

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

June 2002
Number 395

TIMES, Farmington, NM - March 24, 2002

Reported 'crash site' toured by UFO buffs

By Valerie Gritton/Staff writer

AZTEC — Scott Ramsey walks along a dirt road telling curious observers that he believes the road was made by military personnel attempting to extricate a UFO that crash landed in Hart Canyon.

The crash, or "soft landing" as Ramsey referred to it, occurred March 25, 1948.

Guided tours of the crash site were given to skeptics and believers as part of this year's UFO Symposium.

"This is the first year we've actually had guided tours," said UFO Information Center volunteer Katee Dahlstrom.

While showing onlookers a concrete slab sticking up out of the ground, Ramsey said the slab was made by the military to support one of the legs of a crane used to carry out the spacecraft.

"The old timers and the eyewitnesses say this area was the staging area for when they brought the aircraft up one piece at a time," Ramsey said.



Aztec UFO Center volunteer Katee Dahlstrom (right) reads aloud the plaque commemorating the alleged 1948 UFO crash in Hart Canyon as a group of UFO enthusiasts look on during one of Saturday's tours of the site. The tours were held in conjunction with the 2002 Aztec UFO Symposium.

Remains of the spacecraft, and the 16 charred bodies found inside, were supposedly taken to Las Alamos for research.

"Some of the eyewitnesses say the spacecraft was intact but the bodies were pretty much charred on the inside," Ramsey said.

Spectators like Farmington resident Brady Williams, said the site just added to the confusion about whether or not UFO crashes are real.

"Well, I'm even more puzzled," Williams said after the tour.

Paula Oliver, from the Jemez Mountain range, said she thinks many of the witnesses are credible and that people should be more open to the idea that aliens do exist.

"To ignore it is like hiding your head in the sand," Oliver

said. "There are people who get hysterical about it like they're afraid it to be true."

Ramsey said during 1949 and 1950, scientist John Oppenheimer kept a house in Blanco or Bloomfield. The question to Ramsey is why would Oppenheimer leave Las Alamos, one of the best research centers in the state, to work on a project over here.

This year's symposium played host to many out-of-towners, including a film crew from Japan who were working on documentary titled 'A Discovery of World Mysteries.'

The film crew basically travels around the world discussing interesting topics, said the movie's production manager, Yuki Wakano.

"We're doing this program about UFO's and extraterrestrials," Wakano said. "It's a pretty subjective program."

In addition to filming the crash site, the crew had a chance to interview one of the witnesses to the Farmington alien armada, which occurred 50 years ago.

"I think there's something," Wakano said. "I'm still neutral."

In addition to guest speakers, alien junkies wandered in and out of the Aztec UFO Center Gift Shop.

Mike McCluhan, who recently moved to Aztec, was admiring the paper plate model crash site his two daughters, Eden, 2, and Raven, 5, made.

"Whether it's true or not, it's a good thing for the community," McCluhan said.

Vendors also lined the streets, waiting to spread the word to interested parties.

Guy Malone, a former abductee said he prefers the word experimenter for his alien encounter.

"I think the experience is more metaphysical, astral and not physical," Malone said. "I think they're taken out of body to like a dreamscape."

Malone has written a book about UFO's and the Bible.

"Two different worlds," he said. "It's a new testament examination of the UFO phenomenon."

This is the first year Malone has attended the Symposium and he says he's already paid for next year.

Back at the crash site, Oliver said, "I think a lot can be told by these types of events. It's just an interesting thing. What I like about New Mexico is people are open to these things."

Valerie Gritton: valerieg@daily-times.com

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - April 16, 2002

Scanning the outer limits UFO watchtower in San Luis Valley gets plenty of action

By ERIN SMITH
The Pueblo Chieftain

HOOPER — When Judy Messoline talked several years ago about her plan for a UFO watchtower a few miles north of here along Colorado 17, she never dreamed it would go worldwide.

Messoline said last week that she has received calls from the U.S. Air Force in Turkey and done interviews with Japanese news media, as well as media elsewhere around the world.

"My biggest fear was that I would not be understood (by the Japanese interviewer). It was quite an experience and very overwhelming," Messoline said.

Partly as a joke and partly because she was tired of people camping on her property to scan the skies in search of unidentified flying objects, Messoline opened a campground two years ago, which offered a watchtower so UFO

aficionados could stare into space to their hearts' delight. There is also a shop specializing in UFO trinkets and memorabilia.

"I was blessed with publicity. After getting this attention, I thought I'd be busy," Messoline said.

The first year wasn't too busy. But last year, Messoline said she had "five times more visitors" than the previous year. She estimates between 5,000 and 7,000 people stopped in last year.

The watchtower was created "because of the paranormal activity in the San Luis Valley," Messoline said. "Located directly west of the Great Sand Dunes, visitors return again and again hoping to have UFO or alien experiences.



Judy Messoline

Thousands gathered over the summer of 2001 to watch the night skies in hopes of a glimpse of a UFO.

She said 14 sightings, including five during the day, have been reported from the tower in the past two years, and dozens of others in other parts of the San Luis Valley.

This year, Messoline started a sightings' page, which is listed on the Internet.

"There have been documented sightings since the 1800s, as well as cattle mutilations, 'men in black' and the infamous 'black helicopters' appearing," she said.

Business this year "is phenomenal. I've had reservations for camping and visiting at the tower when it's 20-below zero," she said.

Who comes to the UFO watchtower?

"A lot are curious, but a lot of them are really serious," Messoline said. "Last year 'abductees' came in. Last year was the first

year I had four people come in and say they were aliens. How do you prove they aren't?"

The UFO watchtower offers primitive campsites and the gift shop is open seven days a week beginning Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day weekend. There is no admission charge to visit the watchtower.

The first UFO Watch — she hopes it will become an annual event — will be held from June 10 through 12 and will feature numerous speakers on the subject. The event is free, but there will be a charge for camping.

There will be a psychic chakra music festival June 20-24, with prepaid tickets at \$30 each and \$40 at the door. There is a minimum age requirement of 18.

For information or reservations on the two June events, call (719)-384-2271 or check the www.ufowatchtower.com Web site.

Tales of aliens fill the air in Nevada town

By Angie Wagner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RACHEL — Aliens led Pat Travis to this tiny desert outpost along the lonely Extraterrestrial Highway. She says she has even seen some, though they were in the form of tourists.

Here at the Little A'Le'Inn bar, cafe and motel, smack dab in the middle of nowhere, Travis' story isn't only believed, it's welcomed.

"I've had people tell me they've been abducted in one of my rooms," the owner says, pouring a glass of orange juice for a customer. "I watched a craft for 20 minutes one night."

The 65 residents and the many tourists who find their way to this oddity of a town near the top-secret military base Area 51 on the dry Groom Lake bed claim they've seen UFOs, aliens and otherworldly occurrences.

Beams of light? Resident Charles Clark has seen it. Orange glows? Yep, someone's seen that too. Little green men? Not yet, but the night is still young.

Locals and visitors — even ones not of this world — find a rhythm here in a quaint, friendly place where tall tales are swapped over cold beers and \$3.75 alien burgers.

"You can talk about aliens, you can talk about abductions," Travis says. "It makes it a totally different place."

Residents say the UFO talk began years ago when a Nevada Test Site worker claimed he saw alien ships at nearby Area 51, the Air Force base the military only recently acknowledged existed.

Word got around and the stories haven't stopped. Even the state got in on the UFO lore, officially naming a 98-mile stretch of state Route 375 the Extraterrestrial Highway in 1996 and erecting green highway signs with images of spaceships.

Some 150 miles north of Las Vegas, across miles of empty desert speckled by Joshua trees and sagebrush, Rachel is the only town along the alien highway. It's really just a collection of trailer homes resting on gravel near the mountain backdrop, but the Little A'Le'Inn beckons curious and thirsty tourists from the monotonous drive.

"Welcome earthlings and/or aliens. Please specify planet," reads a sign on the white trailer

with faded blue trim.

Here, cows have the right of way and the residents seem just a bit more peculiar than most folks.

There's Clark, an astrophotographer whose idea of a good time is to drive to the boundary of Area 51 and pester the guards.

"The majority of people who have lived here at one point or another have seen things that are beyond explanation," he says, taking his seat at the bar.

And then there's Travis, a former Las Vegas casino cook who moved to Rachel 14 years ago from Las Vegas with her husband, Joe, to take over the town's only bar. "You gotta be nuts," friends told the couple.

They remodeled the trailer and called it the Little A'Le'Inn. Along with serving homemade meals, the couple filled the bar with flying saucer pictures and alien souvenirs — key chains, shot glasses, bumper stickers, Area 51 fake ID cards, alien slime in a tube, gooey aliens in a jar.

"Every business needs a gimmick," she likes to say.

It turned out to be just what tourists wanted. They come from all over, enduring hours of highway boredom to sample a most unusual world where strangers are always welcome. Even military personnel working on the nearby ranges stop by, but rarely say much.

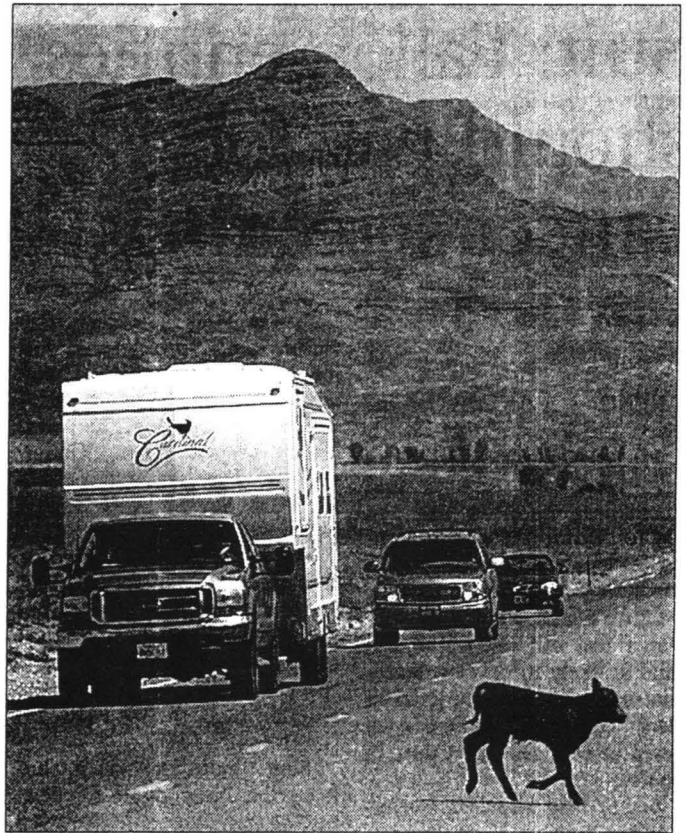
"I think it's a possibility," tourist George Zoukee of Newbury, N.H., says of UFO sightings. "Even if it isn't, it's a little fun."

Grover Shegrud of Seattle shuffles in the back of the cafe, sorting through Area 51 T-shirts. He hasn't had much luck witnessing the paranormal. "Just dust devils," he mumbles.

Besides the Little A'Le'Inn, tourists usually make their way to the border of Area 51, which consists of a no-trespassing sign, surveillance camera and an armed guard on a hill. UFO and conspiracy enthusiasts believe alien technology is hidden at the remote base, about 20 miles southwest of Rachel.

Then there's the black mailbox, which is actually white. It's a rancher's mailbox along the highway that has become a landmark to stop and see Area 51 from afar. It was repainted years ago, but it's still called the black mailbox around these parts.

The front door of the Little A'Le'Inn swings open again and



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

A calf stops traffic as it crosses the Extraterrestrial Highway while following its mother near Rachel. Most of the 98 miles of ET highway is open range where cows have the right of way.

Bonny Barry, Rachel's newest resident, enters. She moved here two weeks ago to work at the cafe, making her resident No. 65.

"I'm not egotistical enough as to think that God would only create us," she says, pulling up a bar stool.

A few tourists nod.

Travis, 58, says she has met three aliens in her bar, though she didn't know it until later. They were tourists, and one left a note: "I am not of your world."

"How can we say things like this don't happen?" she asks.

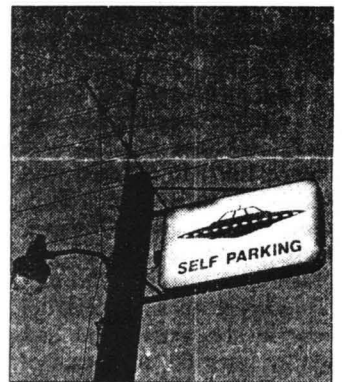
A few more guests trickle in but by 10 p.m. residents have returned to their trailers and visitors to their travels or their rooms. The inn closes as the darkness of the desert sky descends on the tiny trailer.

When daylight comes, Travis already is serving her tasty pancakes to a group of campers as Elvis' "Return to Sender" plays in the background.

"I've traveled the world being here," she says, leaning against the counter in her green apron.

Joyce McClain spent a couple of nights parked in her RV behind the Little A'Le'Inn and hoping for alien activity.

But, alas, no UFOs.



A parking sign featuring a spacecraft hangs over the Little A'Le'Inn in Rachel.

"I was hoping my husband would get abducted last night," she giggles.

Something is out here in Rachel, but it's often not what tourists expected to find.

So what if a beam of light is just sunlight gleaming off discarded aluminum foil, or the loud noises are only sonic booms from nearby military exercises.

This is a place to wonder, to swap stories and imagine close encounters in a strange and endearing town where you never know who — or what — you're going to meet.

A 10,000-pound gorilla offers a mental workout

If you believe that all UFO sightings are made by swamp-dwelling, moonshine-guzzling hillbillies, then Dr. Steven Greer is your worst nightmare. Bright, articulate and incredibly

dedicated, this medical doctor is the man behind the Disclosure Project, a Charlottesville, Va.-based organization that aims to end government secrecy on the subject of unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrials.

It's not a topic that the media have distinguished themselves in covering. In fact, as I arrived to meet the doctor after he did an interview at the Portland Cable Access studios last week, it felt like I was the one who — as a member of the press — needed to establish

some credibility. This I accomplished by asking if he had heard of "Incident at Exeter," the book that started my lifelong interest in the subject of UFOs. He had.

He mentioned that the percentage of people who now believe in UFOs is greater than the percentage who voted for our recent presidents. I chimed in with, "Didn't both Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter have UFO sightings of their own?"

It was only then that I saw the skeptical look begin to fade. We agreed to talk after he finished his interview.

During the taping, he described UFOs as "the 10,000-pound gorilla that has been kept secret for about

One turning point in his efforts was a National Press Club news conference on May 9, 2001, when Greer presented 12 of these witnesses to the media and to the biggest webcast ever on the Internet.

As the Portland interview proceeded, I sat and watched in the darkness, continuing my decades-long struggle to accept the notion that it could all be true.

This is so much more than a 10,000-pound gorilla. It's the ultimate mental workout, dwarfing previous challenges such as when people first heard that the Earth was round.

How far we've come since then, though. Just look at the technological advances in the last century,

and imagine if a civilization somewhere was thousands of years ahead of us.

There has to be other life out there, right? How vain is it to think that we're alone in a universe of billions of galaxies that's been around for 13 billion years?

Perhaps you were taught that nothing could ever exceed the speed of light, so there wouldn't be time to cross the incredible expanses of space. But guess what? Scientists recently have broken the speed of light.

After the taping, I asked Greer the big question: If you had five minutes of television time around the world to convince the skeptics that you were right, what evidence would you show? Would it be the

Belgium sightings? That's one of my personal favorites: hundreds of viewers, pictures, radar, scrambling fighter jets, the works.

Greer said he'd most like to present his witnesses: "the people who have dealt directly with the extraterrestrial evidence and the bodies."

Wow, the big gorilla was stirring again.

Incidentally, Greer's uncle, Macon Epps, worked on NASA's lunar module, which brings up an interesting point: We already have indisputable proof of bizarre creatures traveling through space — namely, us.

Bill McDonald is a Portland writer and musician.

Bill McDonald



ON HIS OWN

50 or 60 years."

What Greer has done is to gather 400 witnesses — many of them conservative Republicans, by the way — who claim to have firsthand knowledge on subjects such as recovered technology not of this Earth.

TIMES, Fountain Hills, AZ - March 21, 2002

Alien events begin tonight

By Debra Mayeux/Staff writer

AZTEC — The speakers are arriving and anticipation is building as the fifth annual Aztec UFO Symposium gets under way this evening.

The event officially starts at 7 p.m. with a book-signing at Hastings Books and Music in the San Juan Plaza in Farmington. Speakers Linda Moulton Howe, Jim Marrs, Stanton Friedman, Stan Gordon and Karl Pflock will be on hand to sign their books and visit with the public.

Also at 7 p.m. is the premiere performance of a UFO play festival, The Farmington Armada. The festival was the brainchild of Chuck Pike, who also produced and directed the show.

Pike sent out copies of the March 19, 1950 issue of the

Farmington Daily Times to playwrights across the country, who submitted original pieces that will be performed during the festival.

The activities surrounding the alleged UFO crash in 1948 in Hart Canyon north of Aztec continue to grow. This year there will be special guided tours to the site, and Mr. X, the Aztec Library's benefactor might even go on a couple.

"It's good for people to get out the alleged site and see it for themselves what the area looks like and the plaque," Mr. X said in a telephone interview.

Mr. X has spearheaded this event since its inception. He said he remains anonymous to protect himself from the harassment of government

agents. He is the man who has made several UFO-type donations to the Aztec Library, and is also responsible for the plaque at the site.

This year, Mr. X's contribution is huge model of the crash site.

"It's what the crash site and the mesa looked like in 1948 or 1949," Mr. X said. "It's based on eyewitness accounts of how the road was cut in by the military, which is the road that is used today. It's a road that cuts in and stops."

The mock-up is expected to arrive sometime Friday. It was picked up at an undisclosed warehouse on the East Coast by American Freight and is en route to Aztec. It's arrival time is speculative, but event organizers hope to have the display by the Out of This World Kick-off dinner from 6-10 p.m. Friday.

