

UFO

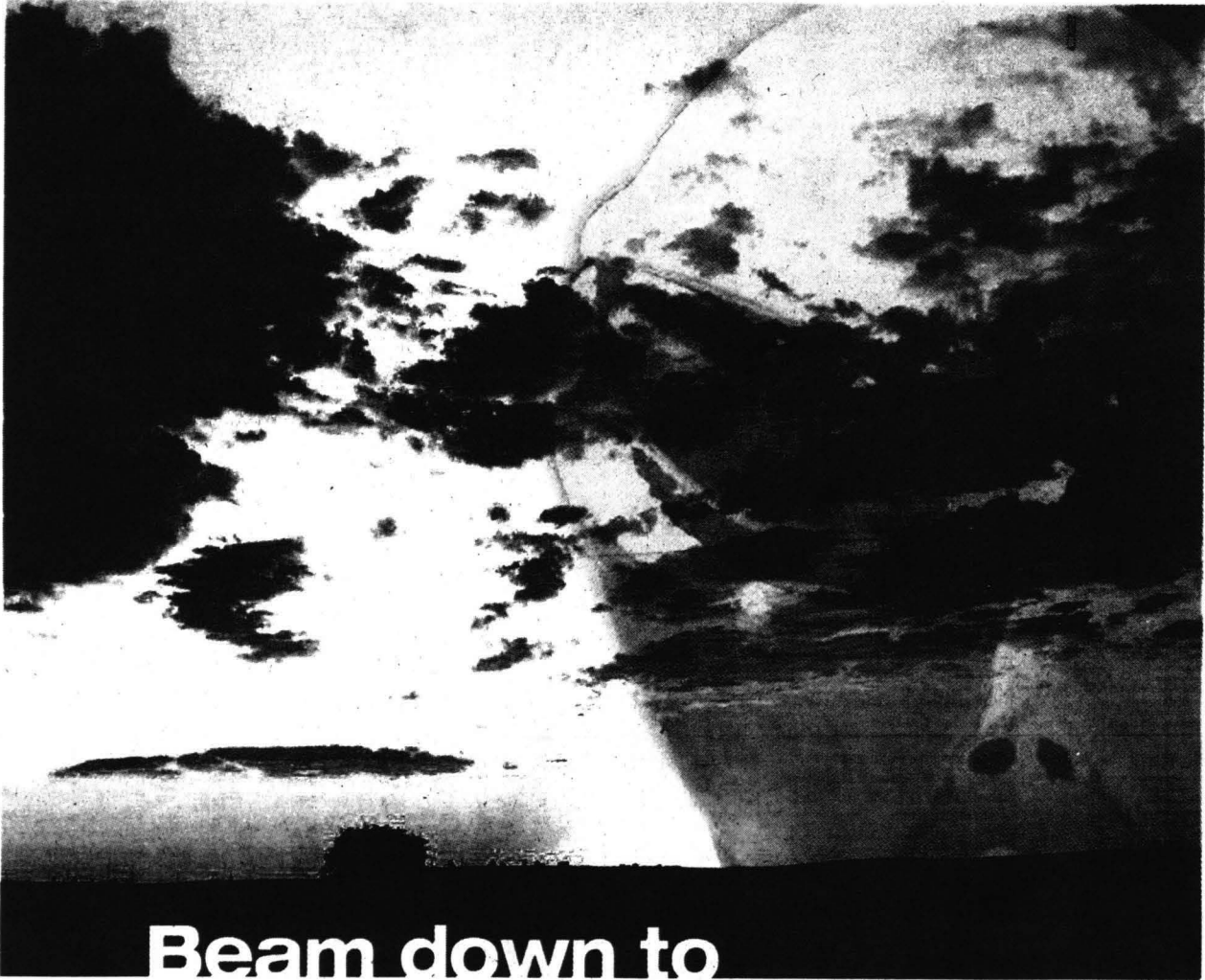
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#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

July 2002
Number 396

POST, Denver, CO - June 30, 2002 CR: P. Noonan



Denver Post photo illustration

An 'alien' appears to hover above the desert outside Roswell, N.M., near the site where some believe a UFO crashed in 1947.

Beam down to **ROSWELL**

New Mexico city
celebrates its
extraterrestrial
repute with
UFO Festival

By **Mim Swartz**
Denver Post Travel Editor

ROSWELL, N.M. — Four fingers. Four toes. No earlobes. Some locals would tell you that's what the alien pilots looked like when they crash landed in a flying saucer near here in July 1947. They would, but supposedly they can't, because they're being paid \$25,000 every Jan. 1 to keep quiet.

The government hush money to cover up what's known as "The Roswell Incident" is one contrived story you'll get if you ask the unavoidable question: "Do you believe?" Others will tell you flat out, "No, but it's good for the tourist trade," and some will answer with another question, "Believe in what?"

Believe it or not, the Roswell Incident is still controversial 55 years later: Was it a flying saucer or a weather balloon that crashed on a ranch northwest of Roswell? It's what has made this conservative town of 50,000 legendary, especially since the International UFO Museum and Research Center opened here 10 years ago. The mystery also has spawned movies and a TV show.

Many here talk about the supposed flying-saucer incident, some very seriously and some spoofingly. But they'll all come together next week for the UFO Festival July 4-7, which celebrates everything alien.



Denver Post file photo

For true UFO believers, Roswell is Mecca; they converge here from all over the world for the festival, which was begun on a small scale in 1995 and expanded in 1997 for the 50th anniversary of the mysterious "crash." This year's festival will include an Alien Market of sci-fi vendor booths with hard-to-find paraphernalia for collectors, a UFO/Alien Masquerade Ball, UFO parade, live musical entertainment, a night golf tournament, symposiums and lectures on UFO phenomena.

