlantic in an "inland sea" described by Plato. Atlantis was in mid-channel, about 20 miles southwest of modern-day Tarifa, Spain, and 12 miles northwest of Tangier, Morocco, according to Collina-Girard.

As time passed, the rising sea consumed the islands one by one, until only Atlantis and one other remained. And for its last 300 years, Collina-Girard calculated that sea level at Atlantis was rising about eight feet per century. "A man with a 50-year lifespan would notice it," he said.

From a geological point of view, the Collina-Girard theory is "plausible, depending on the accuracy of sea level measurements," said marine geophysicist John Diebold, of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University. "Of course, you really won't know until you get down there," Collina-Girard said he plans to dive in the Strait next summer.

Most of his theory fits comfortably with the Dialogues. What does not is Critias' estimate that Atlantis was "larger than Libya and Asia put together," and his assertion that Atlantis succumbed to volcanic eruption. Collina-Girard's Atlantis is nine miles long and three miles wide.

Collina-Girard said these discrepancies can be explained by different methods of measuring distances in Athens and in Egypt, the origin of the Atlantis story, according to Critias, and the Athenians' familiarity with volcanoes and earthquakes — and unfamiliarity with glacial melt.

Bigfoot kit's key ingredients: bait, repellant

Don't venture near
the woods without it

FOSSIL, Ore. (AP) — An Eastern Oregon couple is having fun with the Bigfoot legend, and hoping to make a buck, by marketing a package of items aimed at helping customers lure, track — and hopefully repel — the mythical missing link.

The Official BigFoot Fur Co. includes "fur" from the animal, along with bait, a bottle of repellent and a tracking guide in a Big-Foot Tracking Kit, available for \$14.95.

The company is owned by Fossil residents Jeffrey Pickering, his wife, Karlana, and her mother, Edith Lowe. Through their Web site, www.bigfootfur.com, the company has taken orders from as far away as Texas and Missouri since the site was launched July 4.

"This is Bigfoot central," Jeffrey Pickering said. "We've done a lot of research. It's meant for people to have fun."

Pickering said most of the 100 e-mail inquiries he gets every day are questions from those who noticed the first BigFoot Tracking Kit offered on the Inter-

ON THE WEB

Visit the national sweepstakes convention's Web site:
www.bigfootfur.com



net auction site eBay. The kit was put together by the family and given as Christmas presents to other family members and friends a little more than six months ago.

"We watched the Discovery Channel and all these Bigfoot documentaries," Pickering said. "They're pretty serious, but we wanted it to be fun."

The legend of a tall, furry, ape-

like missing link has been around the West for decades, but "sightings" multiplied after a Northern California hiker shot footage of what he said was Bigfoot in 1967.

The shaky, grainy footage has been dismissed by most as a hoax, but true believers all over the Northwest still hunt for the creature.

Pickering calls the Bigfoot "fur" a novelty, but the bait and repellent are tools used by professionals who track the beast. On the Web site, there's a just-for-laugh photo contest (with a \$100 prize), and a Haiku contest, featuring poems about Bigfoot.

"Who has seen Bigfoot/Running around in the woods/Certainly not me or you," reads one submitted poem.

One woman reported that the kit might actually work. Sandy Rosenberg and her sister, Madelyn, went hiking in May near Sisters in Central Oregon.

"We set the bait out, and when we woke up the next morning, it was missing," said Sandy Rosenberg, of Kennewick. She described the bait as smelling like sage or lavender.

"It smells quite nice, actually," she said.

Meet the legal father of radio communication

HINT: IT'S NOT MARCONI

BY DEANA STOKES SULLIVAN

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. • While Newfoundland celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first transatlantic wireless message, received by Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi in St. John's, there are some people who believe Marconi wasn't the real pioneer of radio.

Nikola Tesla, who was born in Croatia in 1856, has become the subject of an increasing number of books and biographies because of his inventions in the late 1800s.

In fact, in 1943, after many years in dispute, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Marconi's patent for wireless communication (No. 763,772) was invalid because the same technology had been published and registered by Tesla (patent No. 645,576) in 1897.

Unfortunately, Tesla died earlier that year.

Steve Silverman, a science teacher at a high school near Albany, N.Y., has devoted a chapter of his new book to Tesla, who first came to the United States in 1884. He notes that Marconi's radio didn't transmit voices. It transmitted a signal, something Tesla had demonstrated years earlier.

"Tesla is one of those forgotten people of history," said Mr. Silverman, who believes Tesla should be

considered the father of radio.