The dinner, a popular family event will consist of sloppy joes served on green frisbees. "It's a celebration of the event," said Beth McClure a member of the Friends of the Aztec Library, which sponsors the symposium.

The guest speakers will be at the dinner giving people a little taste of what they will be discussing.

"There's some good information that has taken us some time to collect and gather," Mr. X said adding that the information will be presented during the actual symposium of speakers, which runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Information: The Aztec UFO Information Center, (505) 334-9890 or on the Web at www.aztecufu.com.

Debra Mayeux: debram@daily-times.com

Secret files reveal mysterious sightings

Fifth Annual UFO Symposium on the horizon

By Debra Mayeux/Staff writer

FARMINGTON — It reads like a good science fiction novel — an unsuspecting reporter gets his hands on a newspaper publisher's secret files. The files contain drawings, photographs and considerable correspondence with scientists and ufologists about extraterrestrial contact. But this story is not fiction. It's real.

Lincoln O'Brien, the founder and former publisher of the Farmington Daily Times, had a distinct interest in UFOs. He had numerous correspondence with

about George Adamski, you have betrayed the truth. You have ridiculed it and blasphemed it — and I am sorry," wrote Lucy McGinnis, a witness to the alleged contact.

Adamski also wrote: "The man with whom I talked for 45 minutes was just as solid and firm as any man walking the streets on Earth today. He was no materialization! He was a living, breathing, talking and thinking human being!"

"Why the battle is against me, I don't know. I am only trying to live the American way of sharing my knowledge with those who care to share it with me," Adamski wrote.

But during the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Truman administration instituted a law to keep government knowledge of those types of events secret, according to ufologist Linda Moulton Howe.

Howe and others question O'Brien's interest in UFOs and ET contact. Some believe he may have been a government pawn, working with the administration to discredit UFO sightings and contacts.

"Would the government appeal to him to suppress information in the interest of being an American patriot," Howe questioned. "The government has thought that they are super patriots by keeping this secret."

What O'Brien's motives for keeping files on UFOs will never be known, but the files exist and they are now in the hands of the Friends of the Aztec Library and will be on display during the upcoming Fifth Annual UFO Symposium, March 21-25 in Aztec.

El Reportero Misterioso



Brett Butterfield/The Daily Times
Wearing her homemade alien costume Wednesday, Ruby Pettyjohn walks into the Aztec Restaurant while handing out posters promoting the upcoming Fifth Annual UFO Symposium, to be held March 25.

FLORIDA TODAY, Melbourne, FL - May 8, 2002

National media sidestep UFOs

There was a big subculture buzz in Washington, D.C., a year ago this week when a group called the Disclosure Project launched a bid to end government secrecy surrounding unidentified flying objects. The goal: Open congressional hearings. The hook was to invite 20 witnesses, some bolstered with government documents, with testimony so compelling the media couldn't possibly freeze it out.

No doubt, some of the panelists who showed up at the National Press Club offered detailed glimpses into the national security ramifications of the phenomenon. Retired Air Force Capt. Bob Salas, for instance, revealed how UFOs had knocked 10 Minuteman nukes off-line at their Strategic Air Command silos in Montana in 1967. Former Federal Aviation Administration chief of Accidents and Investigations John Callahan showcased photo-



Billy Cox
People

big-media outfits as combative public watchdogs has always been fragile. Throw UFOs into the mix and that facade becomes a myth.

From the World War II-era recruitment of Scripps-Howard executive editor John Sorrells and publishing magnate John Norris by the U.S. Office of Censorship to *The New York Times'* quashing its own

copies of incident reports seized by the CIA concerning a half-hour jetliner/UFO encounter off Alaska in 1986.

The ensuing failure of the national media to respond came as no surprise to a couple of journalists who've spent years monitoring these dynamics. What most Americans fail to understand, contend Terry Hansen and Patrick Huyghe, is that when it comes to national security issues, the facade of

field reports about the 1954 CIA coup in Guatemala, Hansen's *The Missing Times: News Media Complicity in the UFO Cover-up* chronicles repeated patterns of sometimes avid collusion with conventional covert operations. That such duplicity should extend to UFOs shouldn't be terribly surprising, and yet, it is.

Take, for instance, a correspondence discovered at the Smithsonian Institution in 1997 between former members of the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel. Formed in 1953 to marginalize UFOs after a vexing volume of reports began receiving media attention, the panel recommended smearing witnesses as a way to stanch the flow.

In 1966, shortly after a "CBS Reports" investigation on UFOs portrayed witnesses as delusional or unreliable, Robertson panelist Thornton Page wrote former group secretary Fred Durant that he "helped organize the CBS TV show around the Robertson Panel conclusions."

The host of that show: Walter Cronkite, aka *The Most Trusted Man in America*. From his home in Bainbridge Island, Wash., Hansen says formulaic thinking still permeates the old-guard media. "The (Disclosure Project) was a remarkable story, with men at a high level breaking their security oaths," Hansen says. "Local and regional media around the country treated it as a straightforward item, but the national networks, PBS, they virtually ignored it."

"This story could be covered right now. '60 Minutes' could blow the lid off it by interviewing retired airline pilots who aren't afraid to talk about incidents and near-misses. But the major media is waiting for the green light from the White House or the Pentagon."

However, Patrick Huyghe, author of *The Swamp Gas Times: My Two Decades*

on the UFO Beat, says news-gatherers may eventually have to confront the phenomenon, whether they want to or not. He cites the July 15 UFO reports near Carteret, N.J., as a potential scenario.

Shortly after midnight, FAA radar at nearby Newark International Airport began tracking more than a dozen airborne lights that appeared to fly in shifting formations. Motorists on the New Jersey Turnpike pulled over to watch the air show; more than 100 witnesses were identified. A Freedom of Information Act request by the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas discovered none of the objects on the radar scopes had transponders.

"Now, imagine if something like that had happened over a major metropolitan area two months later, after 9/11, when we were all on a heightened state of alert," says Huyghe from his home in New York. "At least during the Cold War, the Soviets never struck us on American soil. The terrorists have demonstrated their capacity to do just that. When we have another Carteret-type incident, can the media afford to throw it off and say, 'Oh, it's just UFOs'? I don't think so."

Even in that event, Hansen suspects the security apparatus would remain intractable.

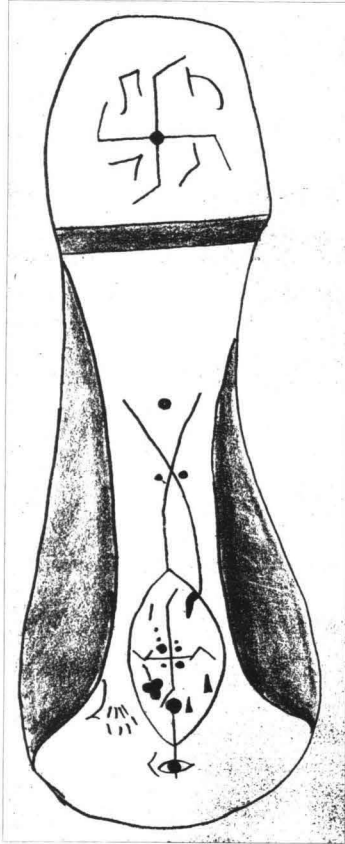
"It may just come down to the fact that they don't know what's going on, that maybe this is happening and they can't do anything about it. But that's an unacceptable public position when you're trying to project an image of being in control. We found out on Sept. 11 they're not."

Billy Cox's column runs every Wednesday. He can be reached at 242-3774, or Florida Today, P.O. Box 419000, Melbourne, FL 32941-9000.

Ralph Damiani went through all of the old clips and library files and began throwing things away. When he found a file marked UFO, he gave it to a reporter with an interest in the subject.

"I couldn't believe somebody was thinking about discarding it," said El Reportero Misterioso. "As soon as they threw it on my desk, I knew I had something valuable of historical content."

El Reportero, who wishes to keep his identity secret for safety reasons, kept the files safe. He didn't want them to fall into the wrong hands because of their historical value.



This is a photocopy of a drawing reportedly taken from a plaster cast of an actual footprint of a man from Venus. Dr. George Adamski allegedly took the cast of the Venusian's right foot. Adamski said the markings are significant to human survival.

recently donated the files to the library because he wanted them to be in good hands.

"I had lent them out to ufologists around the country, and then they returned them to me," Misterioso said. "I wanted to put it to a good cause."

The Friends of the Library are thrilled to have such a piece of history.

"We were looking through this material, and I said 'Do you realize what this is,'" said Charles Pike, a Friends member. "What a cultural find. We're real excited to have had these things and make it all come together to reflect this area."

Also in O'Brien's files were drawings from Adamski of the man from Venus's footprints. The markings on the feet are supposed to have a significant impact on the future of mankind, but there was no indi-

Show, the San Francisco Times and the Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee.

George Popowitch, of the committee, asked O'Brien about the fly-over. "What was the official explanation for that one?" The people's charge accounts which became astronomical and their bills floating around town," he wrote.

Others across the country wrote to O'Brien to share their stories about sightings.

The files are extensive and historical for the area, said Leanne Hathcock of the Aztec Library.

They will be on display to the public during the symposium and will be kept in the hands of the Friends of the Aztec Library for historical preservation purposes.

Debra Mayeux: delram@daily-times.com

Close encounters of the circular kind

By DAN BENSON
of the Journal Sentinel Staff

Town of Port Washington — Gene Large wasn't sure what to make of it when he walked out of his farmhouse the morning of July 11, 1998, and discovered a mysterious, two-acre circle formation in his wheat field.

At first, said 65-year-old Large, "I thought it was some kids in their four-wheelers" who flattened his crop.

But the more he thought about it, Large wasn't so sure.

"There were no tracks anywhere. And, besides, how the hell did they make such perfect circles?" he said.

Hundreds of crop circles—often incredibly complex geometric formations usually found in fields of grain—are reported worldwide every year. And interest in them may grow this summer with the Aug. 2 release of "Signs," a movie directed by M. Night Shyamalan and starring Mel Gibson as a Pennsylvania farmer who finds alien-created crop circles in his corn field.

Are they proof we're not alone, a calling card of a worldwide hoax or, as the Ozaukee Sheriff's Department concluded in Port Washington, just the work of some nocturnal vandals? When it comes to crop circles, theorists exist for any conspiracy.

They're big in some circles

Large harvested his wheat within days of finding the formation, and he and his wife, Shirley, went on with their lives. The circles received no media attention.

But aerial photos taken by Large's neighbor made their way onto the Internet—stirring interest among the true believers, researchers who call themselves cerealogists (after the Roman goddess of vegetation, Ceres).

"I was amazed by it," said one investigator, Thom Reed, of McHenry, Ill., who studied the site after it had been harvested and posted a report on the Internet. His report concludes they were made by "interdimensional intelligences."

Kim Sherwood, of Santa Monica, Calif., thinks the Port Washington crop circles are "genuine"—that is, not man-made.

"The fact it has no walk lines is a very good sign. It's very clean, neatly done and contains visually similar characteristics to other crop circles," said Sherwood, who researches crop circles with her husband, Ed, and viewed pictures of the crop circles on the Internet.

Also of interest, she said, is this: The circles were aligned on a north-south axis, the pattern contained nine elements consistent with "genuine" crop circle design, and the downed wheat stalks were in a counter-clockwise pattern.

Sherwood believes crop circles are caused by a "global poltergeist, a psycho-interactive phenomenon of collective consciousness and infinite intelligence that points to a form of divine intervention, if you like. What some people may call God."

Stephen J. Smith, a Vermont "amateur composer" who died last year, found the Port Washington collection of circles to have the proper "diatonic" ratios to each other to create three-to-five-note musical scales.

Smith composed and recorded music based on it and another crop circle found near Wausau in 1997, which he said generated a five-note scale, as well as on two crop circles in England.

Another believer was so intrigued by the Large circles that he traveled to the site to take soil samples.

According to Casey Holt, of Minnesota, the samples contained a higher-than-normal concentration of spherical iron particles, 20 to 50 microns in diameter—typical of "genuine" sites, he wrote in an e-mail to a reporter.

That indicates "there was a kind of electromagnetic energy present at the site."

Some wheat stalks appeared to have been exposed to heat, and the circles were not perfectly round but slightly oval, which would be consistent with the belief that they were created by a "beam" or "ray" emitted from a craft hovering at an angle above the site, he said.

On the other hand ...

Crop circle connoisseurs of another stripe have a different observation: Two people could have made them in about an hour.

"It's competent, but not that impressive," said John Lundberg, 33, one of a three-member group known as "The Circlemakers" in England who claim to have made thousands of crop formations over the last decade. He viewed the Port Washington circles on the Internet and e-mailed a reporter and called it "a very simple design."

"I think they should have put it further into the field; crop circles always look a bit awkward if they're butted up to a field boundary," said Lundberg.

As crop circles go, the approximately 230-by-210-foot Port Washington formation is dwarfed by most British crop circles, some of which are more than 800 feet in diameter and contain hundreds of individual circles.

Skeptics say crop circles are the product of people such as Lundberg and Wil Russel, commonly known as "hoaxers," an appellation scorned by circle-makers.

"I'm not a hoaxer, I'm a circle-maker," says Russel, one of Lundberg's partners. "Hoaxing is an activity to deceive by making fun of someone. That's not what I do. I make art, which stimulates a reaction from everyone who sees it."

The most famous, and some say first, circle-makers were Britons Doug Bower and David Chorley, who, in 1991, said they made about 250 circles over the previous two decades.

Others, like Lundberg and Russel, have taken up the cause. Their Web site offers, among other things, instructions on how to make a crop circle.

If every crop circle were man-made, where would the mystery be?

So Lundberg and Russel don't claim that to be the case.

"I believe there is something else at work, but I am not sure what," Russel wrote.

Some people serious about the subject have no time for circle-makers or alien buffs.

The circle-makers, said Nancy Talbot, "get in the way of our work."

Talbot heads a group called BLT Research Inc. in Cambridge, Mass., and oversees a network of nearly 700 volunteers who investigate crop circle reports. Talbot also helps finance scientific research on the subject.

She also complained about "all the UFO talk" that has "scared off many legitimate scientists" and dried up most funding sources for scientific research.

The official story

Officially, what happened to the Larges' wheat field was "criminal damage to property," according to the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department.

A deputy investigating the site believed the wheat was flattened by vandals riding all-terrain vehicles, according to the incident report.

But Sheriff Maury Straub viewed the crop circles from a plane flown by a neighbor of the Larges. He said it's more likely that someone walked into the field and flattened it using boards and ropes, moving about in circular patterns—a technique described on Internet sites.

That explanation didn't fly with Reed—the visitor to the site from Illinois—who talked to Straub on the phone. He said the sheriff was "tight-lipped about the formation" and it "seemed like Straub was in a hurry to finish the conversation."

Straub remembers that chat.

"Yeah, a big cover-up and all that nonsense. And you can quote me. There's absolutely no validity to that," Straub said.

Still, Shirley Large isn't so sure.

The night before the circles were discovered, Shirley and the family dog, home alone while Gene was at work in Saukville, felt something ominous.

"The dog was strange that night and would hide behind the chair," she said. "I got kind of scared and pulled down the shades and closed the drapes. I even put a towel over the front-door window."

"I didn't hear of see anything. It was just a feeling."

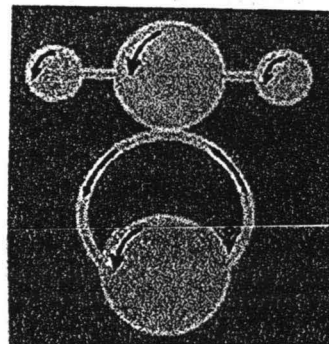
Now, Shirley said, she's a "firm believer in UFOs."

"But I don't know how they were made," she said. "I can't figure it out."

LOCAL MYSTERY CROP CIRCLES

Crop circles found in a wheat field on Gene Large's farm north of Port Washington on July 11, 1998 were in an area 233-by-210 feet. The largest circle was 100 feet across.

A diagram below shows the layout and direction of cut.



ENRIQUE RODRIGUEZ/Journal Sentinel

Graphic/E. Rodriguez

Crop circles



Photo/File

Gene Large discovered something strange in his Ozaukee County wheat field.