Speakers will include Stanton Friedman, an author and nuclear physicist from Canada, one of

Roswell's UFO Festival next week will attract visitors such as these to the International UFO Museum and Research Center, where this 'alien' body is the star attraction. The alien prop was featured in the Showtime movie, 'Roswell.'

(continued on page 2)

the most respected UFO experts in North America. He's credited with uncovering the Roswell case in 1978 when he interviewed Jesse Marcel, an Army major in 1947 who had gathered some of the strange debris from the crash site and was sent to Fort Worth Army Air Field to show top brass what he had found. Marcel stepped out of the room for something and, when he returned, found that the wreckage he had placed on a general's desk disappeared and was sup- planted with debris from a weather balloon.

Since Marcel's death in 1986, 350 witnesses have decided to talk, according to research incorporated into museum exhibits. In 1994, a new Air Force report said the "space craft" was indeed a weather balloon, but was a top-secret spy balloon intended to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests. Another report in 1997 said the alien bodies recovered were really Air Force test dummies, similar to those used in automobile crash tests.

The reports were issued as attempts to put the rumors to rest, but they didn't.

Other festival speakers include Dee Wallace Stone, who played Elliott's mother in "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," in observance of the 20th anniversary of the Steven Spielberg movie. She will speak and sign autographs.

Another highlight will be an alien costume contest, followed by a costume parade.

"I always participate in the costume contest," says Nancy Fleming, co-director of the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program, which showcases works of its artists at the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art. "I won \$350 one year. I make the costume, and my 7-year-old daughter wears it."

Fleming says Roswell would be pretty boring — "a little ho-hum town in the middle of nowhere" — without the UFO issue.

"I'm glad there's something other than churches," she says, referring to more than 150 churches in town. "I take it all in. It's fun, it's interesting. At least you come from a place that people have heard of."

Does Fleming believe?

"You just don't know," she says. "There are a lot of credible people who were directly or indirectly involved. A lot of government paperwork comes out with lots of black marks. To think that we're the only ones in the universe is bold thinking."

Among those perceived as credible is Walter Haut, co-founder of the UFO Museum, located in an old movie theater on North Main Street. Haut, 80, was a lieutenant in the Air Force serving as public information officer at the Roswell Army Air Field when the incident occurred.

Col. William Blanchard ordered Haut to write a press release July 8, 1947, stating the wreckage of a crashed disk had been recovered by the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell. The next day, Blanchard had Haut rescind the press release and issue another saying the Bomb Group had mistakenly identified a weather balloon as wreckage of a flying saucer.

Both statements were banner headlines in the Roswell Daily Record.

Haut says Blanchard called him into his office and told him, in effect, "We have a flying saucer."

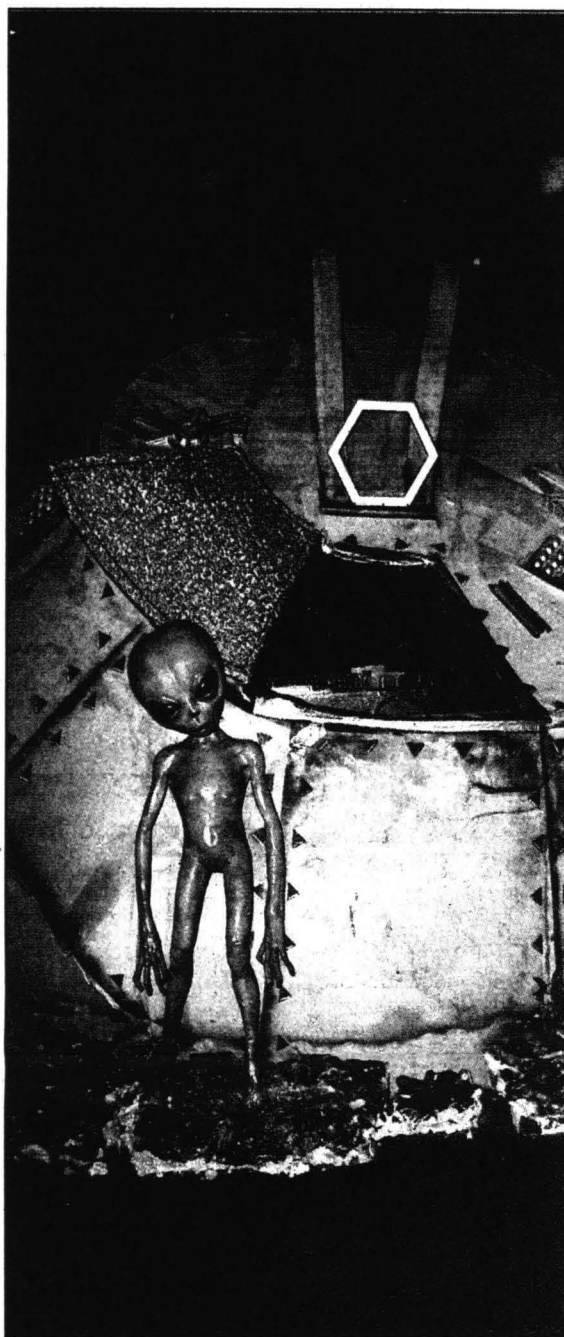
"I asked, 'Can I see it, colonel?'" His answer was "Hell, no." He told me it was shipped to Fort Worth and then to Washington, D.C., and it went poof."

Haut says he never saw the spacecraft or the bodies. "My job was pretty much putting out press releases."

Haut acknowledges that most people accept part of the UFO story and reject part of it.

"I lean more to the fact that UFOs are probable. It would not surprise me if we had one crash near here."

Haut can be found part of most days at his office in the museum, which presents exhibits and movies about the Roswell Incident and UFOs in general. The exhibits are weighted toward believers and wannabes.



The Denver Post / Mimi Swartz

The 1947 Roswell UFO crash is re-created at the Alien Experience, where visitors can take photos of themselves with the mannequins for \$2.