But Mr. Silverman also acknowledges Marconi's contribution.

"He's the one who basically brought wireless communication to the masses. It is true that when it went to the U.S. Supreme Court, he did lose in the patent fight. Tesla had the original patents on it, but he didn't necessarily see where it was going," he said.

What Marconi did in Newfoundland on Dec. 12, 1901, was the first overseas transmission of a signal, which was a significant accomplishment, he added.

Marconi set up a wireless receiver in St. John's to conduct radio waves, and balloons to lift the antenna as high as possible. The signals were sent in Morse code from Poldhu, Cornwall, in England.

Tesla came to the United States initially to help Thomas Edison perfect Edison's direct current system of electricity, but apparently quit working with Edison in a disagreement about bonus pay.

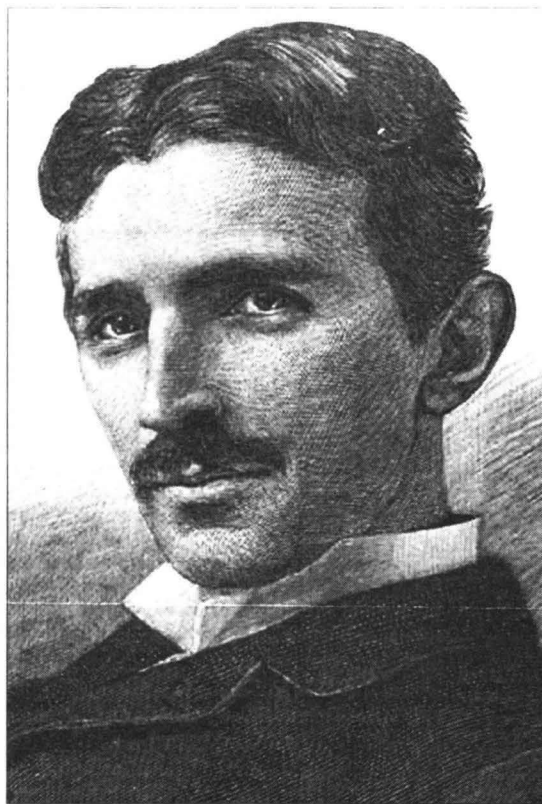
Tesla went on to devise a better system for electrical transmission — the alternating current system that is used in homes today.

His other known inventions include fluorescent bulbs, which he

used in his lab close to 40 years before industry invented them. And he designed the world's first



Marconi



NATIONAL POST

Nikola Tesla first patented wireless communication in 1897.

hydroelectric plant in Niagara Falls, and patented the first speedometer for cars.

In 1898, he demonstrated to the world the first remote-controlled model boat at Madison Square Garden in New York.

In 1899, he built a large radio station in Colorado Springs and, two years later, another in Waverly, near New York.

Tesla's ashes are preserved in the Museum of Nikola Tesla (www.yurope.com/org/tesla) in Belgrade, which also contains a wealth of archival material — more than 150,000 documents referring to the inventor's life and creative

work, as well as the significance of his inventions, which are featured in the museum's exhibitions.

Silverman isn't the first author to focus on Tesla's accomplishments or to cite the 1943 court case as justification for declaring him the real inventor of wireless radio.

Margaret Cheney wrote *Tesla, Man out of Time*, and co-wrote *Nikola Tesla Master of Lightning*, with Robert Uth.

Nikola Tesla Master of Lightning was also the title of a PBS documentary which aired in December, 2000.

The Sunday Telegram

USA TODAY, Washington, DC
Jan. 23, 2002

'Mothman' sightings will continue

By Stephen Schaefer
Special for USA TODAY

Until now, the Mothman has been known only to a devoted, cultlike few. That's certain to change with *The Mothman Prophecies*, out Friday and starring Richard Gere. The otherworldly 7-foot, red-eyed, winged apparition known as Mothman might even become a pop-culture totem, like Big Foot.

John A. Keel's *The Mothman Prophecies* is based on paranormal events the author experienced and studied in Point Pleasant, W.Va., in 1966-67, while writing about UFOs for *Playboy*. It's not giving away too much to say the residents were hearing and seeing things, culminating in a bridge collapse that cost 46 lives.

Because the thriller is advertised as "based on true events," Keel, *Mothman* director Mark Pellington and Mothman expert Loren Coleman (featured at 10 ET/PT tonight on the FX channel documentary *Searching for the Mothman*) reveal the "truths" behind the film.