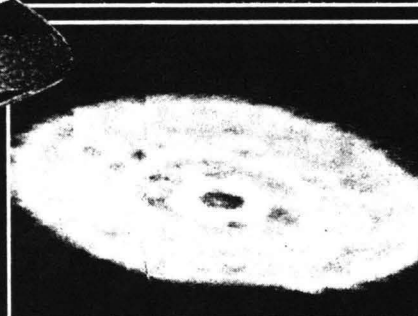
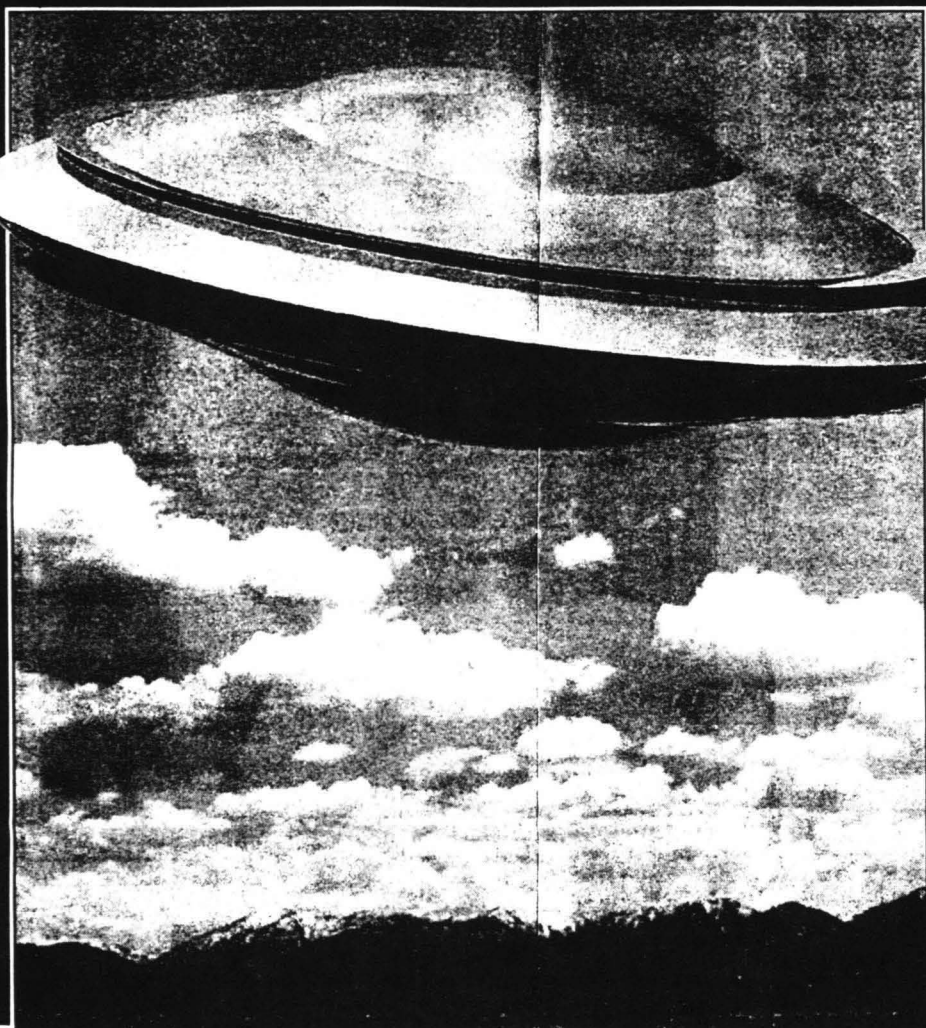
FOREIGN NEWS

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

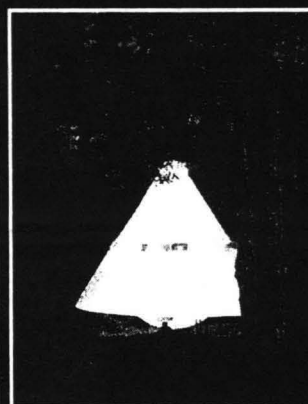
Historians have just discovered that a secret Government unit was set up 50 years ago to investigate UFOs – and the probe into strange sightings is still going on

Pictures: FORTEAN PICTURE LIBRARY/SIMON BELLIS, RAYMONDS/COLIN McPHERSON, SWNS

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England - April 25, 2002



SPACE INVADERS: The strange disc of light, left, was seen over Bonsall Moor, above, last October, but only yesterday, there was a further sighting. MoD expert Nick Pope, below right, thinks this and another in Rendelsham Forest in 1980, below left, are genuine examples of alien activity



Revealed: The spooky truth about Britain's own X Files

The X Files may be seem to be just Hollywood fantasy but two historians will reveal on a Radio 4 programme tonight that the British government set up its own shadowy team to discover the truth about flying saucers in the Fifties. SALLY EYDEN unearths the details about the government's search for UFOs and finds that fact is stranger than fiction

IN THE years after the Second World War, the skies above were buzzing – not just with aircraft but also flying saucers. Ever since the phrase had been coined by a US airman in 1947, sightings were being reported up and down the country. In Clacton-On-Sea in Essex people reported seeing silvery discs skidding across the sky and in Putney, South-west London, another object was spotted whizzing between the clouds. People wanted answers.

The government was so concerned about these strange, disc-like craft that seemingly performed impossible manoeuvres and travelled at incomprehensible speeds that it set up a top secret department in 1950 to try to discover the truth about UFOs. This X Files-style unit, called the Working Party on Flying Saucers, contained the best scientific and military minds in Britain. Yet its very existence was denied by the Ministry of Defence for almost 50 years.

Now, two social historians have seen documents released from the the Public Record Office which prove that the department existed. Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts will detail their findings on a Radio 4 programme tonight. Dr Clarke says: "After years of searching for something we only suspected existed, we found this incredible six-page document and the minutes of the original meeting to set the unit up."

The secret research into the sightings began in 1950 but ended a year later, concluding that what had been seen were nothing more than mirages, optical illusions or psychological delusions on the part of the witnesses. The case on the subject apparently seemed closed.

But despite these findings the sightings continued during the Fifties and people were still asking questions. Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, worried at rumours of UFOs flying over Washington DC, sent a memo to the War Ministry asking: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean?" He was told not to worry and shown the findings of the report, detailed in Clarke and Roberts's new book called *Out Of The Shadows: UFOs, The Establishment And The Official Cover-Up*. Clarke believes that the cover-up was nothing to do with the existence of little green men, but everything to do with the Cold War. "This was a time of great paranoia and fear," he says. "The government took the decision to say as little about the sightings as possible because of fears about the inadequacy of our radar system."

Declassified government documents from June 1965 show that it was "official MoD policy to play down the subject of unidentified flying objects and to avoid attaching undue public attention or publicity to the subject, as a result we have never had any political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation". Another document states: "The press are never to be given information about unusual radar sightings, and unusual visual sightings are in no circumstances to be disclosed in the press."

Clarke is sceptical over the existence of alien crafts but throughout his four years of research, interviewing high-ranking military personnel in command at the time of this UFO activity, he has come across evidence that his theory of mass paranoia cannot explain.

(continued on page 7) **6**

In 1952, pilots Air Commodore Mick Swiney and Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander David Crofts were flying in a Meteor Seven advanced aircraft when they saw three flying saucers near Gloucester.

THE UFOs were also spotted on the RAF radar and other fighter planes were scrambled to assess the threat. The pilots were so unnerved by what they saw that they recorded it in the flight log book. The pair, now retired, recounted their experiences to Clarke and Roberts. Both have tried to find out more about what happened on that day but the Ministry of Defence denies that the event ever happened.

The MoD has always claimed that it has never actively investigated UFOs. A spokesperson says: "We remain totally open-minded but we have no interest in UFOs unless they constitute a threat to national security. It is not the X Files - we do have reports of sightings and almost all of them are explained and it is not our role to establish those that aren't."

But despite this claim, the MoD continues to look into the 300 sightings reported each year to a little-known department called the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. This is the X Files of the British government, which would make Nick Pope - who worked on the desk during the Nineties - the British version of Fox Mulder.

Pope joined the department as a sceptic about UFOs but when he left in 1994 he was a believer in the existence of alien craft. One event in particular changed his perception. Looking back through the archives one day, he came across documentation of what he believes is Britain's first UFO landing. On December 27, 1980 two security patrolmen reported seeing unusual lights in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk to Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, Commander of US Air Force base Bentwaters near Woodbridge.

The men reported seeing "a strange glowing object, metallic in appearance and triangular in shape". It had a "pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath". Lt Col Halt wrote in a memo sent to the MoD that this "object was hovering, or on legs. As the patrolmen approached, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappears. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went in to a frenzy".

The next day depressions were found in the forest and significant radiation readings were discovered in the immediate area. This incident was not only revealed in US documents, unearthed by researchers, but also in MoD reports. One of the officials who has seen this report is Lord Hill-Norton, former Chief of Defence. He is convinced that the incident is proof of the existence of extra-terrestrials.

He says: "There is a serious possibility that we are being visited - and have been visited for many years - by people from outer space, from other civilisations; that it behoves us to find out who they are, where they come from and what they want."

It seems that these sightings are not random but occur in hotspots, many in areas with a military significance. Pope was called in to investigate an incident in the early hours of March 31, 1993. "There had been lots of sightings that night," he says. "The UFOs were seen passing over two military bases in Shropshire, RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. It was described by one military witness as being a vast, triangular craft, only slightly smaller than a jumbo jet. It flew slowly over the bases, travelling at a height of 200ft, firing a narrow beam of light at the ground, before flying off at high speed."

At the same base 24 years earlier a UFO was tracked on radar systems and two RAF jets were scrambled to intercept the craft. The pilots recounted how they engaged in a game of cat and mouse, with the UFO accelerating just before the planes were able to lock on to the target. The mysterious craft was too quick for the jets.

But it is not just Air Force bases that have been visited by UFOs. More than 60,000 sightings have been made in Bonnybridge, near Falkirk in central Scotland, since 1991. And only yesterday there was yet another sighting of mysterious objects in the sky over Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire.

IS SOLUTION RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES?

▼ By JONATHAN SKINNER

OVER the last few months there has been an unusual amount of UFO sightings - including China, Germany and Montenegro.

Four UFOs were spotted flying over Beijing - they were flying at a height of ten kilometres and moving in pairs.

The Shanghai Star quotes the Beijing Times as saying they appeared for around an hour.

Lan Songzhu of Xing-long Observation Station of Beijing Astronomical Observatory says that there have been more than 10,000 recorded UFO sightings in the last 100 years.

He says about 95 per cent of these sightings have been shown to be related to the global magnetic field, astronomy, or the atmosphere.

Early in April hundreds of people reported seeing mysterious UFOs over southern Germany.

The Bavarian interior minister says hundreds of worried citizens called to report the UFOs, describing a loud explosion, a series of flashes and other strange lights in the sky.

Germany's national weather service says it

is possible a meteor or a piece of space junk burned up or exploded as it entered the earth's atmosphere.

There have also been other UFO sightings in the last few months - in March, hundreds of people in a Montenegrin village reported hearing a series of loud blasts and saw massive illuminated objects hovering overhead.

According to the newspaper Vijesti, many witnesses claimed the UFOs changed shape before heading off into the sky and out of sight.

Sightings

Interest in UFOs and aliens has reached epidemic proportions - sightings and abductions being recorded all the time.

In fact, UFO researcher Ann Druffel, has published a book on how to fend off alien attack. Her book, *How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abductions*, gives step-by-step instructions on what to do if you find yourself the target of extra-terrestrial intrusion.

When the humorous travel writer Bill Bryson packed his bags in England and returned to his native USA, he says he did so because his countrymen needed him - he had read that

3.7million Americans believed they had been abducted by aliens at one time or another.

Ironically, this fascination in UFOs is perhaps an indicator, which shows that people have a thirst for something beyond the monotonous cycle of the normal - a spiritual God-shaped hole deep within them.

But having a vague thirst for something supernatural isn't going to convince anyone that God really exists.

The questions 'Are we alone in the universe?' and 'Is there intelligent life out there?' have always aroused interest.

Around the world there are various SETI programmes (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) that are part of the on-going scientific research effort aimed at detecting radio signals from extra-terrestrial civilisations.

These research bodies use many observatories such as the one at Arecibo, which has recently logged a total of 10,000 hours of observation time; they also gather information from satellites.

Recent advances in technology make laser pulses a viable means of communicating over vast distances.

If intelligent alien life

forms are using similar technology, these research projects will be able to detect them.

The important question to ask those who run the SETI projects is: how would you know that a signal from outer space was caused by intelligent life?

One of their key answers is that, if a signal were produced by extraterrestrial intelligence, it would have a pattern to it; there would be something about it, which was not random.

The interesting thing about this is, that while they star-gaze, there is just such a pattern already here beneath our noses.

Crude

If we turn the telescope downwards and we look through the microscope, what do we see?

Even in the simplest cells we find far more than a crude pattern, but organisation, and more than that, we find complex information.

In the nuclei of cells there is a code and a mechanism for decoding its messages, so that the hidden information is employed in building and sustaining living organisms.

This is information technology far more so-

phisticated than human intelligence and ingenuity has produced.

In the simplest cell we have information equivalent to 100million pages of the Encyclopaedia Britannica - surely that can't have happened by random chemical motion.

When the sperm entered the egg and produced the first cell which became you, the reader of this article, all the information needed was present.

All the different types of cells, tissues and organs were encoded, as were the physical qualities, which make you, look like you.

This, along with the information processing needed to turn that chemical 'potential you' in a bit of DNA into the 'actual you' today, is utterly staggering.

This raises a profound question: if a pattern in radio-waves from outer-space could be construed as being caused by intelligent beings, why then is it that the infinitely more complex language system of DNA is explained away as the result of random processes?

Surely the intricate patterns, processes and information technology of our cells bears eloquent testimony to an intelligent creator.

We are proof of intelligent creator

WELLS JOURNAL, Somerset, England - May 9, 2002

A Day In The Life

Strange world of Ufology

A series of features on a day in the life of interesting people in mid-Somerset

Unidentified flying objects, crop circles and the paranormal are just part of a day's work for UFO consultant Alan Foster, who lives and works from his home in Meare.

Mr Foster says he had a life changing experience at the age of 12, when, on the way home from his Church of England confirmation, he saw an unusual spacecraft gliding silently in the sky.

He worked for many years for the United States military, managing their commercial travel operations, but wanted to devote himself to his research into ufology.

He now works part-time as a steward at Wells Golf Club, which allows him time to dedicate to his other work.

"Really, my work is a 24 hour a day thing," he said.

"Even when we travel on trips abroad it is always to do with my work. A typical day might include research into UFO sightings worldwide, or crop circles.

"There are crop circle hoaxes



Alan Foster

but the genuine ones are too intricate to have been made by human beings in the short time available.

"The circles are probably created within seconds, sometimes in the middle of the day, like the one that appeared near Stonehenge in 1996, which measured 900ft across. Eyewitnesses had seen a perfectly normal field only half an hour before.

"I find people very open, about one in four or five have had some sort of paranormal

experience, but often they are afraid to speak about it.

"I do believe the crop circles have been made by extra-terrestrial beings who want us to know they are there, in fact I believe that throughout the history of the world we have always interacted with beings from the stars.

"I think that if we allowed them to, the ETs could teach us new technologies that could help save mankind from destruction."

Pope has suggested that 95 per cent of all sightings can be explained by natural phenomena. Dr Jacqueline Mitton of the Royal Astronomical Society says: "Many people see meteors, shooting stars, even the bright planet Venus and think it is a UFO. People have looked up to the sky throughout history and interpreted what they saw as being supernatural or not of this Earth. However, in the past it was dragons or witches. Now we are living in an age where space travel could be possible - so people now see UFOs instead."

SO IF This accounts for the 95 per cent, what of the elusive five per cent? Lionel Fanthorpe, President of the British UFO Research Association, believes these sightings prove we are not alone. He says: "If only one star in a thousand has a planet system and only one planet system in a thousand can support life, then statistically, we are not alone in the universe."

Pope, who still works for the MoD, says: "You have to consider that the committee members liaised with the Americans about UFO research in the Fifties. The conclusions the British government made seemed to exactly mirror what the American's were telling its public. I believe that the truth is still out there."

● Britain's X Files, BBC Radio 4, tonight, 8pm.

Eerie blue light prompts radio ham to flee moor

A NEW possible UFO alert in the Derbyshire hotspot of Bonsall Moor has been sounded.

Radio enthusiast Ron Gaunt said that he was talking on a long-wave radio at the top of Bonsall Moor when a bright blue light shone down on his Ford Focus.

Mr Gaunt, a former radio operator

in the Royal Engineers, said that sheep in a nearby field were startled by the eerie light.

And he noticed interference on the radio waves as the light bathed the hill-top for nearly two minutes.

The 71-year-old, from Darley Dale, explained what was happening to radio friend Barbara Whyman, who was 40

miles away in Sheffield.

"He asked if I had a fault on my radio equipment. I thought my plug must have worked loose but it was fine," said Mrs Whyman.

Mr Gaunt was so shaken that he decided to leave the moor a few minutes later, rather than transmit until dawn as he usually does.

He said: "It was a very clear night and suddenly it was like broad daylight. It left me feeling rather dizzy."

On returning to his home, Mr Gaunt tested his radio equipment, only to find that there was nothing wrong with it.

He passed on details to Derbyshire police, who said that their helicopter was not in the area at the time.

NEWS OF THE WORLD, London, England - May 12, 2002

The truth is out there! Meet the stars who've had close encounters with ET.

By Nick Harding

The British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) has investigated unidentified flying objects in our skies for 40 years. To celebrate four decades of flying saucers, the association has opened its files for Sunday. Here we uncover the close encounters of the stars...

Muhammad Ali

The former world champion boxer is a strong believer in alien visitors and claims to see UFOs regularly. He says: "If you look into the sky in the early morning you see them playing tag between the stars."

William Shatner

Star Trek's Captain James T Kirk claimed aliens saved his life when his motorbike broke down as he was off-roading in the Mojave Desert in California.

"A shimmering figure led me to a road so I could get help," he recalls. "Then he disappeared and a shining, orb-type object zoomed off at high speed." Beam us up!

Celebrity space invaders

Sky society

David Duchovny

As Fox Mulder in sci-fi hit series The X-Files, David witnessed his fair share of space craft.

And in real life, as he was jogging along a beach in New Jersey in October 1993, he saw a hovering triangular UFO. "I don't know what it was," he said at the time. "I don't think I ever will."

Olivia Newton-John

The Grease star had a close encounter in Australia. She described her sighting as a multicoloured globe, adding: "It could change direction like no plane I'd ever seen."