"The more information we can provide to you as an individual, the more informed decisions you will be about to make," according to the museum's stated mission. An adjacent library and research center has information on numerous topics, from cattle mutilations, men in black and human abductions, to implants found in humans, case histories of UFO abductees and "Did Eisenhower Sign an Agreement with Extraterrestrials?"

Another co-founder, Glen Dennis, who also spends time at the museum, was a young mortician at Ballard Funeral Home in Roswell when the crash occurred. He claims he received a call from an officer at the air field morgue asking how to obtain hermetically sealed, child-size coffins and wanting information on how to preserve bodies without contaminating the tissue.

According to the movie "Roswell," shown at the museum, Dennis met the next night with an Army nurse he had been dating. He claims she told him she saw alien bodies being examined, and drew pictures on a prescription pad.

Within a few days she was transferred to England, Dennis says, and her whereabouts are unknown. Some skeptics speculate that she knew she was about to be transferred and, after having had a few drinks, she wanted to leave him wide-eyed with this story and pictures.

The museum, which logs more than 200,000 visitors a year, doesn't charge admission. It makes

money from donations and its gift shop, which sells all things alien — T-shirts, posters, boxer shorts, neckties, glow-in-the-dark aliens, blinking alien buttons and pins, Glow Pops candy, wind chimes, coasters, pens, glassware, post cards, stickers, badges, magnets.

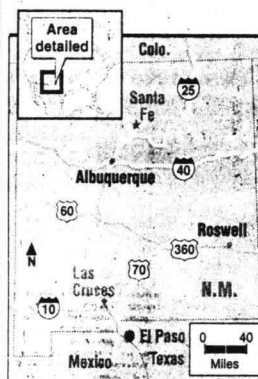
Still more items can be purchased at the nearby Alien Experience, an amusement/photo op experience where visitors, for a \$2 charge, can interact with alien mannequins and props and savor the encounters on camera.

Across from the museum parking lot, the Crash Down Diner serves "out of this world" food. "We were the first alien-themed diner," says Frank Gamboa, who, with wife Marni, opened the cafe in November 2000. Her parents, Randi and Richard Hesse, own the Star Child gift shop next door.

Hungry aliens can choose from breakfast items such as Alien Trio (three pancakes), Invader (two eggs and toast), Angel Eyes (two eggs in a hole with sausage or bacon) or Black Hole (egg and cheese with ham, bacon or sausage on a bagel). Space Burgers are named after characters from the TV show "Roswell," although many diners bypass the patty melt because it's named Tess, a disliked character on the show.

Many of the names are those suggested by customers. The Gamboas, however, reject some. "Someone suggested alien entrails for a pasta dish, but we decided against that," says Frank Gamboa, who was born in Roswell and returned in 1992 after serving in the

If you go



The Denver Post

Roswell is located on the high plains in southeastern New Mexico, 540 miles from Denver, about a nine-hour drive.

What to see

■ **The International UFO Museum and Research Center**, 114 N. Main St., 505-625-9495. This museum is the highlight of a visit to Roswell. Whether you believe in UFOs, the museum is a hoot. Check the schedule of videos being shown when you first arrive. Don't miss "Roswell," starring Martin Sheen, based on the book, "UFO Crash at Roswell." It will help put the sequence of events of the supposed UFO crash in perspective, and may even make you a believer — or at least, get you thinking. Museum exhibits show what is believed to have happened in Roswell in July 1947 through photographs, news clippings and witness statements. It also features artwork portraying space, aliens and UFOs, and spotlights UFO phenomenon not connected to Roswell.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily March 1-Sept. 30 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 1-Feb. 28. Admission is free, but visitors likely will spend bucks in the adjacent gift shop, which has everything imaginable related to outer space.

■ **Roswell Museum and Art Center**, 100 W. 11th St., 505-624-6744, www.roswellmuseum.org. Known for its collection of New Mexico modernist art, the museum features works by Georgia O'Keeffe and others from the Santa Fe and Taos art colonies. The Founders Gallery, the original mission-style museum

building opened in 1937 as a Works Progress Administration project, highlights works by the late regional artists Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth, who lived and painted on their Sentinel Ranch in nearby San Patricio.

Part of the complex houses the reconstructed original workshop of rocket scientist Robert H. Goddard, considered the father of modern rocket propulsion, who conducted many of his experiments on the outskirts of Roswell in the 1920s-30s. He constructed and successfully tested the first rocket using liquid fuel in 1926. Adjacent to the museum, the Robert H. Goddard Planetarium is named in his honor.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and holidays. Admission is free.

■ **Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art**, 409 E. College Blvd., 505-623-5600. Works by more than 150 artists who participated in the Roswell Artists-in-Residence program make a bold splash at this museum in a one-time industrial building. Philanthropist Donald B. Anderson established the museum in 1967 to share his private eclectic collection he had obtained through gifts, purchases or trades from the grateful artists.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays and by appointment on weekends. Admission is free.

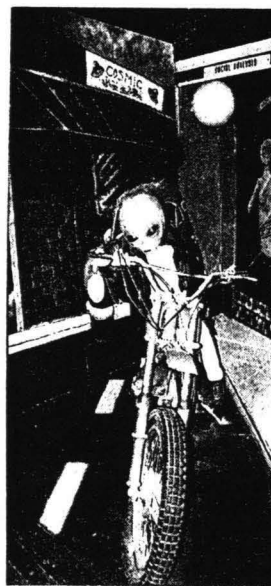
■ **New Mexico Military Institute**, 101 W. College Blvd., 505-622-6250. Drive through the campus of this distinguished military junior college and college prep high school, which was established in 1891.

Where to stay

Roswell has more than a dozen moderately-priced and budget motels; including the Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Econo Lodge, Motel 6, Ramada Inn and Super 8. The Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites and Holiday Inn Express are considered the best in town. For a listing, check out www.roswellcvb.com/accom.htm.