"Maybe we should have said 'inspired by true events,'" a cheerful Pellington says.

Says Coleman, who has published a book on the "dark and sinister" subject: "Pellington's made it a psychological thriller and not a monster movie. With this



By Melissa Moseley, Screen Gems

Paranormal: Dan Callahan, left, and Richard Gere in *The Mothman Prophecies*, opening in theaters Friday.

movie, Point Pleasant will become like Roswell and explode with tourism."

In the film, *Washington Post* reporter John Klein, played by Gere, investigates the strange goings-on.

"That's fiction," Pellington says.

But a few truths are out there:

► **Frightened teens.** "That came right out of the book," Pellington says. "Keel describes two kids who had sex who felt this thing attack them."

Says Coleman, who interviewed one of them: "A huge creature about 7 feet tall with huge wings and red eyes shuffled toward them, they ran to the car, and at 100 mph drove back to Point Pleasant. They could see the creature flapping right behind them."

► **Sad sack.** Will Patton (TV's *The Agency*) plays a man going nuts from his encounters with the Mothman, who takes the form of Gere's Klein. "He's invented, a composite of two of the major witnesses who had intense Mothman manifestations," Pellington says. "Like Alan Bates says to Klein in the film, 'It's perception, John. They appear differently to everybody. A man, a voice, a light, a monster.' That I wrote."

► **The scientist.** Bates (*Gosford Park*) plays Alexander Leek, driven mad by his Mothman encounter. Leek is fictional, but the name is a clue: It's Keel spelled backward.

Says Keel, 72: "The book tells what happened to me. Alan Bates gives a Keel speech, almost word for word, of what I've been saying for years."

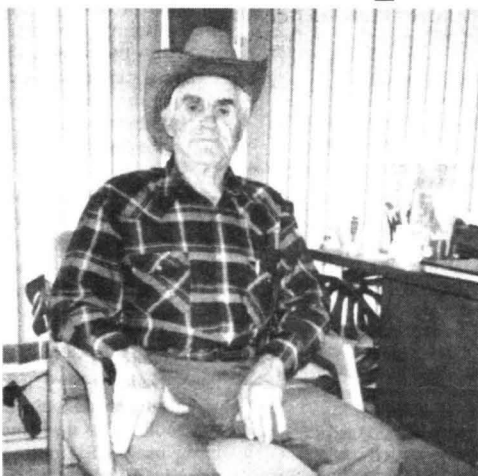
► **The tragedy.** As for the Silver Bridge collapse, "that happened in 1967," Pellington says. "It was explained as metal fatigue. Once the bridge came down, the phone calls and sightings stopped. That's why it became legendary and why people blamed a force," Coleman says that is fiction. "Sightings continue."

The real Keel, unlike Gere's Klein, was nowhere near the bridge that day. "I knew the exact time it was going to happen, but you couldn't warn anyone because it might cause a panic, and it might not be true."

He knew because "I was getting these damned mysterious phone calls, just like in the movie."

The film has 36 people dying, not 46, but the studio didn't "want to kill too many," Pellington says. "My father's football number was 36, and 40 was too many."

Lakeland Speaker In Demand



Fern Belzil of St. Paul has been receiving multitudes of requests for interviews and to share his knowledge and experience of cattle mutilation.

By Terry Siemers

"Don't ask me how they found out about me," wonders Fern Belzil. Last week, Natasha Elói, Videographer for the Space Channel out of Toronto, and Susan McLelland, Associate Editor of Maclean's Magazine, also from Toronto, both independently came out to interview the famous local Cattle Mutilations Expert.

Fern has been very

much in demand of late. He has been asked to speak in several Alberta locations since spring, as well as been asked to address audiences for the Alberta Cattle Commission.

On May 11, he was kept busy in an all-day round of interviews in Vancouver, which included Radio and TV talk shows, a one-hour interview on WorldWide Internet, as well as an engagement with the Vancouver