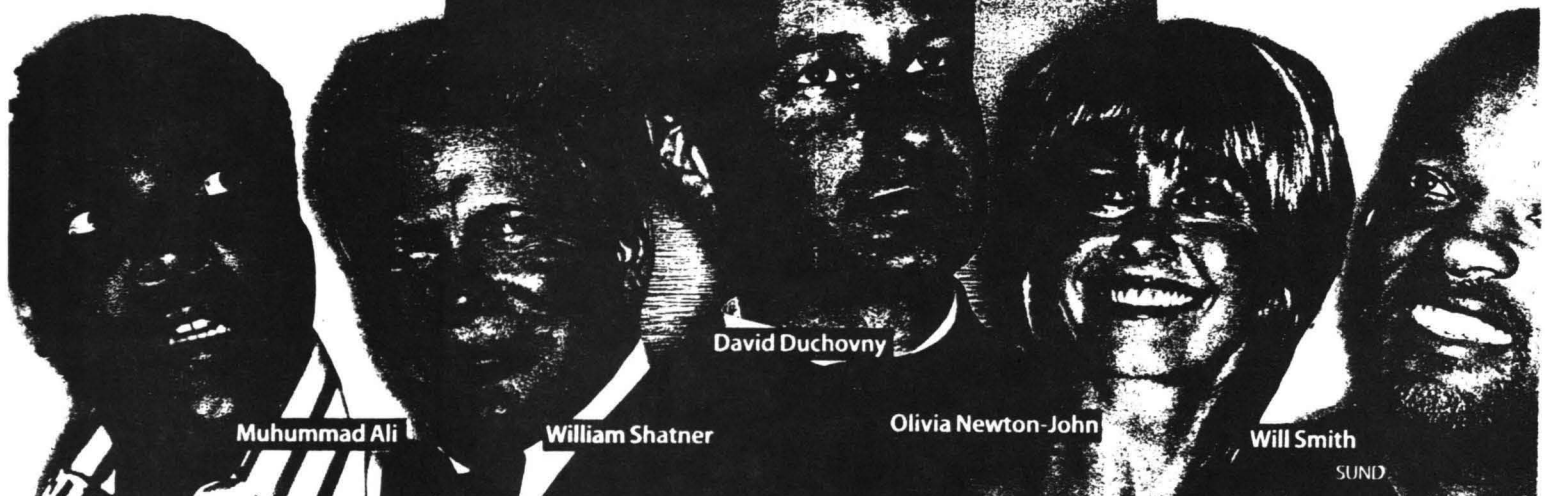
Will Smith

The Independence Day and Men In Black star spotted two UFOs above the Californian desert in 1992. Hollywood's Will says: "They were not man-made. They dashed across the horizon at unbelievable speeds."

Jimmy Carter

In 1969, peanut farmer Jimmy saw strange lights in the sky. He spoke about his experience before he was elected President of the United States, running the risk that people would think he was a crackpot.

"I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one," he said. "It was the darnedest thing



Muhammad Ali

William Shatner

David Duchovny

Olivia Newton-John

Will Smith

SUND

I've ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for 10 minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was. One thing's for sure, I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky."

Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorby's a big believer and in 1990 he admitted that Soviet military top brass took flying saucers very seriously.

"The phenomenon of UFOs does exist, and it must be treated seriously," revealed the former Soviet leader. "I know that this country has nothing as fast or agile as some UFO sightings suggest. Behind the scenes high-ranking officers are soberly concerned about UFOs, but through official secrecy and ridicule many citizens are led to believe that the unknown flying objects are nonsense."

David Bowie

When he was growing up in Kent, the British musician says he witnessed several UFOs.

"They came over so regularly we could time them. Sometimes they stood still, other times they moved so fast it was hard to keep a steady eye on them," says David, whose hits include Space Oddity and Loving The Alien.

"People need to give it

"They came over so regularly we could time them"



Dave Davies

Dan Aykroyd

Jimi Hendrix

some serious thought. Too many credible people have reported things that are impossible by our understanding of physics."

John Lennon

When Beatle John Lennon made contact with a UFO he was stark naked and standing on a balcony in New York.

May Pang, his girlfriend at the time, recalls: "John just stepped outside with nothing on in order to catch a breeze. I was inside the bedroom getting dressed when he started shouting for me to come out onto the terrace.

"As I walked out I saw this large, circular object

coming towards us.

It was shaped like a flattened cone, and on top was a large, brilliant red light.

"When it came a little closer, we could make out a row or circle of white lights that ran around the entire rim of the craft. They were flashing. It was about the size of a Learjet and it was so close that if we had something to throw at it, we probably would have hit it."

John wrote down what he saw and used it as part of the cover art on his Walls And Bridges album.

Charlie Sheen

Actor Charlie saw a UFO in Malibu, California, back in 1976.

The Young Guns and Hot Shots star says: "I witnessed a craft accelerate from standstill to an indescribable speed."

Dave Davies

The guitarist from top Sixties band The Kinks claims he was kidnapped by aliens who showed him their spaceship.

"The intelligences showed me, by some sort of thought

projection, things which they have on their spacecraft," he says. "They showed me crystal computers that monitor the actions of every single person living on Earth."

Dave says he first experienced paranormal mind contacts with aliens during The Kinks' US tour in 1982. He believes that they still guide him through life.

Dan Aykroyd

There was something strange in Dan's neighbourhood. The Ghostbusters star says: "I was in Massachusetts a few years ago and saw two objects tracking across the sky at about 100,000ft doing amazing manoeuvres. I am convinced they were UFOs."

Jimi Hendrix

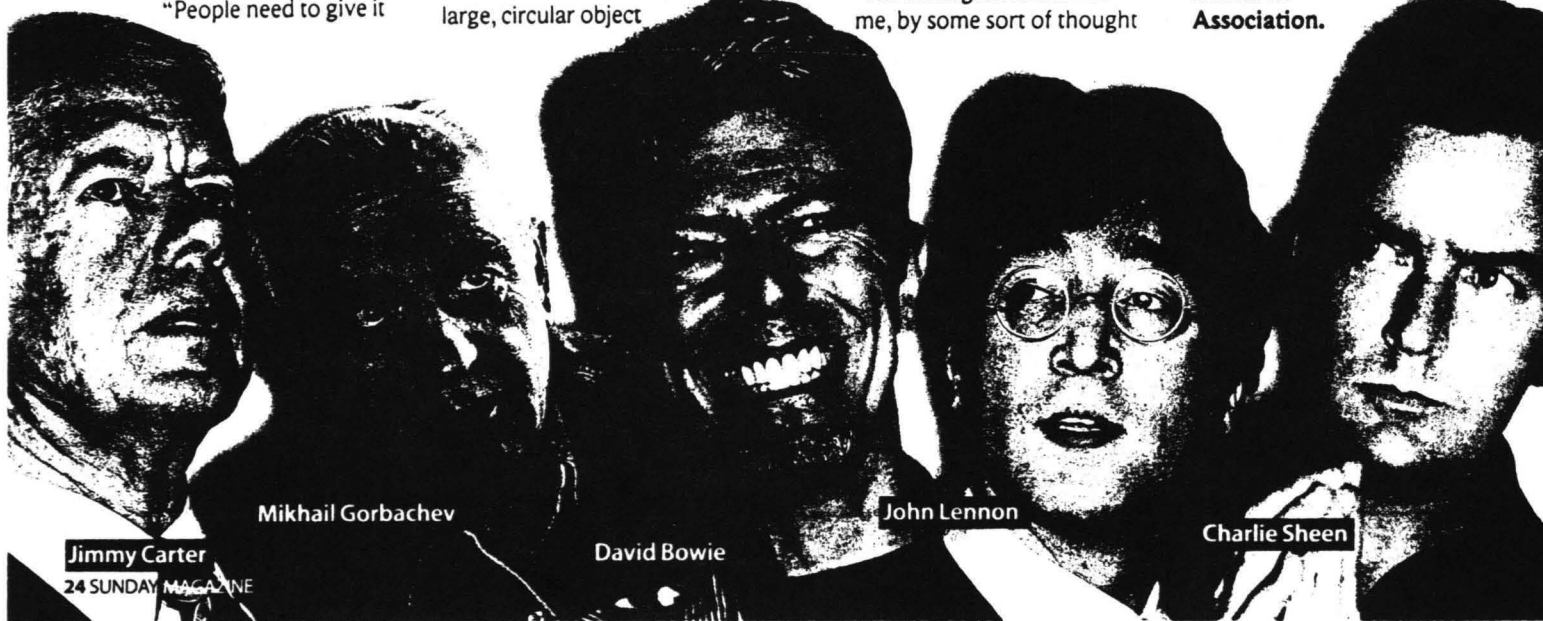
Not long before his death, the Purple Haze rocker came into contact with some uninvited guests at a performance on the rim of a volcano in Maui, Hawaii.

As Jimi started belting out his hits, a local radio station started getting calls from listeners who claimed they could see UFOs flying over the concert site.

A cameraman on the set reported falling from his perch when he saw one of the craft through his lens.

Log on to www.bufoa.org.uk for more information on The British UFO Research Association.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IMAGEBANK/REX/BUCKLEUP/PHOTO.COM



Jimmy Carter

Mikhail Gorbachev

David Bowie

John Lennon

Charlie Sheen

24 SUNDAY MAGAZINE

WIDNES WEEKLY NEWS, Cheshire, England - April 18, 2002

Challenge to MoD over aliens

A MAJOR UFO conference in Runcorn will hear from three experts about visits to Earth from extraterrestrials.

The event, at the Waterloo Community Centre on Saturday, will showcase new findings about alien visits.

Eric Morris, founder of the British UFO Studies Centre and editor of *Intelligence UFO* magazine, will be challenging

the Ministry of Defence to make public documents relating to an alleged crash of a flying saucer in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, 20 years ago.

Tim Matthews, a Lancashire-based UFO researcher and author, will be claiming that Britain's aviation industry will soon be using designs for aircraft obtained from alien technology.

Philip Mantle, the man who made public film of an alleged alien autopsy at Roswell, will present never-before-seen footage of the event.

The film, which receives its world premiere in Runcorn, is believed to provide more evidence of the autopsy than previous footage.

The event runs from 11am-5pm, admission

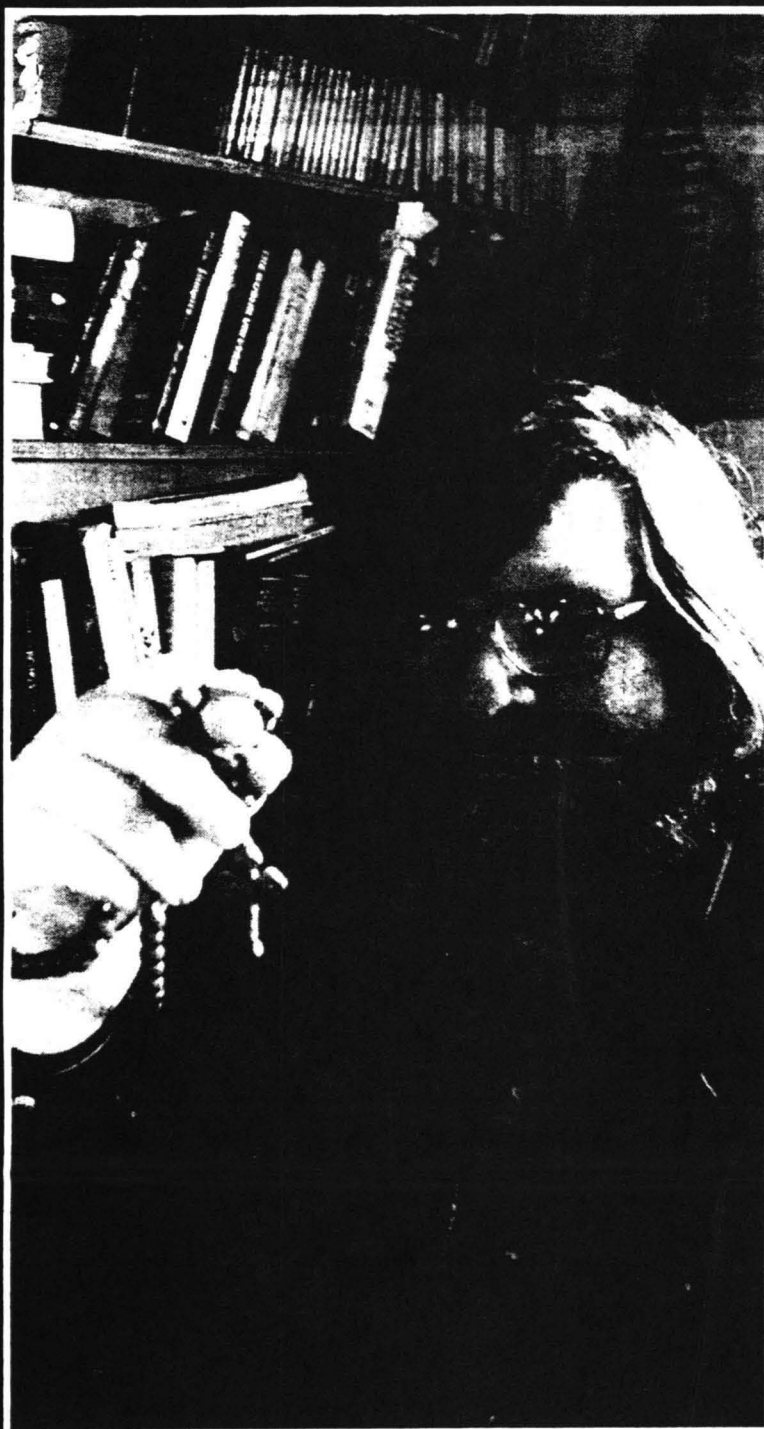
EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - May 23, 2002

Odd lights in sky

DERBY: There has been another suspected UFO sighting in the city.

Strange lights and movements were seen over Normanton and Sinfen at 10.40pm on Monday.

Kate Holliday, of Littleover, described seeing "large, motionless lights" near her home as she stood in her back garden.



Exeter gets set for wyrd goings on

EXETER will become the strangest place in Britain next month when it plays host to the third annual Wyrd Weekend.

Delegates from across Britain will descend on the city for the celebration of all things weird and wonderful in the world today.

The event, to be held between May 3 and 6 at Devonshire House, Exeter University, will investigate everything from vampires, dragons and the terrifying Celtic black dogs to Elizabethan occultists, crop circles, UFOs and ghosts.

The four-day convention is promoted by Totnes-based WYRD Magazine, The Exeter Strange Phenomena Research Group and the Exeter University Science Fiction Society.

Organiser Jon Downes, a regular contributor to the Sunday Independent, started the WYRD Weekend in the summer of 2000.

'It was for fun mostly,' he explained.

'Every other major city in the country has a paranormal

convention, a UFO conference or an Earth Mysteries Weekend, so why not Exeter?'

Speakers at this year's event include Larry Warren, an ex-member of the US Air Force who is a survivor of the infamous Rendlesham Forest UFO case of 1980 and vampire expert Dr Gail-Nina Anderson.

Richard Freeman, an Exeter-based zoologist who recently returned from an expedition to northern Thailand in search of semi-legendary giant crested snakes, is also a guest speaker.

Strange

Jon, who has written 18 books and made a number of major television programmes on strange phenomena, said: 'Because I work in the field, I know most of the major players, and so I can get them to come down to Exeter each year.'

● For more details contact Jon on 01392 424811 or log onto the website at www.stormpages.co.uk/weirdweekend

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England - April 26, 2002

'I saw eight UFOs'

A SPRINGFIELD investment banker has claimed that he saw eight glowing unidentified flying objects race silently across the night sky faster than fighter jets.

Twenty-five-year-old Bruce Fenton had been watching a planetary alignment from the back garden of his Boswells Drive home just before midnight last Thursday.

He said that, at 12.20 am, he suddenly saw at least eight round orange lights shoot across the heavens towards him from the west.

Bruce, an amateur astronomer, called his flat-mate, Nick Chambers, and together they watched the mysterious lights disappear over the north-east horizon, he said.

"They must have been travelling just above the height of passenger jets - perhaps at twice the speed of sound - but there was no sonic boom," said Bruce.

He said that the glowing UFOs took about 30 seconds to cover the distance from horizon to horizon without making a sound.

"It was very eerie," he said. "The lights were about the same size and brilliance of your average star and seemed to be flying in a loose formation."

"Having been brought up in the West Country near air bases where the Red Arrows and other RAF jets often appear in the sky, I have a good idea about what they look like and sound like at night."

"Both Nick and I are at a loss to explain what we saw. I know what meteor showers look like, as well as air balloons and earth-orbiting satellites, but this was so strange."

Roy Lake, of the London UFO Study Group (LUFOS), said: "What Bruce and Nick saw has not been reported to us by anyone else, but we are very interested to learn more about their sighting."

"There has been a lot of UFO activity in Canada, Chile and Australia, but England has been relatively quiet - possibly because more people are watching TV. But, with the nights getting warmer, we expect sightings to increase."

UFO link

CRAVEN HERALD, Skipton, England - April 19, 2002

A UFO sighting in Silsden is being linked to another incident in South Craven more than three years ago. Last month, 66-year-old Beryl Southwell reported seeing a substantial unidentified object with whitish bluish flashing lights hovering outside her Silsden house. In December 1998, a Cowling nurse claimed she was followed by a similar object as she drove over Cowling Moor. Now UFO expert Donald Cooper is appealing for other witnesses to come forward. He is also trying to find out more about the mysterious mutilation of sheep in the area. "The strange thing is that there is no blood," he explained. "I don't know of any terrestrial organisation that would operate on animals in this way." Anyone with information can contact him on 01756 795006.

DAILY MAIL, London, England

April 12, 2002

UFO dogmatists

SIR Martin Rees and Fortean Times magazine think UFOs are dead (Mail).

During last year's lunar eclipse, my three teenage children and I were watching from our back garden when a bright-orange, heart-shaped UFO silently flew over our heads towards the totally eclipsed moon from the west, then abruptly changed direction and headed north up the coast.

This was just one of many sightings our family has had. We live in an area of high RAF activity, but none can be attributed to the military.

It's well known that astronomers are terrified of UFOs, crop circles and the like. That's why they debunk everything they don't understand.

We 'cranks' who see UFOs do not all believe they are alien spaceships, no more than we believe all crop circles are made by men with bits of string and planks of wood.

Mrs J. HILLIARD, Skegness, Lincs.

Unusual objects sighted in Houston - Smithers area

Contributed

A day's shopping in Smithers behind them, three women drove down Highway 16 on that Friday, chatting casually about goings on in Houston, their hometown and the trip's destination.

After they passed through Telkwa, around 8:45 p.m., a light in the sky ahead of the car slowed their conversation. Even though the woolly sky reflected back moonlight glancing off the snow, this light stood out oddly in the luminescent, northeastern night sky.

And when it poked through the cloud cover and descended in their direction, they knew it was not the moon.

The light travelled down from the clouds, levelled off at the tops of the trees and moved in their direction as they continued down the highway at 90 kilometres per hour.

The woman driving slowed the pace of the car to 50 kph. What was this thing? They had to get a better look. But, when the intensity of the light increased as it neared the car, the image of some

sort of craft also began to take shape, startling the driver, causing her to step harder on the gas and propel the car forward.