■ **Information:** Roswell Visitor's Bureau, 505-624-0889 or www.roswellcvb.com; or Roswell Chamber of Commerce, 505-623-5695 or www.roswellnm.org.

— Mimi Swartz



The Denver Post / Mimi Swartz

Visitors to Roswell's Alien Experience can take photos with various alien mannequins for \$2.

Marines. He is chairman of the festival parade.

He chides the many locals who don't get into the UFO spirit. "It's what brings people to Roswell. They should get out and promote it."

Richard Hesse, who calls himself the original Roswell alien, or Roswellian, says Roswell has become a destination for the curious, and travelers within a 500-mile radius or even farther will come here.

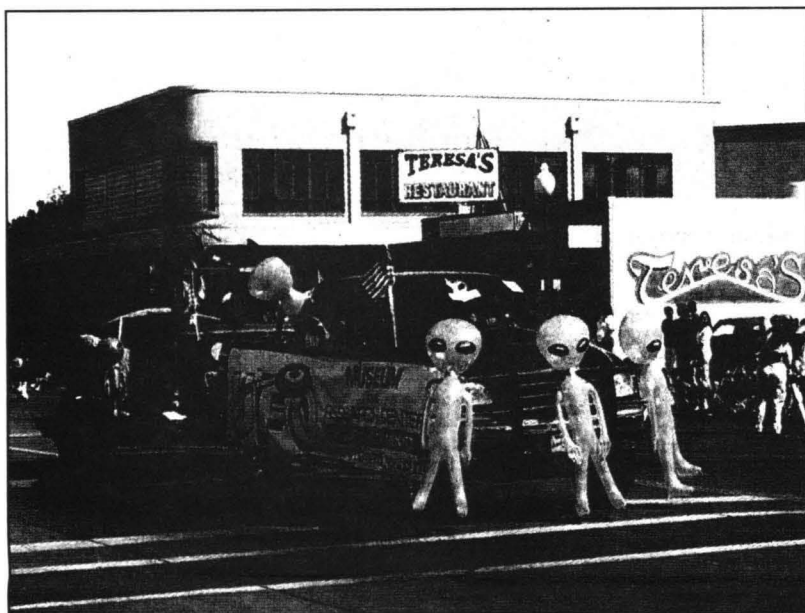
"It's a historical fact that an incident happened here. The question is what that incident was. The evidence isn't conclusive one way or the other," he says.

(continued on page 3)



The Crash Down Diner, the first alien-themed diner in Roswell, N.M., serves up a menu of dishes named after characters in the TV show 'Roswell.' Owner Frank Gamboa is also chairman of the UFO Festival parade. His in-laws own the Star Child gift shop next door.

The Denver Post/
Mim Swartz



Courtesy of Roswell UFO Festival

Aliens get in the act at last year's UFO Festival parade. This year's festival also will include a parade as well as lectures and a masquerade ball.

Roswell UFO Festival schedule

■ **Thursday, July 4:** Noon, opening ceremonies; noon-6 p.m., Alien Market trade show, Civic Center; 7 p.m., Fourth of July activities at soccer complex, including live symphonic rock music by MIB and fireworks; 10:30 p.m., night golf tournament at New Mexico Military Institute golf course.

■ **Friday, July 5:** 9 a.m., Alien Market opens; 1 p.m., lecture, George Fawcett of North Carolina speaking on recent UFO happenings and their implications, International UFO Museum and Research Center; 7 p.m., lecture, Jim Mosley of Florida speaking on "True Weird Personal Experiences of a Skeptical Believer," International UFO Museum and Research Center; 8 p.m., Alien Market closes. Live music at Civic Center; 9 p.m., Electric Light UFO Parade, Main Street; 9:30 p.m., UFO/Alien Masquerade Ball, live entertainment by Chris Daniels & the Kings, Best Western Sally Port Inn.

■ **Saturday, July 6:** 6 a.m., dawn patrol for model aircraft fliers; 7 a.m., Alien Chase 5K and 10K runs; 8 a.m., model airplane 'fly in' begins; 9 a.m., Alien Market opens; 10 a.m., Alien Costume Contest, Roswell Museum and Art Center, followed by costume parade to the Civic Center; 7 p.m., lecture, Stanton Friedman of Canada, one of the best known and most influential UFO experts in North America, International UFO Museum and Research Center; 7 p.m., concert by Chris Daniels & the Kings, flutist Douglas Bluefeather and MIB; 8 p.m., Alien Market closes.

■ **Sunday, July 7:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Alien Market all day, entertainment.

■ **Information:** Roswell Chamber of Commerce, 505-624-6860 or www.uforoswell.com.

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL, Lancaster, PA - May 16, 2002

Pa.'s ghosts and UFOs to have a new home

BY SUSAN LINDT
Intelligencer Journal Staff

Pennsylvania's own X-Files are about to be chronicled in a new magazine.

The premier issue of Paranormal Pennsylvania and Beyond is scheduled to be published in July.

"Movies like 'The Sixth Sense' and 'Ghost' started new waves of interest in the paranormal," said editor and ghost investigator Rick Fisher, who gathered a roster of friends — each an expert in a paranormal field — to write regular features in the quarterly magazine. "Those types of movies make people more open-minded about the paranormal."

Television airwaves have also boosted people's awareness of paranormal occur-

rences with a steady stream of shows like "Smallville," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and the one that started it all, "The X-Files."

With his own ghost-hunting workshops and paranormal conferences more popular than ever, Fisher thinks the pitch is right for a regional version of Fate magazine, a national magazine that has faithfully published tales like "The Truth About Flying Saucers" and "20 Million Ma-

niacs" since the late 1940s. "Fate magazine is the well known one," Fisher said of the genre. "It's a great magazine. They deal with paranormal activities all over the world, like crop circles. But what's happening in Pennsylvania

"The idea behind the magazine is to let the public know there are strange, unexplained occurrences happening in Pennsylvania and other nearby areas."