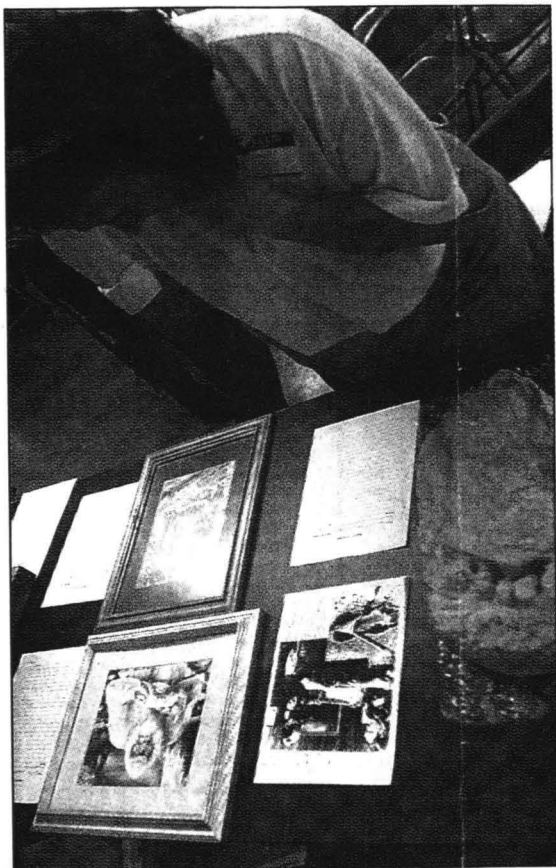
Courier. He was the only speaker at the Planetarium in Vancouver. "They asked questions for close to an hour after I finished. I was very surprised because it wasn't even a farm show," UFO BC Journal has offered Fern a free link on its Website. He is working at preparing that web page.

Of his latest interviews, Fern comments, "These people are taking it seriously. It is a serious matter. You talk to the guy who gets a mutilation, he doesn't think it is very funny." Fern started investigating cattle mutilations six years ago with Paul Pelletier, the then Manager of the Chamber of Commerce. His interest grew from there. His investigations have taken him all over Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

He has also been called to investigate crop circles, UFO sightings, and other phenomena. Recently,

he has even heard of a case of a human mutilation. "You have to be very careful and open-minded. Some crop circles are really fairy rings. Some are hoaxes. When it comes to mutilations, one remarkable thing is that often the hair is swirled on the animal. Often there is radiation, and the camera sometimes won't work while a mutilation is taking place."

Tune in to Channel 29 on cable in St. Paul to 'Space: The Imagination Station' to find out more about Fern's interview. The Maclean's interview will appear later this summer.



Shane Bevel/News Messenger

DEBORAH WRIGHT came all the way from San Antonio to attend the conference in Jefferson. She is browsing some of the items in the silent auction including a footprint casting and several paintings.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - Jan. 10, 2002

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Novel tells Bigfoot hunt

A novel has hit the streets which could well be a best seller amongst all those Bigfoot buffs out there!

We speak of "Where Legends Roam," by Lee Murphy, with the setting in the Olympic Mountains of western Washington. Its arrival comes in close proximity to the recent finding there of significant evidence of the animal we have seen so much in our own local Blue Mountains ... Sasquatch to the Indians, Bigfoot to others.

Murphy, however, doesn't just hit the computer and grind out a lot of prose willy-nilly. No, he has quite sensibly done his unusual work from the view of those who take a scientific approach to pinning down Bigfoot.

"The material in this novel is based upon documented research done by scientists and laypersons educated on the subject of Cryptozoology — the study of hidden and unknown animals," states J.

Richard Greenwell, secretary, International Society of Cryptozoology, based at Tucson, Ariz.

Murphy's book gets a real sendoff in the foreword by Dr. Roy P. Mackal, a leader in the Cryptozoology movement for many years:

"This tale, 'Where Legends Roam,' is a novel, a great adventure novel. It is fiction, of course, but very special in a number of ways. The story line is gripping and fast moving, and it carries the reader to the very end with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the next page. But many stories have this quality, and they also exhibit a high level of literary skill. This was all I expected when I read Lee Murphy's story. To my amazement and delight, I found much more to the manuscript.

"I found that it was a tale about cryptozoology with a cryptozoologist as the chief protagonist. Cryptozoology is a new name but not a new

science."

Mackal devotes much space then to the origins and story behind this interesting form of Bigfoot research effort being done by scientists. Mackal also touches upon the problems some scientists found themselves in if they ventured into this work, "part of what zoologists did in the 19th century," he notes. He recalls how with the discovery (in the 20th century) of the Loch Ness monster, the Yeti and Bigfoot, there came bad raps on this work. And, while letting up somewhat in recent years, this attitude persists in the scientific world.

However, with the founding in 1982 of the International Society of Cryptozoology (Mackal was a co-founder) this anti-Bigfoot attitude was modified, with the Society disseminating reliable information.

With this novel of the trials of an expedition mounted to bring in a live Bigfoot, Murphy has incorporated what cryptozoology is all about and includes the deep feelings and trials and tribulations in this matter of pinning down the mystery of the creature.