A boomerang-shaped craft with seven, bright, white lights and two orange lights at either end, appeared. It took a few seconds for the car to pass from under the craft but soon the silvery glow of a winter night sky in the Bulkley Valley closed in around the three women.

That episode ignited one of the most active months of unidentified flying object sightings in the Bulkley Valley in some time. In fact, with 11 reported sightings from 19 different witnesses, the area drew national and international attention from ufologists, said Brian Vike, a ufologist and UFO field investigator based in Houston.

He has been besieged by calls and requests to provide supporting documentation and insight into phenomena. George Filer, the top ufologist in the United States and publisher of the Filer's Files, a weekly newsletter

for sightings, has had him as co-guest on National Public Radio's Jeff Rense Show frequently — particularly in the last month since the Bulkley Valley became the crossroads of interstellar traffic.

The Feb. 1 sighting is on file with the Smithers RCMP but, although they aren't ruling out a craft of some sort, they feel it might be something less glamorous than a UFO.

"Whether it was an aircraft or not hasn't been confirmed," said Cpl. Claudette Garcia.

Each of the reported cases Vike has investigated is unrelated. No sightings have been recorded in March so far; in the same time last month Vike had four already.

"So what happened in February? There was definitely a flap here," he said, using the ufologist term for a proliferation of objects being sighted. "We've had this big flap going on, it's just went through the roof. What is it they're seeing?"

The three Houston

women, all 30-something married adults, were credible witnesses, Vike said, but he could not reveal their names due to his intent to retain the confidentiality of the witnesses.

"With UFOs, people have a funny way of looking down on [witnesses]. A lot of people get made fun of," said Vike. "People start coming up with some alien idea."

Credibility is something which Vike has struggled with since he dedicated himself to investigating UFO sightings four years ago. Working in a field which most rational people consider to be populated by dreamers, charlatans and daft fellows wearing multi-coloured beanies with a propeller affixed on top, he quickly established a name for himself internationally for the thoroughness and detail of his investigations.

And living in a province where people are considered the most likely in the nation to witness an UFO-sighting—according to a survey done by Winnipeg-based ufologist,

Chris Ruskowski, in February—gave the retired Houston Forest Products worker plenty to do.

In the month since the Feb. 1 sighting, Vike has been narrowing the possibilities. Some explanations for the lights were: airport lights; helicopters; small, fixed-wing planes; ski-dooes on mountain sides; stars—all

of which he has ruled out for different reasons.

"What I'm working on here, I can't come up with an explanation for it," he admitted. "I've talked to guys across Canada and they can't come up with

anything. Right now, it's unknown, but I've got to try and figure it out for myself or it'll go down as unknown."

Seven federal government and five military hits to his Web site have been recorded since the beginning of February. There was the odd hit to the Web site by

government previously, Vike said, but so many

hits during a time of an inordinate amount of sightings is peculiar.

"So why are they all interested in it if they are not really interested in UFOs to begin with, as they say?" Vike asked.

Some recent sightings in the Bulkley Valley:

• Houston (July, 2001): A fellow walks into the Houston Food Mart telling of an object hovering approximately 500 feet above a transmitting tower on Mount Harry Davis. The object was emitting sparks off its bottom side, shooting down towards the tower.

• Houston to Smithers (Aug., 2001): Husband and wife watched a large white light (object) east of Telkwa. It was reported to be very large and glowed brightly before disappearing rapidly to the north.

Contact Vike by mail at Box 1091, Houston, B.C., V0J 1Z0, by phone or fax at 1-250-845-2189, and by e-mail at yogibear@bulkley.net

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - April 27, 2002

Visitors land in city for their close encounters

BY MATTHEW TAYLOR

PASSING aliens and stray spaceships should avoid Leeds tomorrow if they want to remain undetected.

Some of the region's sharpest-eyed UFO spotters will be in town for the first Yorkshire UFO INFO seminar.

Enthusiasts will be gathering for a close encounter at Pudsey sports and social club from 11am

and organiser Andrew Ellis says the full range of mysterious sightings will be covered.

"This is open to everybody to come along and get an idea of what we are about," he said.

Interesting

"A lot of people are just interested in abductions or animal mutilations but by turning up they will find out more about UFOs and the different theories behind what they might be."

Mr Ellis, of Osmondthorpe, Leeds, said not all UFOs were a

sign that little green men were about to invade earth.

"There is some really interesting work going on on modern aircraft like the X-planes and the advanced technology available to the military which may be responsible for some sightings. Not everything is connected to aliens."

The conference will hear from national experts before a question and answer session.

Mr Ellis said: "We have not only been working the Yorkshire area.

"Our interest has allowed us to investigate UFO sightings from all the UK, and most recently we have been investigating the anomalous objects that have not only been seen but filmed on the various NASA missions."

Spotted

He added that the group would be discussing a sighting of a UFO which raced across the region last year.

"It was spotted in Nottingham then Leeds then out towards Hull all within 20 minutes and we

have footage of it.

"No plane that we know about can travel that fast so we will be looking at other explanations.

"It's a chance for people to come along and share their ideas and find out about other theories."

The seminar starts at 11am at the Pudsey Sports and Social Club.

Admission is £5 and there will be hot food and refreshments.

matthew.taylor@yepn.co.uk

On the case of UFOs

by Charlie Bullough

A POLICEMAN who had a close encounter of the third kind has launched a UFO database.

Det Con Gary Heseltine, of British Transport Police, has set up the system to record police officers' sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Mr Heseltine, of Ashtene Drive, Crofton, has been on the trail of UFOs ever since he spotted a mystery object over Scunthorpe in 1975.

He was a teenager when he saw a brilliant white object in the sky and claimed it caused a power cut as it travelled overhead.

He said: "I don't know what the object was, but I do know what it wasn't. It was not a plane, helicopter, balloon or meteor. From that moment my interest in the subject of UFOs was born. Since then I have followed the

enigma for 26 years."

And now he has set up the Police Reporting UFO Sightings to encourage other officers to report their mysterious experiences.

Since he launched the database this month, Mr Heseltine has had several calls from fellow officers about sightings. He has created a confidential hotline where officers can describe their experiences without fear of ridicule.

He said: "When an officer states he went round a bend in his panda car and saw a diamond-shaped object five feet off the ground and hovering silently above the road—I tend to believe him."

"In my experience my colleagues tend to be very down-to-earth, people who will relate their stories as they have

actually happened."

The father-of-two said there was a wealth of evidence that UFOs are real and are extraterrestrial in origin. More than 3,500 pilots have reported UFO encounters while in the cockpit.

Mr Heseltine has even written about the uncanny link between police officers and UFOs in this month's UFO Magazine.

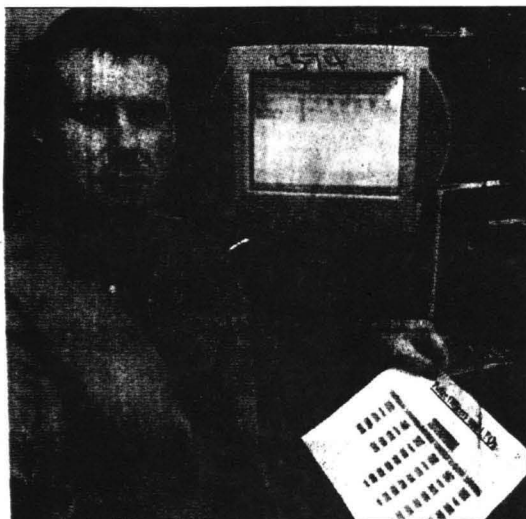
He said: "Police officers are out and about 24 hours a day. They are trained observers and should be regarded as highly credible witnesses."

"I urge any officer out there who has longed to tell someone about their experience to ring me so their story can see the light of day in the public domain."

You can contact Mr Heseltine on 01924 864614 or email him on heseltinegary@hotmail.com



WAKEFIELD EXPRESS, Yorkshire, England - Jan. 25, 2002



FLYING saucer squad: Det Con Gary Heseltine. w1898a204

Bulkley Valley hotbed of interstellar activity

By T. SCHAFER

A thick cloud cover blanketed the Bulkley Valley on the night of Feb. 1.

A day's shopping in Smithers behind them, three women drove down Highway 16 on that Friday, chatting casually about goings on in Houston, their hometown and the trip's destination.

After they passed through Telkwa, around 8:45 p.m., a light in the sky ahead of the car slowed their conversation. Even though the woolly sky reflected back moonlight glancing off the snow, this light stood out oddly in the luminescent, northeastern night sky.

And when it poked through the cloud cover and descended in their direction, they knew it was not the moon.

The light travelled down from the clouds, levelled off at the tops of the trees and moved in their direction as they continued down the highway at 90

kilometres per hour.

The woman driving slowed the pace of the car to 50 kph. What was this thing? They had to get a better look. But, when the intensity of the light increased as it neared the car, the image of some sort of craft also began to take shape, startling the driver, causing her to step harder on the gas and propel the car forward.

A boomerang-shaped craft, with seven, bright, white lights and two orange lights at either end, appeared. It took a few seconds for the car to pass from under the craft but soon the silvery glow of a winter night sky in the Bulkley Valley closed in around the three women.

That episode ignited one of the most active months of unidentified flying object sightings in the Bulkley Valley in some time. In fact, with 11 reported sightings from 19 different witnesses, the area drew national and international attention

from ufologists, said Brian Vike, a ufologist and UFO field investigator based in Houston.

He has been besieged by calls and requests to provide supporting documentation and insight into phenomena. George Filer, the top ufologist in the United States and publisher of the Filer's Files, a weekly newsletter for sightings, has had him as co-guest on National Public Radio's Jeff Rense Show frequently—particularly in the last month since the Bulkley Valley became the crossroads of interstellar traffic.

The Feb. 1 sighting is on file with the Smithers RCMP but, although they aren't ruling out a craft of some sort, they feel it might be something less glamorous than a UFO.

"Whether it was an aircraft or not hasn't been confirmed," said Cpl. Claudette Garcia.

Each of the reported cases Vike has

investigated is unrelated. No sightings have been recorded in March so far; in the same time last month Vike had four already.

"So what happened in February? There was definitely a flap here," he said, using the ufologist term for a proliferation of objects being sighted. "We've had this big flap going on, it's just went through the roof. What is it they're seeing?"

The three Houston women, all 30-something married adults, were credible witnesses, Vike said, but he could not reveal their names due to his intent to retain the confidentiality of the witnesses.

"With UFOs, people have a funny way of looking down on [witnesses]. A lot of people get made fun of," said Vike. "People start coming up with some alien idea."

Credibility is something which Vike has struggled with since he dedicated

himself to investigating UFO sightings four years ago. Working in a field which most rational people consider to be populated by dreamers, charlatans and daft fellows wearing multi-coloured beanies with a propeller affixed on top, he quickly established a name for himself internationally for the thoroughness and detail of his investigations.

And living in a province where people are considered the most likely in the nation to witness an UFO-sighting—according to a survey done by Winnipeg-based ufologist, Chris Ruskowski, in February—gave the retired Houston Forest Products worker plenty to do.

"I don't just get a report, write it and post it to my Web site," Vike explained. "I investigate. I do whatever I can do, make phone calls to authorities ... You've really got to try to track stuff down."

In the month since the Feb. 1 sighting, Vike has been narrowing the possibilities. Some explanations for the lights were: airport lights; helicopters; small, fixed-wing planes; ski-dooes on mountain sides; stars—all of which he has ruled out for different reasons.

"What I'm working on here, I can't come up with an explanation for it," he admitted. "I've talked to guys across Canada and they can't come up with anything. Right now, it's unknown, but I've got to

try and figure it out for myself or it'll go down as unknown."

Seven federal government and five military hits to his Web site have been recorded since the beginning of February. There was the odd hit to the Web site by government previously, Vike said, but so many hits during a time of an inordinate amount of sightings is peculiar.

"So why are they all interested in it if they are not really interested in UFOs to begin with, as they say?" Vike asked.

Vike was certain there had to be other witnesses to the Telkwa sighting and yet, other than the three Houston women, no one has come forward. A letter he wrote to the Houston Today uncovered unrelated sightings, but nothing further about Feb. 1.

He hoped plain curiosity, the sort which transformed an amateur astronomer into a ufologist, would compel those people to call him.

"I've always had this belief that we can't be the only ones in this vastness," he surmised. "There has to be life of some sort out there."

"If I can explain this, I will," he concluded. "If I can't ... I'm not going to sit here and pull the wool over anybody's eyes. I want to know too and that's the whole point of doing this."

MALTON & PICKERING OBSERVER, Scarborough, England - May 2, 2002

UFO spotted at 3am in Bonsall

RADIO ham Ron Gaunt had lots to chat about as he sat on top of Bonsall Moor.

But his teeth were soon chattering as a bright blue light shone down on his Ford Focus.

Instead of family facts, he blurted over the airwaves: "Blooming heck".

Sheep were startled as the eerie light bathed the hilltop for nearly two minutes just before 3am.

And science backed up 71-year-old Ron's close encounter of the azure kind.

While the lights shone, there was interference on the radio waves. It was even picked up by his radio friend Barbara Whyman 40 miles away in Sheffield. She said: "He blurted out 'blooming heck' and

By Rod Malcolm

described what happened. Then asked if I had a fault on my radio equipment.

"I thought my plug must have worked loose but it was fine. Ron was upset by the incident and he is certainly a sensible man, not the sort to have wild fantasies," said Mrs Whyman.

Ron was so shaken that he decided to leave the moor a few minutes later, rather than transmit until dawn as he usually does.

"It left me feeling rather dizzy and I had enough", said Ron, who lives in Darley Dale and learned his radio skills in the army.

"It was a very clear and frosty night and suddenly it was like broad daylight."

After the alert, his equipment

passed a detailed check.

Twice a week, Ron drives onto the moor to get a clear signal as he talks to fellow radio enthusiasts across Britain.

He passed on details to Derbyshire police, who say their helicopter was not in the area at the time of the incident on April 7.

The moor is crossed by power cables but East Midlands Electricity said no problems had been logged.

A spokesman said: "It is a complete mystery as far as we are concerned. If a squirrel jumps onto an installation there may be a blue flash but that would not last for so long."

Police say there were no other reports of blue lights on the moor, a scene of UFO hunts by local people.

THE TABLET, London, England
May 4, 2002

Radio

Margaret Howard

In Britain's X-files (Radio 4, 25 April), Gerry Northam explored the ultimate "other", the little green men who might have been aboard those flying saucers so widely reported in Britain after the Second World War. UFOs became a national fixation and, although Whitehall purported not to be interested in the phenomenon, Northam discovered that in fact the Government had carried out secret investigations. This was at the height of the Cold War and it was feared that the Soviet Union might well have launched some secret weapon.

Flying saucers generated royal interest, too. The Duke of Edinburgh sent his enquiry, Peter Horsley, for a debriefing from some RAF officers who had reported seeing a UFO. Perhaps his interest was sparked by Lord Mountbatten, an active participant in the flying saucer craze. His daughter, Lady Pamela Hicks, recalled from her diary a trip to Libya with her father in 1954. They were having lunch with King Idris when the conversation turned to UFOs. The king said that he had seen two of the "fiery sphere kind". What is more, the British Ambassador and Glubb Pasha, who were both present, had also seen one apiece. None of this surprised the king, who said that in the Koran the Prophet relates how a close companion of his had seen one. People are not at all what they seem.

OMINECA EXPRESS, Vanderhoof, B.C., Canada - Feb. 27, 2002 CR: G. Conway

LETTERS

Bright objects in night sky

To the Editor:

I hope my letter finds you all well. The reason I am writing today is to enquire if your newspaper have received any strange reports of bright objects in the night sky.

I have been working on two separate cases here, a sighting from Telkwa in which there were three witnesses to this event, and another here in Houston, B.C. where a couple had seen a very bright object over the Bulkley River.

I was talking with

...a very bright object over the Bulkley River.

another investigator and he also received a report of the same type of thing taking place near Burns Lake, B.C.

So far I have interviewed three witnesses for a sighting on Friday, February 1, 2002 and two other witnesses for a sighting which took place on Sunday, February 3, 2002.

I now have information of another witness who

came forward and now one other from the Burns Lake area. The five folks I interviewed are all married, with families and very creditable people.

The dates when this all took place would have been from January 31, 2002 right up to February 3, 2002. Or you might have a report from someone around this time period.

I was the investigator who came to Vanderhoof, B.C. when you last had your set of six Crop Circles.

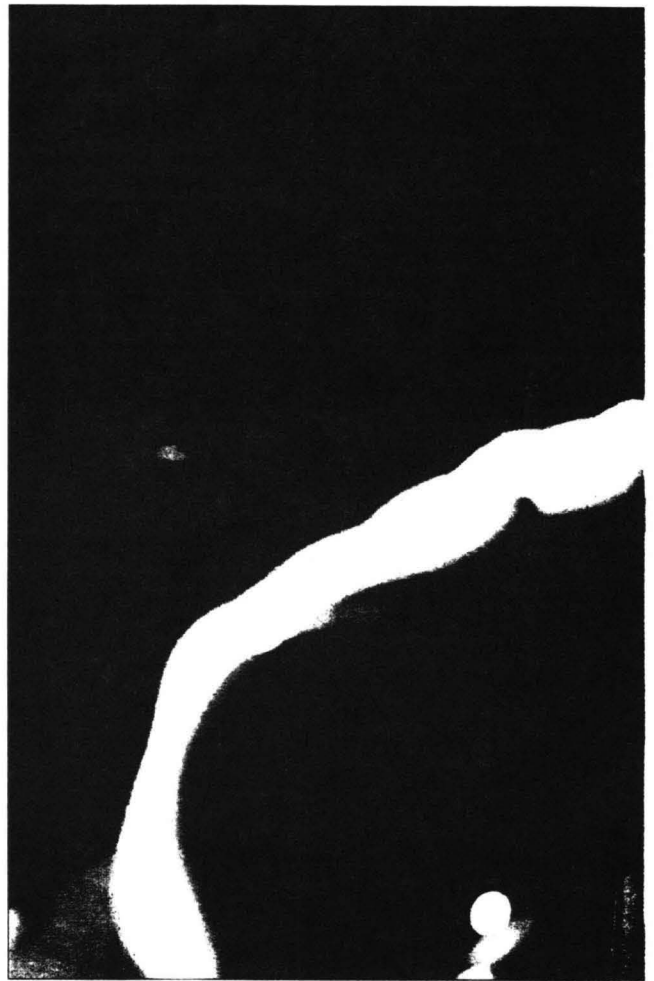
Anyone who has any information about these events can contact me at phone/fax: 1-250-845-2189 or by emailing: yogibear@bulkley.net

Thank you so much for any help you could give to me.