Rick Fisher
Editor of Paranormal Pennsylvania and Beyond

forum to write about their own brushes with the supernatural.

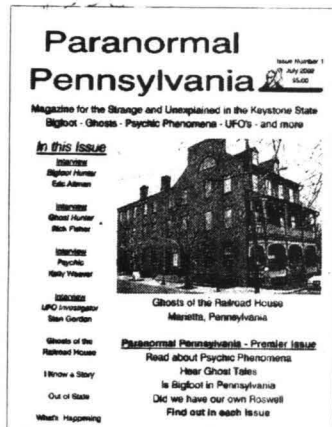
"I always say everybody has a story," Fisher said. "Even if you haven't had a personal story, you probably know somebody who did. When I first started ghost hunting, everybody laughed at me. But then they'd come over later and tell me, 'Hey, when I was a kid there was this house down the street...' Before there was no one you could talk to about this. But now there are groups of people who are into this, so there are people to talk to who have open minds."

The magazine also will list ghost conferences and other events related to the paranormal, as well as feature interviews with authors.

Fisher said sniping is rampant when it comes to fans of the paranormal, but his magazine aims to cover all treatments of the topic with respect.

"There are some ghost groups that may use a Ouija board in their investigations and there are other groups out there that take a more scientific approach and rely on the equipment to find the evidence," Fisher said. "These groups typically really fight with each other. But in this magazine, if we run a story there will be no bias or bashing. We'll run it and let the reader decide."

For more information about Paranormal Pennsylvania and Beyond, or to get a \$20 annual subscription, e-mail Fisher at RFisher@redrose.net or check out the magazine announcement on his Web site for Pennsylvania Ghost Hunters Society at home.supernet.com/~rfisher/magazine.html.



Above is a design for the cover of the new magazine, Paranormal Pennsylvania and Beyond.

isn't what you'll see in Fate magazine."

Fisher, of Lancaster, wants to get out the story about Pennsylvania's Bigfoot sightings, UFO reports and spirit activity — and there's plenty of it.

"The idea behind the magazine is to let the public know there are strange, unexplained occurrences happening in Pennsylvania and other nearby areas," said Fisher, a media favorite for apparition expertise who has been a believer

since his own paranormal experience when he was just 7. "If you're into paranormal, there's something in this magazine for everyone. These people are experts in their fields. We have a lot of talent with these writers."

Some contributors include Katherine M. Ramsland, biographer for horror writers Anne Rice and Dean Koontz and author of "Ghost: Investigating the Other Side"; Mark Nesbitt, who wrote five books about Gettysburg's fa-

mous specters; Maryland storyteller Ed Okonowicz, who has written more than 20 books on paranormal topics; Eric H. Altman, director of Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society; Stan Gordon, an independent paranormal investigator and national expert; and Camp Hill psychic medium, Kelly Weaver.

Fisher's magazine will have a section for stories from outside the region that are likely to cover paranormal incidents that make the news. Readers also will have a

The aliens are coming

Third annual UFO Festival touches down in McMinnville with two days of extraterrestrial events touted to take you out of this world



Mack Theater film festival explores UFO phenomena

By DAVID BATES
Of the News-Register

You want UFOs? On Saturday morning, the Mack Theater will have UFOs — plenty of them.

McMinnville's independent movie house is teaming up with the Vancouver, Wash.-based UFO Store to screen excerpts from eight UFO documentaries, with topics ranging from flying saucers, flying rods, crop circles, alleged abductions and UFO files.

On a weekend event marked by much frivolity over UFOs, Saturday's film festival is geared more toward audiences with a serious interest in the scientific study of UFOs and other paranormal phenomena, according to festival organizer Randy Haragan.

"All eight films are recognized by serious investigators as making important contributions to the field," Haragan said. "Nearly all have been released within the last two years. Some are award winners from other festivals. Others are brand new productions based on the latest images and research."

The program will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with Haragan introducing each segment. The films include:

UFO Pilot Sightings: Pilots, expert witnesses, and UFO researchers describe fascinating high-altitude close encounters of the strangest kind.

The UFO Files: Features famous UFO encounters, re-created, including the 1955 Kentucky rural family's alleged attack by small glowing men and actual audio recordings of a UFO by the St. Helens, Police during a 1981 encounter near the Columbia

River.

The Edge of Reality: Illinois UFO: Includes police testimony regarding a sighting of a triangular-shaped UFO the size of a 747 jetliner, but completely silent.

Rods — The Smoking Gun Evidence: Explores what paranormal researchers call a newly discovered and previously unknown life form that currently exists here. Yes, they've got video.

Crop Circles and Signs: Explores those strange works of corn-field art with in-depth analysis and expert commentary.

Life on Mars: Scientists discuss startling artifacts found among the 65,000 recently released NASA photos from the Mars Global Surveyor. Some believe these photos are proof that Mars was once inhabited by an intelligent civilization.

Evidence — The Case for NASA UFOs: Investigator David Sereda spent six years working with NASA about reputed UFO sightings. He argues that NASA has evidence of alien contact captured on video.

UFO Abductions — A Global Phenomenon: This documentary, shot on site in 10 countries on four continents, explores the most frightening aspect of the UFO phenomenon: close encounters of the up-close-and-personal kind.

Haragan is a longtime UFO enthusiast and owns and operates the UFO Store web site. Those attending the free festival will have a chance to vote on their favorite film for the soon-to-be-coveted Mack Award for "Best UFO Documentary for 2002."

McMinnville UFO publicity makes headlines worldwide

By PAT FORGEY
Of the News-Register

The 1950s brought many changes to the country — the birth of rock 'n' roll, big cars with lots of chrome and new fears about communism and the H-bomb.