Murphy wastes little time in getting the Bigfoot expedition off and running, first laying the setting in the Olympics and the experience of a woman having seen a young Bigfoot in her back yard. She didn't at first know what to do about the sighting, wrestling with this the way we have seen locals being reticent about telling others. The woman eventually reports her sighting to authorities and the word is out.

When a multi-billionaire with a "farm" of animals from all over the world on his Arizona ranch, hears of the sighting, he hires a man with highest repute in tracking down big game animals to bring one in.

There might be a hundred scenarios for a book like this and there actually have been such expeditions mounted, none with any success. That Murphy took the route he did should be of benefit to the movement to find the Bigfoot and solve its mystery.

Peeking ahead to the end of the book ... do they find and bring back a Bigfoot on this novelized version of such a search?

Far be it from me to tell you the butler didn't do it, but the answers to the above questions are: yes and no.

Murphy's novel of just what went on and what was used in the Olympic Bigfoot search will be of interest to the died-in-the-wool Sasquatch believer and should keep non-believers absorbed as well.

Bigfoot seen in Jefferson!

OK, not really, but there were a lot of people who believe in it, anyway

By **LESLIE BAILEY**
News Messenger

Swamp boogers, mountain devils, wild men, sasquatch: whatever you want to call bigfoot, just don't call him fiction. That's the message members of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center are trying to spread to the general public.

They got a good start Saturday during their First Annual Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson.

"Spreading the word with conferences is very important," said research center director Luke Gross.

Gross said his two-and-a-half-year-old research center has grown to 30 members, and he expected 20 or more to sign up for membership the day of the conference.

The conference, which was held at First United Methodist Church downtown, was attended by 140-150 people, assistant director Craig Woolheater estimated.

The research center is based in Lone Oak, Texas, where Gross lives. When asked if there was a lot of bigfoot activity in Texas, Gross raised his eyebrows and nodded slowly.

"Oh yes," he said.

Which leads to another of the TBRC's goals: proving bigfoot's existence. And Gross doesn't want just John Q. Public to be convinced — he wants

mainstream scientists to accept his work and that of his other field researchers.

To that end, Gross meticulously investigates each report of a sighting that he receives.

"Sometimes it takes months to crack a case," he said.

"Cracking" a case means verifying or discrediting the veracity of the witness. Gross said he considers several factors during this process, including witness credibility, physical evidence found at the sighting area, and witness collaboration if there is more than one.

"Reports don't mean anything if they're not investigated," Gross said.

He believes that the relegation of bigfoot to myth status comes from an unwillingness by mainstream scientists to "stick their necks out."

Wildlife ecologist Dr. John A. Bindernagel is one mainstream scientist who has been successful at maintaining his professional credibility while seriously studying bigfoot. He was one of five speakers at Saturday's conference. Bindernagel lives in British Columbia and has been interested in bigfoot, or "sasquatch" as Canadians refer to him, since he was a college undergraduate in 1963.

He remembers vividly trying to discuss the sasquatch in

class, but his professor refused and his classmates laughed.

"It kind of got my back up," Bindernagel said.

Then, in 1988, he and his wife came across some sasquatch tracks while they were hiking. Bindernagel made plaster casts of the tracks, which he still has.

Since then, Bindernagel's sasquatch research has been gaining acceptance very slowly. And if his fellow scientists aren't quite convinced, at least now they're listening.

He presented his first sasquatch paper at a mainstream wildlife seminar in 1991, and then presented a paper at another wildlife conference last year.

"Those kind of papers don't normally get put on the agenda," he said.

Considering that he's been studying sasquatch for 38 years, it's been a long road for Bindernagel. For his few successes, he's had many more rejections.

The kind of attitudes he encountered as an undergrad are still prevalent in the

scientific community today.

But he maintains hope that his colleagues will one day accept sasquatch as just another mammal.

"Once we start talking about it rationally, people will start to come forward," Bindernagel said.

Until then, people like Dana Davis will have to remain closet bigfoot fans.

Davis is a Dallas insurance salesman and member of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center. Not many of his insurance colleagues know about his bigfoot interest, and Davis declined to say which company he works for in case any of them read the *News Messenger*.

"I could do without the hassle," he said.

Davis has never seen bigfoot, but he heard two of the creature's cries back in 1980, when he was visiting his father in Tomball, Texas.

He described the vocalization as a "high-pitched scream and low guttural growl and the same tune — like nothing I've ever heard before."

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