Brian Vike
Independent UFO
Field Investigator
Researcher
Houston, B.C.

Not-so-close encounters of the freezing felltop kind

Ross Brewster joins Cumbrian UFO spotters on a regular 'Skywatch' but discovers that if the truth really is out there, you need lots of clothes and patience to find it



Watch the skies: Armed with binoculars, Ross searches the heavens

HE'S all heart is our boss. Once he found out that Cumbrian ufologists - that's people who search the skies for unidentified flying objects - were holding a special Skywatch on Caldbeck Common at the weekend he ordered me to head for the hills in search of an alien space craft.

"But what if I get abducted and they do unspeakable things to me in the privacy of their flying saucer?" I inquired somewhat hesitantly.

"That's your business," he said. "Just make sure you are back in work by Monday morning."

Until Saturday night I had always been under the impression that the Stargazers were a drab Fifties pop group whose only memorable hit was a ditty called *Twenty Tiny Fingers*.

But by the time I wound my way over the felltop road from Bassenthwaite and Uldale and finally arrived at the scheduled meeting place for the Skywatch I realised that there are dozens of Stargazing types in Cumbria, all of them fascinated by the great mystery of whether there really is something out there.

They have got to be keen to turn out on a night like this. No-one seemed particularly bothered that we were standing on an exposed hilltop overlooking Carlisle and a vast panorama of the Solway in a force nine gale.

There were about 20 watchers in place when I arrived shortly after 7pm. Within half an hour more cars appeared and organiser Sharon Larkin's mobile phone was kept red hot and glowing as still more skywatchers rang for instructions on how to get to this out of the way spot somewhere

below the TV transmitter mast.

Sharon, who lives near Cocker-mouth, co-ordinates sighting, records and information on behalf of North West Cumbria UFO research investigations.

Everybody asks for Sharon as they arrive; she is easy to pick out in her fluorescent yellow coat which bears the logo of the UFO watching organisation.

She spends hours of each week compiling her files and dealing with reports of unusual aerial activity. She talks about the subject with effervescent enthusiasm and no, she doesn't appear to be in the least bit mad.

Sharon has been interested by mysterious goings-on in the skies since she was a child. She told careers officers at school that she wanted to be a ufologist when she grew up, a statement which went down like a lead balloon with teachers who were more interested in pointing the way to careers in education, accountancy and other much less arresting occupations.

"So is this going to be a good night for spotting alien craft?" I asked Sharon.

"It could be. Depends on the cloud situation," she replied.

"Lots of people have said they are coming along. Skywatching takes a lot of patience. Often it's just a case of waiting around for hours, sopping information, and seeing nothing."

"Reports of strange sightings tend to come in groups. Last October there were numerous reports of sightings in Cumbria. But recently there has not been a lot happening. That's just the way it goes and our enthusiasts know that."

Sharon, her long dark hair trying to escape from beneath her

Did aliens crash on the north Cumbrian fells?

DID a flying saucer crash on the North Cumbrian fells 48 years ago and was there a massive cover up?

Sharon Larkin says a Bassenthwaite farmer contacted her a couple of years ago to say he and his son had come across some strange wreckage from a disc-shaped object on Knott Fell.

The date he gave was March 8, 1954. He claimed the Army had come and recovered the wreckage of the silver disc and that he and his son had spent two weeks at Kirkbride airfield while they were clearing the land.

"It was just before he died," said Sharon. "He said the Army had trained him not to speak about the incident, but that he felt he wanted to tell someone and unburden himself of the story. We have since heard that it is true and we



Alien life form? The body of an 'extra-terrestrial' from the Roswell Incident. Did it happen here?

have names." This year she and fellow ufologists plan to climb the 2,300ft fell with metal

detectors and a compass to try to locate the site where the disc crashed.

"We are going up there to see what we can find," she said. "It is like looking for a needle in a haystack, but I am convinced there is something in this report. We call it Cumbria's own Roswell."

In the famous Roswell Incident in 1947, a rancher came across some wreckage in the high desert of New Mexico and several days later it was reported that the bodies of four extra-terrestrials had been discovered a few miles away.

The US Army Air Force cordoned off the site around Roswell, although official sources have persistently denied ever since that there was any extra-terrestrial incident.

coat as the wind picked up even more strongly, said that Sky-watchers are frequently out in smaller numbers scanning the skies, but occasionally, like last Saturday night, special watches are staged to bring them all together.

She was excited at the prospect of meeting a man from Leeds who claims that he has been a regular alien abduction victim and has marks on his body to support his story.

"I have spoken to him regularly on the phone over the past four years," she said. "Usually people who are frauds back off after the first couple of calls, so I am really quite excited that he is coming tonight."

Even if I have not seen anything of an extra-terrestrial nature yet, David from Workington lets me have a squint through his binocu-

lars at the formation of the stars and a bright light which he reckons must be the European space station.

David, an ex-RAF man, is particularly interested in military flying. Many Skywatchers believe that Cumbria and the south of Scotland is a local 'Bermuda Triangle' linking military installations and is an area within which a lot of experimental aircraft are tried out.

People who believe in UFOs tend to also have an interest in astronomy, ley lines, crop circles and similar phenomena. One or two enthusiasts I met at Caldbeck attend meetings of Cocker-mouth Astronomical Society, which they reckon is an excellent forum.

Frankly, you feel a bit left out of things if you don't have a dramatic or mysterious tale to tell. There are people from Walney

Island near Barrow who have seen bright lights outside their living room window.

MOST Skywatchers say they have seen bright lights and odd triangular-shaped craft. There was one spotted near Cocker-mouth just the other week.

Seemingly, Maryport, Silloth and across the Solway Firth towards the South of Scotland is a bit of a 'hot spot' for unexplained flying objects.

I'm afraid that hearing one chap going on about different dimensions in time has got me flummoxed, but clearly these Skywatch folk are well briefed on their hobby.

One avid watcher tells me that almost everyone will have seen something unusual in the skies at some stage in their life.



■ By JO MOORHOUSE

THE BALL of orange light hovered at the end of Southend Pier, then started shooting across the sky.

"It didn't move at a natural speed and the manoeuvrability was such that it was unlikely to be a plane," remembers Mark Doulton, who was fishing on the pier at the time.

"The coastguards at the time reported a strange object whizzing about on the Thames and they know what kind of lights should be there."

The incident, in the mid-1970s, was never explained, and it sparked Mark's lifelong interest in unidentified flying objects - UFOs.

He is now chairman of the Southend UFO Group, which investigates suspicious sightings throughout south Essex.

The idea of a group devoted to UFO sightings might conjure up images of anorak-wearers convinced of the existence of aliens.

Mark, now 36 and living in Great Wakering, is quick to stress that this is far from the truth.

"We're a serious research group," he says.

"We investigate unexplained lights in the sky, check with local military and civilian airports, astronomers and so on.



■ False alarm - lights from a Wickford nightclub were mistaken for UFOs

"If we can't find any reason for it, it goes onto our database as unexplained. We've built up a large database of incidents, mainly in the south Essex area, and we bring them together. Obviously if more than one person has seen something, that's a little bit more evidence for us."

"Multiple person sightings are particularly good for us, because then you can't get sceptics turning round and saying it's just one person's imagination."

South Essex, it seems, has been a popular area for UFO sightings in the past.

"The Thames Estuary was one of the hotspots for UFOs in the 1970s," says Mark.

"Hanningfield Reservoir was also popular and there were huge black flying triangles seen over Bradwell Power Station. They scared the life out of a couple of fishermen."

Healthy scepticism is the group's watchword.

"There are people out there who'll believe in anything and everything, but we concentrate on the local sightings people bring to us," says Mark.

"And of those, I would say that 99 per cent are either aircraft, or normal natural phenomena."

Although people contacting the group are often excited - and frightened - by their "sighting", the explanation is usually simple.

"The Echo reported on one recently, where a pub had hired those searchlights you get at raves, to bounce off clouds," says Mark.

"We had someone in the area when it was first spotted, so we knew what it was within minutes."

The group, which has now been going for six years, has



around 40 to 50 active members, and can attract up to 250 for conventions and special talks.

"We have special speakers in to talk about anything and everything - from crop circles to cryptozoology," says Mark.

New members are sometimes taken to RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk, also known as "the British Roswell", said to be the scene of a host of strange happenings since the 1950s.

"We've actually seen things up there ourselves - really weird stuff," says Mark.

"We also go through the sceptics' side of the story and explain why we don't think they can explain it away."

Group members have had to become skilled in weeding out hoax calls, but believe the majority of reported sightings are from people who have seen - or believe they have seen - something strange.

"A lot of people want to remain anonymous - no-one's making any money out of telling us about their sightings," says Mark.

The group has appealed for anyone who has not reported a sighting to them to do so. Details can be left anonymously on the Southend UFO Group website.

According to Mark, despite the image of UFO-hunters, the majority of people believe there may be something "out there".

"You just can't walk around with your eyes closed all the time," he says.

"Whenever there's a UFO programme on TV there seems to be an upsurge in the amount of calls, although whether people are looking at the sky more afterwards, or are just influenced by the programme, we don't know."



Perhaps you have got to believe to see. I tend to be a bit of a sceptic which may explain why the only extra-terrestrial I have ever believed in was ET. Well, after the way his mates came back for him in response to one phone call, you've got to believe in that, haven't you?

After a couple of hours on this wind-lashed Cumbrian hillside I am beginning to feel the cold moving its icy fingers through my hooded jacket, two woolly sweaters, shirt, T-shirt, trousers and tracksuit bottoms.

It's about the closest feeling I have had to being interfered with by an alien. Quite frankly, if a spacecraft descended from the sky right now and a little green man got out and asked for volunteers, I would be one of the first in the queue provided they had some heating on board.

Speaking about that, the bloke from Leeds has arrived and been whipped off by a radio reporter anxious to get his strange experiences down on tape.

Most watchers have by now yielded to the cold and retired to their cars. Clouds have covered the stars and it seems fairly obvious that we aren't going to be blessed with a visitation this evening.

Cumbria's Skywatchers are not deterred by the lack of activity up above. It is, after all, a matter of patience. This time their patience will go unrewarded. But it has still been an opportunity to meet fellow UFO believers and chat about all the news.

Sharon Larkin admits that many people remain sceptical but says: "I believe there is life out there and we are being visited by another species. There are things flying about the skies which are not man-made. I am 100 per cent sure of that and the Government know all about it."

Most ufologists have conspiracy theories. Most are convinced that governments are concealing the truth about alien visitations.

"There have been too many unexplained things happen to write it off as nonsense," one firmly convinced watcher told me.

"Most people are looking, but don't see," said Sharon. "It will all come out one day. We are getting closer. People are becoming more aware and open minded."

I am neither more nor less convinced of the existence of UFOs and aliens as a result of my contact with the stargazers than I was before. I guess I must be one of those people who look, but don't see.

To be honest, I felt a bit like a poor man's Louis Theroux on one of his famous *Weird Weekends*. Standing out there in the dark, being blown all over the place, shivering with cold, trying to get a handle on why others do this as a regular hobby.

A bit like Louis, I tried getting in on the act. I tried so very hard to see something unusual in the skies. I can certainly understand the fascination.

But have I got it in me to become a dedicated UFO spotter? I doubt it. Dedicated spotters are not as easily put off by a bit of wind and rain as I was.

When I left after two and half hours there was still a little knot of hardened ufologists out there scanning the great yonder and swopping their spine-tingling tales. If only for their hardy dedication, I wished they could see something, but obviously this was not going to be the night.

The only scare I had was driving back across the moors when a huge white object suddenly shot across my vision.

A triangle? A military low flying craft? No, it was a barn owl which had taken off from a roadside fence and almost flown into my windscreen as it was baffled by my headlights.

Close encounters of the Essex kind

● Most so-called UFO sightings are actually searchlights or lasers bouncing off clouds, civilian or military aircraft, or even stars

● Recent unexplained sightings in south Essex include one in Southend in March 1999. Two workers returning home one evening saw what they took to be an aircraft crashing in a field. When they

got out to investigate, they saw two white balls of light hovering over the car - and fled in fright. A helicopter was ruled out as the source of the lights.

● In Wickford, in June 1999, two youths saw a white glowing light moving near a church, then heading towards Hanningfield. At least one of the youths had knowledge of both air-

craft and astronomy, but still could not explain the origin of the light.

● A Great Wakering man saw a strange orange light hovering over a field in July 1999. After 20 minutes, the light simply blinked out. Investigation in daytime revealed that the corn in the field had not been disturbed and there were no tracks.

● The Southend UFO Group is keen to see and analyse any footage or photographs of possible UFOs in the area.

● Southend UFO Group's monthly meeting will take place tomorrow night in the Balmoral Community Hall, Westcliff, from 7.30pm. There will be a special talk on ley lines.

SEEN A UFO? REPORT IT TO WWW.SOUTHENDUFOGROUP.CO.UK

my big break

Sharon Larkin, administration director of Cumbria and the North West UFO research and investigations

Sharon's full-time job is to identify flying objects

Interview: KERRY HARDEN

WHEN I tell people about my job they laugh and think I'm joking. I was even pulled over by the police for advertising my company in the car window. They thought it was some kind of prank.

My full-time job is to investigate UFO sightings in Cumbria and the North West. I travel around the area writing up sightings and taking evidence.

It all began as a hobby. I'd always been interested in UFO's, but not the kind of thing you see in the *X-Files* or *Independence Day*. I was interested in real UFO stories and documentaries - they're usually just as fascinating.

I was born in Cambridge, went to school in Scotland and moved to Cumbria in 1990. I'd hoped to study the paranormal at college, but didn't want to start a new school in a new area, so I didn't go back. I just got a "normal" job and kept UFOs as a hobby.

In 1996 I realised there were no UFO research groups in Cumbria, which seemed strange considering the number of sightings in the area, so I decided to set up this organisation. Since then the company has grown and now it's my full-time job.

The most interesting case I've written up happened in Keswick at the Castlerigg Stone Circle. A group of people were having a drink and a laugh one night in the summer of 1997. They saw balls of light dancing in the sky. One light broke loose and sped away followed by the other lights.

I'm a single parent and had an unhappy marriage, so starting up this group gave me something to get my head into. And this job is certainly that. Between investigating sightings, meeting up with UFO groups in Leeds, Manchester and Southampton, my time is totally taken up with the



The sky's the limit: UFO investigator Sharon Larkin keeping an eye out over the Solway

STAN PARTLETON

paranormal. I've even been invited to be a guest speaker at a national UFO conference!

There has been a growing interest in UFOs in recent years. Apart from all the films and TV programmes on the subject, you

even see aliens and UFOs in adverts. The phenomenon has been well and truly introduced into society which has made my job easier because people are more open about the idea. The recent discovery of a new planet will no

doubt spark more interest.

I'm currently putting together a book and a video about UFO sightings in Cumbria. I'm in the process of collecting the information and I'm looking for someone to publish it.

My long-term ambition is to become a top UFOlogist studying UFO phenomena alongside the paranormal. It's taken a lot of hard work and dedication to get this far, but I'm prepared to put a lot more in to go all the way.

CRAWLEY & DISTRICT OBSERVER, Sussex, England - April 24, 2002

MUMS SPOT UFOS IN SKIES NEAR GATWICK

EXCLUSIVE

By KATIE CAMPBELL

AMAZED mums waiting to pick their children up from school on Thursday reckoned they saw some UFOs zooming around in the sky.

Melanie Crowder, 24, of Broadwood Rise, Broadfield, described what she and other mums saw above Broadfield East School, in Vulcan Close, as like three melon-shaped objects which were white with a silvery tint.

She exclaimed: "They were really high in the sky, and at first we thought they were balloons, but the way they were moving and zooming about, the only thing they could have been were UFOs."

"It happened at about 2.50pm, and they stayed there for about 15 minutes - we told some of the other mums and they couldn't explain what we were seeing either."

"Because it was just before the big storm, we thought they may have electrical balls, but they would not have stayed up there for that long either."

Melanie explained how the experience became more bizarre when she and a friend bought their children novelty plastic eggs from a shop, and inside were toy aliens.

A spokesperson for British Airways, which runs nearby Gatwick, ruled out that the objects were part of any activity at the airport.

She explained: "I have been in touch with the flight evaluation team and they have not been able to shed any light on the objects, and definitely would not have been aircraft flying over at that time."

CITIZEN, Gloucester, England - May 8, 2002

UFO watchers snub claims of 'paranoia'

COUNTY UFO experts have discounted a new study which branded the sighting of flying saucers as Cold War paranoia.

Members of a Gloucestershire group set up to monitor all things extra-terrestrial still believe we are "not alone".

A new book, *Out of the Shadows*, by David Clarke and Andy Roberts, is published this week. It concludes the widespread belief in UFOs, which began in the 1950s, should be seen as a social phenomenon.

But members of the Circular Forum, Gloucestershire's UFO

group, are not happy about having their views dismissed as "cultural mass hysteria".

Rob Cole, from Cheltenham, who set up the group in the early 1990s said: "You have to separate the 'little green men' from UFOs as the two are not necessarily linked."

"UFO stands for 'unidentified flying object' and people see things in the sky that they can't identify every day. I am sure many of those have a perfectly logical explanation but with all the photo and video evidence you can't dismiss the unknown straight away."

Was a UFO spotted near Stiffkey?