Oh, and flying saucers. It seemed as if everyone were seeing the things. Across the country, reports of unidentified flying objects took the country by storm.

True, some of the reports came from a certain class of people whose word was easily dismissed. These days, we'd be seeing those people on Jerry Springer.

Not all of the reports were so easily discredited. Some of the sightings were made by police officers or military aviators. One was made by a United Airlines pilot flying between Portland and Boise.

Still, authorities and most citizens felt there was nothing of substance to the reports.

The early reports tended to describe craft which were flat and circular, earning the nickname "flying saucers." That term gave way to the slightly more dignified and academic-sounding "unidentified flying objects," or UFOs for short.

The early sightings were typically dismissed as optical illusions, weather balloons or hoaxes. "A lot of effort has

been put into disproving UFO sightings," said Tim Hills, a historian with the McMenamin brothers' brew-pub chain.

After World War II, it was discovered that pilots for both sides had seen various types of flying objects they couldn't identify or explain. Each side, however, thought it had merely stumbled across some sort of still-secret weapon of the other side.

Then, outside McMinnville, farmer Paul Trent not only spotted one of the mysterious disks in the air near his Ballston farm, but managed to snap two pictures of it before it sped away. And for a while, that was hot news.

Following publication by the Telephone-Register, predecessor to the News-Register, the photos went out on the wire services and were published across the country. A big spread in Life magazine, then among the nation's most important media outlets, helped touch off a nationwide surge of interest in UFOs.

Phil Bladine, then Telephone Register editor, was called on to describe the incident repeatedly.

In one nationally broadcast interview, he agreed to send a copy of the paper to anybody who sent in a dime, then the cost of a single copy. He later acknowledged that he hadn't really



A blown-up image of the UFO cropped from the Trent photograph.

(continued on page 5)

He later acknowledged that he hadn't really thought through the consequences of that promise, or understood the depth of interest in flying saucers.

"I said, 'Sure,' figuring we might get a request for three or four papers," he said. Instead, requests for copies flooded in, sometimes even in the form of dimes taped to postcards.

The notes they wrote tipped Bladine to the depth of feeling in the country about UFOs. "People said that they'd seen a flying saucer, but didn't want to tell anyone because they were afraid they'd be thought nuts," he said.

At the height of the frenzy, the Telephone-Register staff built a flying saucer float to enter in an annual parade. Now, a new UFO enthusiast, historian Hills of McMe-

namins, is trying to recreate the frenzy — complete with a parade of its own.

Hills happened on the UFO story while researching the history of the area for the opening of the Hotel Oregon, the historic building in downtown McMinnville that the brothers renovated and reopened a few years ago.

He presented his research to a team of McMenamins artists, who incorporated it into the hotel's artwork, somewhat fancifully at the time.

Evelyn Trent was feeding rabbits when she first spotted the flying object, and ran for a camera. One of the paintings, however, has a rabbit being



Bladine:
Published Trent photographs

beamed aboard a spaceship, a little joke for those in the know.

Elsewhere, savvy visitors have spotted the date May 11, 1950, marked on historic calendars. That's the date of the Trents' sighting.

The photos weren't published until June, though, because the unsav-

suming couple didn't tell anyone about them until later. Eventually, on a visit to town, they mentioned the two photos to their banker, Ralph Wortman. He mentioned them to Bladine.

Bladine sent Bill Powell, the paper's news editor, out to Ballston to try to obtain the photos.

The Trents couldn't find the

pictures at first, but launched a search of the house. "Finally they found them under the davenport," Bladine said.

Bladine and Powell concluded from the way the events unfolded and the Trents' reaction to it all that they were not publicity seekers.

Further, they concluded from examining the photos that they were probably genuine. There was certainly no indication to the contrary.

The photos were published in the June 8, 1950, edition under the headline, "At Long Last — Authentic Photographs of Flying Saucer?"

Powell died recently. But before his death, he told the News-Register that while he thought the photos were genuine, he didn't know what to make of them.

Thus the question mark in

the headline. "I was covering my butt a little bit," he said.

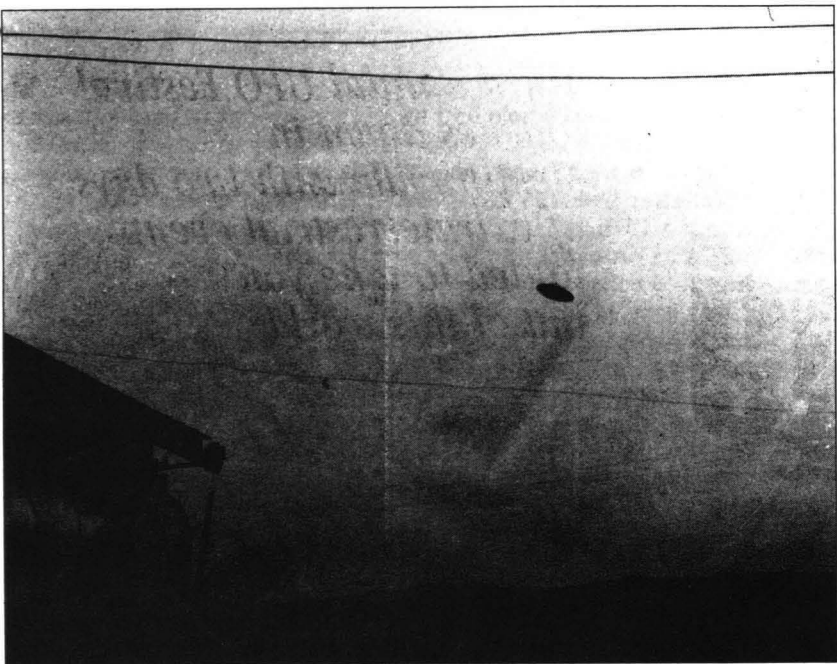
In honor of the 50th anniversary of the UFO photos, Hills and McMenamins prompted a resurgence of local interest. And they plan to keep it going with annual commemorations.

The company brought Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a prominent UFO researcher, to McMinnville for a seminar on the photos as part of the 50th anniversary celebration. It also assembled others who played a role in the case, including Bladine.

For the last two years, McMenamins has staged a series of similar commemorative events. And many of its fellow downtown merchants are jumping on board in a big way this year, including the historic Mack Theater across the street.



According to the newspaper account, Paul's wife, Evelyn, saw the flying object at 7:30 p.m. while feeding the rabbits. The Trents estimated the object to be 30 feet in diameter.



Photographs taken by Paul Trent on May 11, 1950, outside his farmhouse 11 miles southwest of McMinnville were published in the June 8, 1950, Telephone Register.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

McMenamins Hotel Oregon has launched a host of events to celebrate the anniversary of the 1950 alleged UFO sighting near McMinnville.

Friday, May 10

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: exhibitor booths of UFO literature, merchandise

6:30 p.m.: video, slide presentations by Tom Bowden, speaking on behalf of Dr. Steven Greer's Campaign for Disclosure

7 p.m.: Peter B. Davenport, director National UFO Reporting Center

8:15 p.m.: Terry Halstead, videographer of 1950 McMinnville sighting

8:15 p.m.: "2001: A Space Odyssey" at the Mack Theater

9:30 p.m.: Eric Byler, assistant director Oregon UFO Research

10 p.m.: open forum

Saturday, May 11

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: theUFOstore.com Film Festival in The Mack Theater

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Exhibitor booths of UFO literature, merchandise

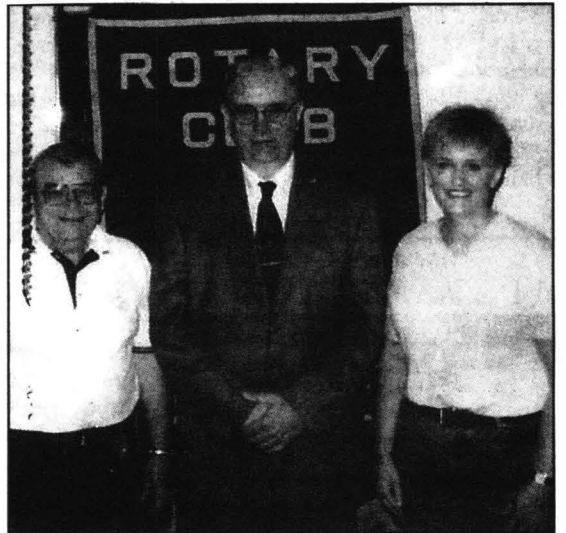
1 to 2 p.m.: UFO Parade lineup, judging of costumes, floats

2 to 3 p.m.: UFO Parade along Third Street

8 to 11 p.m.: Alien Costume Ball, live music, costume judging and prizes

3:45 and 8:15 p.m.: "2001: A Space Odyssey" at the Mack Theater

HERALD, Circleville, OH - June 21, 2002 CR: J. Fry



Submitted photo

Hartinger speaks to Rotary

The Circleville Sunrise Rotary recently met with Bob McCrady presiding. County resident Pete Hartinger, director of the Roundtown UFO Society (UFOS), presented the program. Hartinger described various sightings of "unidentified flying objects" in the county and the country, beginning with a well-publicized Pickaway County observation in 1948. According to Hartinger, numerous sightings of UFO's have been recorded from very reputable people around the world. He would appreciate any information relating to the UFO phenomenon be called into him (anonymously if desired) at (740) 477-6252 or e-mailed to p&prountown@dragonbbs.com. Keith Summers gave the invocation, Chuck Bradley the song leader and Laura Aume was the greeter and the introducer of guests. Pictured are (from left) McCrady, Hartinger and Rotarian Mary Logan.

Alien coffee club

PARANORMAL CONFERENCE DESCENDS ON AREA THIS WEEKEND

BY MARK RAHNER

Seattle Times staff reporter

Is there a big, mysterious hole in your life where "The X-Files" used to be? The kind of hole that makes dogs dig in their heels to avoid it? The kind of hole that doesn't make a noise when you throw something into it?

Then whisk yourself to the SeaTac Radisson Hotel for the Northwest UFO Paranormal Conference this weekend and get your fill of alien implants, remote viewing, flying saucers and the Ellensburg mystery known as "Mel's Hole."

"We're the real 'X-Files.' This is the real stuff," says organizer Charlette LeFevre of

Kent. She heads the Seattle UFO Paranormal Group, formerly the Seattle Chat Club, originally the Seattle Art Bell Chat Club — which sponsors the event.

Formed by devotees of syndicated paranormal radio host Art Bell's late-night forays into the bizarre and the unexplained, LeFevre's group is "a local coffee club" whose members gather monthly to kick around the subjects and listen to guest speakers. (See www.seattlechatclub.org for details.)

"But I don't want to give people the impression that we're a 'Star Trek' convention. This is a conference," LeFevre says. "We're a very discerning group, and we do

take this field very seriously."

Still, LeFevre, a 37-year-old sales graphics worker, nearly bursts with enthusiasm for the subject. She'll interrupt her excited monologues with "Oh, my God, *ohmyGod!*" if you say you don't know about the "Alien in the Freezer" controversy or alien-abductee investigator James Harder (both will be featured at the conference).

Last year's drew about 250 attendees on Memorial Day weekend and just about broke even. To boost attendance, the club has lowered the fees from \$20 to \$12 to see individual speakers.

UFOlogist who researched the case of a Washington family that allegedly videotaped a strange object that followed them on a car trip to and from Mexico.