JOHN HANSON,
PO Box 6371
Rednal, Birmingham,
West Midlands, B48 7RW.

I am a retired police officer who has been compiling a journal of UFO reports, covering the period 1943-1982.

One incident reported to me took place in October 1966, when a serving police officer with the Met was travelling to Cromer Railway Station to pick his son up.

As he and other members of his family passed through open countryside after having left Stiffkey, they were astonished to see what looked like a railway carriage snaking its way along the nearby road.

When they reached the station they discovered that the rails ended a few hundred yards from the station!

The following day they returned to the locality, but found only open countryside!

Has any reader information about reports of strange happenings in this area which may be of some relevance? I can be contacted as above.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Norwich, England - April 20, 2002

Mystery object over the skies of Atherton

AN Atherton man's mid-afternoon gardening session was interrupted by a UFO.

Arthur Westwood was pottering about in his garden at his Devonshire Road in Hag Fold when he says he suddenly noticed a strange object in the sky.

The 62-year-old said: "I couldn't fail to see it, it was so bright. It was way up. It was a lovely day and there was not much cloud."

Arthur went into the house, told his wife, Joyce, and grabbed his binoculars.

He said: "It was still there when I went back outside. If it had been a plane it would already have gone out of sight."

Looking through the binoculars, Arthur said the "object" appeared to be a round, shining, white light when the sun's rays were upon it, but without reflection from the sun, it appeared to have a round shape and a blue colour."

Arthur claims the mystery aircraft was hovering in Atherton skies for about half an hour, flying higher than the clouds and initially travelling from west to east, before doing a sharp-right angle turn and zooming in a northerly direction.

By Ruth Jolley

He said: "I would like to know if anybody else saw it. It must have been visible for miles around. Maybe if you saw it from a different angle you could see what it was. It's only a UFO until it is identified."

Now he is remaining open minded about the possibility of aliens hovering above the Hag Fold estate on Tuesday, April 23.

He says: "Some people find the idea of aliens frightening but I think what would be scary is, if ours was the only planet that was inhabited."

His wife Joyce, aged 75, refused to go out and look at the UFO saying: "I am very sceptical. UFO's don't trouble me at all."

Sheep may have been mutilated by aliens - claim

RUMOURS of mutilated sheep have led a local UFO investigator to ask for information about a sighting in March.

Donald Cooper, from Skipton, read about Beryl Southwell's sighting of a UFO on Briggate in Sildsen, in a Keighley News report.

Mrs Southwell said she had seen the large object with lights hovering outside her house at about 4am on March 13.

The Keighley area is renowned for recording high numbers of UFO sightings, and Mr Cooper investigates the phenomenon.

He says: "I would just like to hear from anybody else who saw this object. It is important to get as many witnesses together as possible to substantiate this sighting."

"Someone else must have seen it and I would urge them to come forward."

"I have heard some rumours that farmers have experienced

sheep mutilation is the area recently.

"I want to hear from any farmers who have had any mutilations of their stock or strange experiences. It is possible that this could be connected to the sighting in March."

Mr Cooper cites a report from the Pontefract based group UFO 2000 that sheep and lamb mutilations near Cowling last year suggested extra terrestrial involvement.

Attributed to big cat activity at the time, the mutilations off the A6068 on Keighley Moor baffled local experts.

Over a period of five weeks sheep and lambs were discovered mutilated with a mixture of crude predator injuries and some very neat precise incisions and small holes in others.

Anyone with any information should contact either Donald Cooper on 01756 796006 or Joe Skelton on 01756 791957.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - May 14, 2002

Seeing the UFO light

SIR - The subject of flying saucers has dramatically changed since the days of the "little green men" that Adrian Berry writes about (May Night Sky, April 30). As founder of the British Flying Saucer Bureau may I point out that modern UFO sightings are closely monitored and recorded by a variety of non-human means such as radar, photography, theodolites and camcorders with the result that we now have a greater understanding of these craft and their performance capabilities.

With this enhanced data the mystery of these extra-terrestrial craft and the reasons and the purpose of their visits to Earth will become more apparent within the next few years. Fifty years ago, I was one of the few who believed, when many did not, so it is particularly satisfying to see how the subject has progressed.

This progression, now producing scientific results and measurable data, can only improve our knowledge and understanding of one of the greatest ongoing mysteries, which requires just one sighting to be proved genuine for us to realise that we are not alone in the cosmos.

Denis Plunkett
Winterbourne, Avon

HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - April 27, 2002

Alien catches cold?

Something weird is happening in the Australian outback. A survey of the region's lakes has discovered a "mysterious snotty goo" clogging up the water. The goo, accompanied by high levels of ammonia and strange vegetation, defies analysis, and in an attempt to get to the bottom of "the layer", as it has been dubbed, experts have sent samples to labs around the globe. So far, so unfathomable, but Australia is also in the grip of a spate of UFO sightings. Scores of people have reported coloured lights in the sky, cigar-shaped flying saucers, and even pint-sized aliens in metallic costumes. Readers of *Day of the Triffids* are wondering if the two phenomena are related. As the *X Files* would have it, "the truth is out back there".

David Stenhouse

EXPRESS, Derby, England - May 2, 2002

New UFO sighting on the moors

THERE has been a new possible UFO alert in the Derbyshire hotspot of Bonsall Moor.

Radio enthusiast Ron Gaunt said that he was talking on a long-wave radio at the top of Bonsall Moor when a bright blue light shone down on his Ford Focus.

Mr Gaunt, a former radio operator in the Royal Engineers, said that sheep in a nearby field were startled by the eerie light.

And the 71-year-old, from Darley Dale noticed interference on the radio waves as the light bathed the hilltop for nearly two minutes.

STAFFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - April 25, 2002

Still in a flap over '80s sightings

THE MYSTERY of a series of unexplained sightings in the Staffordshire skies nearly 15 years ago is the subject of a documentary being made by a group of UFO enthusiasts.

Staffordshire UFO Group (SUFOG) is behind the short film, which will explore claims of sightings of brightly coloured triangles in the sky in 1988 and 1989.

The sightings have become something of a legend among UFO enthusiasts in the county, and the phenomena has even earned its own name - The Staffordshire Flap.

In addition to interviews with people who claim to have experienced sightings, the video will also feature interviews with representatives from the Ministry of Defence, to try to ascertain

what really happened.

Graham Allen, coordinator of SUFOG, wants to talk to anyone who saw the Staffordshire Flap in the late 80s, and depending on their evidence they could even find themselves on the documentary, which he hopes to release on video and DVD in September.

Mr Allen can be contacted on 01889 585149.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - May 3, 2002

UFO sighted

A RIPLEY man believes he saw a UFO circling over Shirland.

The 39-year-old, who does not wish to be named, was driving his mother home along Hallfieldgate Lane at about 1.15am on April 22.

He stopped the car after they both saw a large shiny globe appear over houses in front of them.

He said: "It was about the same size as the moon but had a metallic tinge to it. We both looked at each other in amazement, then it disappeared."

The man decided to contact the Evening Telegraph after reading a story about Ivan Roulston (56), of Ripley, who claimed he had seen a UFO over Ambergate last Thursday.



Mystery hum haunts Kokomo residents

By REX W. HUPPKE
Associated Press

KOKOMO, Ind. — It started as a low hum, barely noticeable. But within months, the endless throbbing was like a corkscrew twisting into Diane Anton's temple.

The walls of her home vibrated. Her bed shook. Then came the bouts of nausea, short-term memory loss and hand tremors.

"The noise was so penetrating and invasive," she said. "It was just not getting better."

So Anton quit her job, abandoned her \$180,000 house and fled. She was the first person driven out of the city by what's come to be known as "the Kokomo hum." But she might not be the last.

As many as 90 people in this industrial Central Indiana city of about 47,000 have complained of hearing a low-frequency hum over the past three years, City Attorney Ken Ferries said.

While most residents don't hear a thing, beyond the typical sounds of the city's factories and busy roads, the City Council approved a \$100,000 study of the mysterious noise, often described as being like the constant idle of a heavy truck's diesel engine.

"We decided, rather than sit on our duffs and talk about it, let's try to do something," Ferries said. The city intends to request proposals for the study by the end of the month.

Those who suffer from the hum, and have had years to educate themselves about low-frequency sound, say it's about time.

They point to evidence — grounded in science — that exposure to consistent, low-frequency noise can cause vibroacoustic disease. It has symptoms that mirror the ailments reported in Kokomo — nausea, headaches and dizziness, to name a few.

Unidentified sounds that bother a handful of people have popped up in communities around the world, but because so few are affected, the issue doesn't receive much attention.

In Taos, N.M., a small town in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, some residents were bothered by a mysterious noise in the early 1990s. They, too, described the sound as a diesel truck idling in the distance, and said it caused sleeplessness, dizziness and a host of other symptoms.

On the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, people have long complained of health problems caused by low-frequency sound coming from a U.S. Navy bombing range. The Navy has discounted those claims, and practice with dummy bombs in the area continues.



Diane Anton sat in her South Bend, Ind., apartment yesterday. She moved from Kokomo because of health problems she associates with what has come to be known as "the Kokomo Hum."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"People need to know this is going on. People are getting sick and nothing's being done."

Kathie Sickles, who formed a group called Our Environment

Some in Kokomo claim city government knows the noise comes from an industrial source but believe officials are protecting local industry and refuse to make companies fix the problem.

Others view a wider conspiracy, that the federal government is well aware of low-frequency sound problems but ignores them to appease large corporations.

"It's just like every other major environmental issue. It all comes down to money," Anton said.

Ferries, the city attorney, said

such claims are ridiculous. Kokomo's investment in research shows officials are taking it seriously, he said.

Kathie Sickles, who lives near Kokomo, spends most of her free time trying to educate people about the hum. She packages research papers and other sound studies in bright-colored plastic folders and hands them out to City Council members.

She makes fliers for the public, "Sound pollution can hurt you!" filled with Internet addresses and

lists of symptoms associated with exposure to low-frequency sound.

"People need to know this is going on," said Sickles, who formed a group called Our Environment. "People are getting sick and nothing's being done."

Angelo Campanella, an acoustical engineer hired by Anton, detected low-frequency sound in her neighborhood, but said further research would be needed to identify a source.

Campanella said he was not able to hear the sound Anton described, but believed "others may be more sensitive to it."

Most Kokomo residents aren't, however. Jeff Smith, owner of Jeff's Barber Shop, said aside from some coverage of the issue in the Kokomo Tribune, which urged an investigation in a front-page editorial, he doesn't hear much about the hum.

"As far as I know, I don't think it exists," Smith said. "I can't say I've ever heard it."

to a great city. The gods became so jealous of its beauty that they sent a flood to swamp the city. Six temples were submerged, leaving just one on the shore.

The Daily Telegraph

Divers find ruins of sunken city off India

By DAVID DERBYSHIRE

LONDON — A mysterious settlement that sank beneath the

waves at least 1,200 years ago has been discovered by divers off the south-east coast of India.

Granite blocks and walls that lie six metres below the surface may be the remains of six "lost temples" that form part of local mythology.

The ruins came to light after the amateur archeologist and author Graham Hancock interviewed fisherman for a recent television series.

After hearing accounts of the myth of a submerged city, he and two dozen divers searched the sea bed last week.

India's National Institute of Oceanography, which was involved in the discovery, believes the ruins could be 1,200 to 1,500 years old.

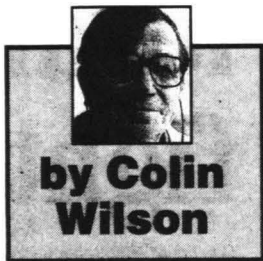
But Hancock, who argues that civilization predates the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians by thousands of years, believes the city could go back to 3,000 BC.

The ruins were discovered about a kilometre off the coast by a team from the NIO and the U.K.-based Scientific Exploration Society.

According to local legend Mahabalipuram was once home

Is this proof we can see into the future?

Three hours before the attack on the World Trade Centre, a machine in an American laboratory predicted it. Here, an expert on the paranormal argues that this amazing event forces us all to reconsider all our ideas about time.



by Colin Wilson

That, admittedly, sounds preposterous. At least Jahn's subjects had been consciously trying to influence the machines; what Nelson was asking was whether meditators could have the same effect without any conscious effort at all.

Preposterous or not, the results were more startling than ever. Not only were the generators influenced by the global burst of meditation, but the effect was seven times greater than had ever been achieved with volunteers.

From then on, Roger Nelson was unstoppable. He connected up 40 Random Event Generators all over the world, linked them to his laboratory computer in Princeton, and kept the recorder going day and night.

Most of the time, the graph-pen made a wavy horizontal line across the paper, with a few minor variations, like a calm sea with the occasional small wave.

But during the funeral of Princess Diana in September 1997 — which of course was televised all over the world — the graph shot up like a mountain.

And, as if to show that this was no fluke, it rose again (albeit rather less strongly) just a week later during the funeral of Mother Teresa.

Nelson admits his own astonishment about this. But it looks as if great outbursts of emotion can influence these electronic coin-flippers without anybody intending to.

It soon became apparent that the graph responded to happy events as well as upsetting ones. Just before midnight on New Year's Eve, 1998, the graph peaked at the very moment that lots of happy revellers were singing Auld Lang Syne. The connection was impossible to ignore because it peaked again, always just before midnight, at different time zones around the world. And to prove this was not some freak effect, the same thing happened on New Year's Eves in 1999, 2000 and again at the end of last year.

YOU can probably already guess what happened as the World Trade Centre disaster unfolded on the morning of September 11. The graph peaked like the Eiffel Tower between 9am and 10am, New York time, just as the first horrific images were being relayed across the globe.

But what seems even more astonishing is that the graph had started its rise soon after 6am. That was about three hours before the first hijacked jet hit the World Trade Centre. Why should this be so? Unless we put all the results down to the most extraordinary coincidence, I believe there is only one explanation.

As I am about to show, hundreds of thousands of ordinary people experienced premonitions of disaster in the run-up to the attack. I believe it was this surge of fear and distress that began to show itself on the graph three hours before the attack began.

Such feelings will have affected Roger Nelson's machines just as surely as grief for Diana or joy on New Year's Eve. And, in doing so, they sent out a terrible warning of the impending catastrophe.

The implications are breathtaking — but they form just part of a wider story. Over the coming days of this series, I will examine many other examples of the way in which human beings can not only foresee the future but also change it. I will show, too, that our individual minds can work together in deep and mysterious ways that offer us the opportunity to pool these powers and use them to the common good.

On a more modest level, I will also show how each one of us can tap into this inner wisdom to make vital personal discoveries.

Many will be happy to scoff at such ideas, but I believe that they demand serious scrutiny — and a complete re-evaluation of our most fundamental assumptions about time.

They are perhaps the strangest lesson to emerge from the terrible events of last September. But they may also be one of the most important.

Conference left me in no doubt that premonitions of the World Trade Centre attack were both genuine and widespread.

Some were seemingly minor — like the case of one New York girl I spoke to, who could see the site of the Twin Towers from her bedroom.

She had felt oddly depressed all the previous weekend, and wondered if an accident was about to befall her or some member of her family. After the disaster, the oppression vanished like a headache.

Rather stranger, and more unsettling, was a story told to me by a lecturer at the conference. His literary agent and her sister had flown to Boston the weekend before the disaster, because their mother been rushed to hospital.

They had booked to return to Los Angeles on a flight out of Boston on the morning of Tuesday, September 11. But their mother died on the Sunday, and they decided to fly home on Monday instead.

The plane they had originally booked was hijacked, and crashed into the World Trade Centre. Both women suspect that their mother had a premonition of the disaster and died two days earlier to save her daughters' lives.

Actress Nicole Kidman has described how she intended to fly with her children from Los Angeles to New York on September 10, but changed her mind because she had a premonition that something 'would not go well' there.

Countless other individuals have contacted psychic investigators in America to report similar experiences: a man who was seized by a vision of fire and explosions as he sat watching TV; a woman who was gripped by overpowering sensations of panic and being crushed.

Another woman has recalled how, around 6.30am on the day of the attacks, she became preoccupied by the image of the Tower card from her tarot pack.

It is easy to dismiss such reports, but their sheer number — and the clear sincerity of those involved — gives pause for thought.

So does the now-infamous video of Osama Bin Laden gloating about the atrocity, found by American troops in Afghanistan.

Remarkably, the terrorist leader and his acolytes make extensive reference to visions and dreams in which their own followers apparently had premonitions of the atrocity — despite knowing nothing of the plans, which had been kept a closely guarded secret.

Of course, there are obvious reasons to be sceptical of these boasts. And the trouble with all such claims is that we only hear about them after the event.

On their own, they would never be taken seriously by the Premonitions Bureau, which will only recognise a premonition that has been written down, or otherwise recorded, in advance.

But Roger Nelson's machine did just that — and who can doubt the word of a machine?

WHAT we now need to discover is how individual premonitions can possibly be picked up en masse by a machine at an American university.

Roger Nelson believes that his equipment is somehow recording a new form of consciousness that is being developed by the human race: global consciousness.

This is an idea that was originally put forward more than half a century ago, by the French biologist and Catholic priest Teilhard de Chardin. He suggested that the earth was developing a new spiritual dimension that he called the 'noosphere' (noos is Greek for mind).

Roger Nelson explains his own version of the concept by pointing out how human beings often have the feeling that their minds are united with those of others.

For example, when an audience

is carried away by a great performance of a symphony, it is as if their minds are united together.

Sceptics will point to those words 'as if', and argue that the unity is just an illusion — that, in reality, the audience all remain separate individuals. But this has been disproved by a scientific experiment in Las Vegas.

In 1991, an audience of 5,000 people was asked by a scientist called Loren Carpenter to play a giant game of electronic ping-pong. All of them were given individual controls linked to a giant screen; then the audience was divided into two halves, with one half playing against the other.

Within a few minutes, the two halves — each of 2,500 people — were playing exactly like two individuals. The whole audience was then connected to a flight simulator, and went on to guide a plane through a difficult landing, just as if they had become a single person.

The conclusion is plain: human minds can indeed unite together, just like two raindrops coalescing. And astonishing as it may seem, Roger Nelson's experiments suggest that they can do so not only to play ping-pong, or to share feelings over world events, but to predict the future.

It would, of course, be wonderful if Nelson and his colleagues could go on to develop some method of utilising their 'prediction machine' to prevent such disasters as September 11.

In fact, I would argue that this is a real possibility. But it brings us to one of the central problems of prophecy and premonitions: how to turn vague hints and feelings into clear information that can be acted on.

IN THE Daily Mail just over a year ago, I wrote an article about the French prophet Nostradamus, whose predictions included the Great Fire of London and the French Revolution.

The problem with Nostradamus's prophecies is that they are so obscure that even the experts disagree about their meaning. One reason for this is that he was so worried about being burned as a sorcerer that he took care to make his verses ambiguous.

What fascinates me is the way Nostradamus went about his work. He described how he would sit in his study late at night, staring at a candle flame reflected in a brass bowl of water.

Then, in this semi-trance state, he would begin to see visions of the future.

He also said that he used a divining rod — a forked twig that can be used for detecting underground water. The rod twists in the hands of the 'dowser' whenever there is water beneath his feet.

Every good dowser knows that the rod will also answer questions. If you ask the right question, it will twist in your hands.

For example, it can be used to find out the age of a standing stone. The dowser asks: 'Is it 1,000 years old... 2,000... 3,000?', and when he reaches the correct age the rod will twist.

Some dowers insist that a pendulum is even more accurate, answering Yes or No according to whether it swings in a circle, or back and forth.

Either way, what these devices seem to show is that your unconscious mind already knows the answer to your question — but you don't know how to access it. The dowser rod or the pendulum is a tool to make your unconscious mind reveal its secrets.

It must have been the same for Nostradamus. There was a sense in which his mind already knew the answer to his own questions about the future — but to access that knowledge, he needed the help of a divining rod and a bowl of water.

Roger Nelson's experiments seem to show that most people have unconscious premonitions of the future, particularly disasters. But, unlike Nostradamus, they do not know how to turn these intu-

itions into precise glimpses of what is going to happen.

I believe that one way to unlock these secrets is through hypnosis. This was demonstrated by a remarkable professor of history named Charles Hapgood, who became fascinated by the subject of hypnosis.

In April 1964, Hapgood attended a demonstration of hypnotic regression by a psychologist, Dr Kenneth Lyons.

Lyons regressed a subject named George back to his first day at school, whereupon George's voice changed to that of a child and he described his day in detail.

But after exploring George's present life, Lyons then took matters a huge step further — and asked him to go back to a previous existence.

George now announced that his name was James, the date was 1618, and that he lived in Cornwall. He went on to describe how he had died in a London prison at the age of 17.

Hapgood found this so interesting that he invited Lyons to perform a similar demonstration at his own college, Keene State, in Massachusetts. Both he and his students were totally absorbed, and these experiments in 'past life regression' continued for two years.

Hapgood then found himself tantalised by an even more dramatic possibility. If people could be regressed to the past, could they also be sent forward to the future?

He decided to find out — and the results were remarkable.

Under hypnosis, a student named Jay was told to go forward to the following Wednesday. He described the events of the day — luncheon menu, class assignments, tests — in some detail.

Asked where he was now, he said he was at the local airport, and that he had met a pilot from Montpelier, Vermont, who had been able to clear up the details of a rather puzzling plane crash that had occurred a year earlier.

Emerging from his trance, Jay had no memory of the predictions he had made. The following Wednesday evening, Hapgood asked him about his day.

Sure enough, Jay said that he had been to the local airport, where he had had a chance meeting with a flier from Montpelier, who told him all about the puzzling plane crash. The remaining details of his day — food, assignments, etc — corresponded closely to what he had said the previous Sunday.

Another student named Henry was 'progressed' to the following Thursday. He explained that he was going to the nearby town of Brattleboro to get drunk, and was going to borrow a friend's car.

Progressed a few hours further, he described how he was drinking in a café with two women, who were making improper advances to him, and criticising their husbands.

Even under hypnosis, Henry declined to repeat their remarks, obviously finding them too embarrassing. He described how he finally arrived home at 2am, and woke up the household when the dog barked.

ONCE again, he had no memory of these predictions when he emerged from the trance. The following Friday, Hapgood saw Henry in the Student Union building and said: 'I know where you were last night.'

'I bet you don't,' said Henry. 'You went to Brattleboro,' shot back Hapgood.

Henry looked surprised. He was even more surprised when Hapgood told him whose car he had borrowed, and how he had gone to a café and met two women.

'You don't know what they said?' Henry asked in alarm, and Hapgood laughed and said: 'No, you refused to tell us.'

(continued from page 18)
- DAILY MAIL, London,
England - Feb. 16, 2002)

Henry also confirmed that he had arrived home at 2am and that the dog had woken up the household.

What Hapgood seems to have proved is that our unconscious minds know all about the future, and that under hypnosis we can uncover this knowledge.

This, in my view, explains how Nostradamus was able to make his prophecies. Through self-hypnosis, he simply learned to use a faculty that, if Hapgood is correct, we all possess.

In other words, if a hypnotist had performed Hapgood's 'progression' experiment on a suitable individual a few days before September 11, the subject would have been able to describe the hijacking of the four airliners and the tragedy might have been averted.

Of course, that all sounds much too good to be true — an idea from the realms of comforting fantasy. And I am the first to admit that it raises some baffling questions.

When Hapgood's student Jay was 'progressed', he was able to describe a meeting with a pilot that apparently took place by pure chance. But the following Wednesday, that meeting took place just as he predicted — which seems to suggest that it was not mere chance, but was in some way preordained.

In other words, our lives would seem to be like a videotape on which everything that happens to us is already pre-recorded. What we call 'the present moment' is just that part of the tape now being played on the television screen.

Yet if our lives are really preordained, then how could anyone have prevented September 11 happening, even if they had been able to anticipate it through hypnosis? It seems an insoluble paradox.

AS I will show in the rest of this series, there is in fact considerable evidence that the future is not unchangeable. For the moment, let us just look briefly at a case cited by the author J.B. Priestley in his own writings on time.

The case had first been recorded by the parapsychologist Louisa Rhine, and concerned a woman who dreamed that she was on a camping holiday, and took her baby with her when she went down to the river to wash some clothes.

In her dream, the woman forgot the soap, and left the baby while she went to fetch it. When she returned, the baby lay drowned with his head in the water.

Months later, on a camping holiday, the woman went to wash some clothes in a river when she suddenly recognised the place as the scene of her dream. Again, she had her baby with her, and again she realised she had forgotten the soap.

Forewarned by her dream, when she went back for the soap she tucked the baby safely under her arm. In doing so, she changed the future that she herself had predicted — and saved her baby's life.

Precognitive dreams like this seem to be one of the most frequent methods that our unconscious minds adopt to give us glimpses of what is to come. The annals of the Society for Psychical Research contain hundreds of examples.

This is why I have always speculated that the ability to foresee the future is something each one of us shares.

On Monday, I'll look more closely at the implications of these extraordinary ideas — and explain a simple technique by which your own unconscious mind can discover your destiny.

Ahead of his

Physics professor studies how to travel to the past and the future

By Abram Katz
Register Science Editor

RONALD L. MALLETT doesn't drive a souped-up DeLorean, nor is an elaborate Victorian time-sled parked in his garage.

"Back to the Future" and the granddad of all temporal travel tales, "The Time Machine," are fiction.

Mallett is for real, and he's in the here and now. (At least for now.)

Mallett, professor of physics at the University of Connecticut, has formulated what might be a practical way to travel through time.

What if H.G. Wells flew to the future to study Mallett's ideas before writing his 1895 sci-fi masterpiece — and then Mallett was inspired by the "The Time Machine" to conjure up the physics?

How could Mallett glean ideas from a book based on his ideas?

That's just one of the many paradoxes that plague time travel: Foresight based on hindsight.

Other barriers are more formidable. Time seems like a strictly enforced one-way street to the future.

But time isn't what it used to be.

Ten years after Wells wrote his prescient novel, Albert Einstein realized that space and time are, in some esoteric sense, really one thing.

And that energy and mass are, in the same odd sense, equivalent.

That's the key: Use energy to bend space and follow the twists to the past.

The theory has been around for years. Recent advances in technology just might make temporal travel possible, Mallett said.

However, don't make any plans just yet. If all goes well, it may be possible to send a neutron a few seconds, minutes or hours back from now. But many physicists doubt that it will work.

Mallett has spent decades studying special and general relativity. The equations gave him an idea.

His apparatus will not look remotely like the time machines of movies and books. It's just a circle of very bright light with enough energy/mass to drag space into the shape of a Slinky toy.

"If you speed the rotation enough, time goes from linear to a time loop," Mallett said.

As the circle proceeds through time, it leaves a spiral trail.



Peter Casolino/Register photo illustration

Think of a time-lapse photo of car taillights. Then imagine what the photo would look like if the car were spinning like a bullet.

Mallett's time machine leaves an analogous path. You simply slide down the Slinky (going forward in your time but backward to everyone else).

It's confusing. But the idea does not violate any of Einstein's dictums.

Mallett's apparatus would comprise a laser beam traveling around a circle of photonic crystals.

"You can have circulating light, which creates a circulating form of space. If you increase the intensity of the circulating light, time loops are also created," Mallett said.

That's the Slinky.

The spiral is created by the machine. Consequently, the traveler can only return to the moment the machine was turned on.

No visiting the time of the dinosaurs or tipping off Trojans to the horse.

But this is also one of the rea-

sons why we don't see time travelers from the future.

What would a person inside the circle of light look like?

"You would go around and around and then disappear. Then you could leave the Slinky. Your light cone then curves back to the future," Mallett said.

One of the standing paradoxes of time travel involves changing the cause of an effect.

For example, preventing your parents from meeting after you've already been born and grown.

Mallett said the laws of quantum mechanics may prevent a time traveler from returning to a specific point.

A person could not encounter himself face to face, for example, or locate the precise moment when his parents become destined to be his parents.

You might glimpse yourself as a passing quantum ghost, Mallett said.

Once you've stepped off of the closed time loop in the past, how do

you return to the present, assuming you do?

You must take advantage of another relativistic effect called time dilation.

Again, you need a strong gravitational field, or a bright light, to sling you rapidly to the future.

Actually, you're slowing down your clock, which makes everything around you seem to be moving fast.

Mallett is seeking grant money from the Department of Energy or National Science Foundation for the first test of his idea.

The experiment would use polarized neutrons to see if an extremely small circle of laser light can twist space.

A polarized neutron would be beamed through the circle. If space is twisted, the neutron will rotate. And where there's twisted space, there are closed time loops.

Starting out small, if a neutron were placed inside the circle, two neutrons might appear — the same neutron separated by time.

Or the neutron might disappear and come back in a parallel universe, Mallett said. So might a person.

That sounds slightly preposterous to Thomas W. Appelquist, physics professor at Yale University.

"There are solutions to general relativity that have closed time

loops," he said.

Generating the energy levels necessary to make closed time loops seems beyond human technology, let alone a laser, Appelquist said.

Other scientists are just a tad less skeptical.

The laws of physics do not rule out time travel, but building a time machine would probably pose insurmountable difficulties, said Gary T. Horowitz, physicist at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

"There are space times that have closed time-like curves. Building the machine is the problem," Horowitz said.

"General relativity says that the 'past' is still 'there.' You can affect how fast your clock goes. That doesn't mean you can go back," Horowitz said.

We'll see. Horowitz may live long enough to see himself saying that.

Abram Katz may be reached at 789-5719 or at www.akatz@nhregister.com.

Our consciousness lives on

It was difficult to believe I was the only member of the mainstream press sitting in the Albuquerque, N.M., hotel ballroom a week ago waiting to cover what eventually could prove to be the most astounding story in human history.

Professor Gary E. Schwartz, director of the Human Energies Systems Laboratories at the University of Arizona, and an admittedly conservative career academician with eminent credentials on his substantial résumé, was announcing, after four years of tightly controlled, double-blind studies, how those experiments have proved beyond a reasonable doubt to him and his colleagues that consciousness survives the death of our physical bodies.

Yep. You read it right, and from a career scientist who says that on some days he still can't believe the overwhelming and consistent data. The courage and open-mindedness it took for a true scientist to even undertake this kind of study struck me as deeply impressive.

"Believe me," Schwartz said, "I was such a skeptic of all this before I began this research, but not any more. I am a scientist, and a scientist has to remain true to the research data. I needed abundant data. I have given in to the data. Something real and extraordinary is going on."

Without my delving into the tedious experimental methodologies Schwartz and his team utilized, what his hard numbers and graphs reveal definitely grabs the attention. Five of the world's most respected mediums subjected themselves (and their credibility) to repeated laboratory tests under rigid conditions and proved they could communicate with deceased relatives of anonymous test subjects chosen at random.

In numerous instances, Schwartz said, these mediums in laboratory settings independently communicated with the same dead people as the test subjects, called "sitters," even referring to specific names, personal items, events and pets. He called Suzane Northrup, George Anderson, John Anderson, Anne Gehman and Laurie Campbell the "Michael Jordans" of mediums, and seemingly with good reason.

He named them after Jordan because even the great basketball player made fewer than half the shots he attempted. By Schwartz's reasoning, mediums who made scientifically validated connections with the dead at



Mike Masterson

percentages well above that would be in the same league as Jordan.

In one reading alone, Northrup, from New York, was more than 80 percent accurate and asked only five questions of the sitter she could not even see. All the mediums regularly averaged above 70 percent in the accuracy of the information they received from deceased persons, or nearly four times what would be considered normal for chance. By contrast, a control group of students averaged 36 percent accuracy.

The bottom line statistically is that the latest experimental results could have occurred by chance fewer than one in 100 trillion times.

While methods varied with each experiment, the anonymous subject-sitters were always separated physically from the mediums. Each sitter had lost to death at least six people close to him. Schwartz wanted that many to enhance the chance that one of the six might want to contact them if possible. Parents contacting their living children seemed to come through most often. It seemed as though deceased parents often remained in proximity to their still-living children out of sustained love and concern.

An example of accuracy in one sitting involving all five mediums separately reading one sitter-subject in the lab found that all five saw a deceased son. More than 60 percent of the time, they correctly provided specific names. Eighty-eight percent of their historical facts were correct, and 95 percent of the temperament details they described were correct.

"This was not just vague stuff being picked up by the mediums," said Schwartz. "It was very specific, even to the pet's name."

Make no mistake, Schwartz is no gypsy fortuneteller. His credentials include a Ph.D. from Harvard and a professorship of psychology and psychiatry at Yale. Today, he is professor of psychology, medicine, neurology, psychiatry and surgery at the University of Arizona, as well as director of that university's Human Energy Systems Laboratory. He is the author of two books, including his latest about these

experiments entitled "The Afterlife Experiments: Breakthrough Evidence for Life After Death." His diligent work deserves the world's serious attention.

Yet Schwartz says he finds himself trapped between his own research results and integrity to them and the ostracism of some mainstream academic peers who prefer snickering together in some corner to carefully examining for themselves what experimental data clearly reveal. Isn't that always the case? Ignorance in place of inquiry is much easier yet particularly unfortunate. I know that after 31 years in journalism, more than half spent in investigative journalism, I am convinced that his studies and the amazing results are legitimate and worthy of deeper study.

Even the veteran author and screenwriter William L. Simon, admittedly a skeptical journalist who wrote this book with Schwartz, said: "I am accurately described as having both feet firmly planted on terra firma. . . . How lucky I am to have been introduced to Gary Schwartz and his work . . . and the amazing happenings going on in Tucson, Arizona. . . . I have been jolted into thinking and caring about ideas I had in the past willfully dismissed."

Schwartz and many other accomplished scientists at the 4th International Conference on Science and Consciousness in Albuquerque seem to me much like Copernicus and Galileo, both of whom were unjustly ridiculed and even persecuted in their lives for saying the Earth was not flat but round and actually revolved around the sun. It took 150 years for establishment science to accept a new paradigm and finally concede that these men had been right all along.

Many scientists believe as I do, that we are rapidly moving today into still another entirely new way of viewing human existence. Discoveries about the nature of reality are being made almost monthly, the majority of which are not being widely reported.

This bespectacled and bearded pioneering professor perhaps expressed it best when he advised his audience to "become skeptical of the skeptics." You can view Schwartz's specific experimental results and form your own conclusions at the Human Energy Systems Laboratory Web site, www.openmindsociences.com.

Next: Sheldrake experiments show global consciousness links man and animals.

Mike Masterson is an award-winning Arkansas journalist.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - April 4, 2002 CR: D. Smith

Interactions with Bigfoot

Bob Welch's March 28 column, "Tall, tall tales equal Bigfoot," unfortunately reinforces many pieces of misinformation that serve only to communicate an unfavorable picture of the serious scientific research in the field of cryptozoology and hominology.

Welch sets up his essay with a straw argument: "...the real reason you can't believe is because most of the 'water-tight' evidence leaks like your 25-year-old gutters." "Belief" is in the realm of religion, not science. I don't "believe" in Bigfoot, but I accept that certain evidence should keep our minds open.

Welch's column, however, has to be faulted for trying to be funny and instead just being illogical. He pens this one: "I wonder why you never get reports of the same sighting from two individuals who don't know each other." This is not true, of course, but facts don't get in the way of Welch's attempts at humor.

I've been in the field for 42 years, and this is just only the most remarkable of some of Welch's even sillier "points." For example, his statement that "so many of the sightings are made by Bigfoot buffs who have a particular interest in seeing one" ranks just as false as the other one. Welch ignores the whole body of history while

using the Skeptical Inquirer's badly flawed article as his source. Come on. Can't newspapers afford to look into these things more critically than this?

Obviously, Welch merely wishes to visit upon us his unsupported "belief" systems, which have much less basis in fact than the combined evidence of 300 years of native traditions of Sasquatch and more than five decades of modern interactions with Bigfoot.

There is no humor in this article, and its educational value to students is nil.

LOREN COLEMAN, Cryptozoologist
University of South Maine
Portland, Maine