- Making a return visit, "Inter-galactic Diva" Pamela Stonebrooke, the lounge singer who claims to have done the nasty with a reptilian alien. Perhaps she'll hook up with Colli.

- The hotel bar has gotten into the act and concocted new drinks, "Alien Abduction," "Martian Mistic" and "Egyptian Gold."

- Peter Davenport, who runs the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center (www.ufocenter.com).

Davenport was featured on Fox's Sunday news broadcast as a follow-up to "The X-Files" series finale. He'll make a presentation with updates on some of the UFO cases from the last year or so. "And there have been some dramatic ones," he says:

Impossibly fast-moving bright lights over Lake Forest Park in April 2000; a Missouri cop who said he aimed his radar gun at a

How to attend

Northwest UFO Paranormal Conference, tomorrow-Monday, Radisson Hotel, SeaTac, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. each day. Costs: \$270 for all events, \$12 for individual lectures, \$48 per day for Friday or Monday and \$60 per day for Saturday or Sunday. For more information or to register, call the Seattle Metaphysical Library toll free at 1-866-638-2542 or go to www.seattlechatclub.org/NWUFO.html.

disc-shaped UFO this January and got no reading; the same month, a border-patrol agent who allegedly saw a dozen flying discs in the California desert.

Davenport is increasingly frazzled because his one-man operation keeps him busy from about 7 a.m. to midnight seven days a week, and astronomers won't give his reports the time of day. "It's impossible," he fumes. "These people have made up their minds."

"Psychic futurist" and frequent Art Bell guest Sean David Morton

will also be on hand.

A former TV producer, Morton, 43, claims he's had psychic gifts since he was a kid. His first visions were about astronaut Gus Grissom, a family friend who died in the 1967 Apollo 1 fire.

"I had horrific visions of Gus' death," Morton says.

He'll discuss seeing — and allegedly getting burned by — a UFO at the infamous Area 51 north of Las Vegas, and researching a New Mexico mesa where he says cattle mutilations occurred and a secret underground complex that is said to be run by an alien/government cabal.

Mulder and Scully would be proud.

Morton, who also practices "remote viewing," says he's too tired for a demonstration of his skills when reached by phone on the road.

But here's an easy one: How does he predict the conference will go?

"I think it'll go very well," he says.

Verify it yourself.

Mark Rahner can be reached at mrahner@seattletimes.com

LeFevre has a vision of the UFO Paranormal Conference as a big annual event, as well as visions of a Northwest UFO and paranormal museum some day.

"The Roswell museum gets 83,000 people a year, and they're out in the boonies," she says of the alleged spacecraft crash site in New Mexico.

Among the weekend's other attractions:

- Dr. Janet Elizabeth Colli, a Seattle psychotherapist who helps victims of "alien-contact trauma."

- Red Elk, a local medicine man who will discuss "Mel's Hole," and perhaps be joined by Mel's Nephew. The mysterious and seemingly bottomless hole on land owned by Ellensburg's Mel Waters has been the object of recent search and speculation. "If people want to bring sacred tobacco to recognize him, he takes Pall Mall unfiltered," LeFevre advises.

- Santiago Garza, a Mexican

Museum hosting summer lectures

The following is a list of summer speakers at the International UFO Museum and Research Center, 114 N. Main St., all at 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). All lectures are free and open to the public.

- June 8 — **Bill Hamilton** is the executive director of Skywatch International and has studied the UFO Phenomena since 1953.

Hamilton claims to have had over 100 UFO sightings and

has researched underground facilities and their uses in developing advanced technology or reverse engineering technology. His talk will be about EBEs and underground bases.

- July 5, Friday, 1 p.m. — **George Fawcett** has investigated over 1200 UFO sighting reports from his North Carolina home during his 54 years associated with ufology. He's read 700 books and 1000 magazine articles since 1944 and has published over 100 articles in various ufology magazines.

Fawcett has set up several UFO study groups and aided MUFON in several capacities. He's one of the four professional advisors to the museum and will talk on recent UFO events and their implications

- July 5 — **Jim Moseley's** talk is entitled "True Weird Personal Experiences of a Skeptical Believer" and will highlight

eight experiences he's had in his 69 years.

He writes the "Saucer Smear" newsletter from his Key West home and has lectured on UFOs as an expert to over a hundred colleges and conferences around the country, as well as overseas. He heads the annual NUFOC convention in October 2002 in Cincinnati. His latest book is "Shockingly Close to the Truth — Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist."

- July 6 — **Stanton Friedman** is probably the best known and most influential UFO expert in North America; he's a nuclear physicist who brings science to the study of UFOs. He is really the one who uncovered the Roswell case in 1978 when he interviewed Jesse Marcel; the resulting book is "Crash at Corona."

Friedman has appeared on

more TV shows than any other ufologist and has been interviewed by hundreds of magazines and newspapers. He is one of the museum's four professional advisors.

(Note: Friedman may be joined on stage in a debate format with Don Schmitt, Jim Moseley, and Karl Pflock)

- Aug. 10 — **Dr. Don Burleson's** talk is entitled "UFOs and the Murder of Marilyn Monroe." This is the 40th anniversary of her death and Don has done extensive research into that event and the people who visited her that night.

Burleson is MUFON Section Leader for southeast New Mexico and is the director of the computer lab at ENMU-R; he's also on the investigative team of the Ramey letter.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - May 16, 2002



Flying saucers

FOCUS

By Hamish Mackenzie

ON A raised platform beneath the galleried ceiling of the prestigious National Press Club in Washington DC, a group of men and women, all experts in their chosen field, waited patiently as the large hall filled with more than 150 journalists from newspapers and TV stations from all over the world.

For almost two hours, one by one, more than 20 "eye-witnesses" - amongst them US Army and Air Force officers, NASA scientists, nuclear missile silo commanders and employees of large corporations - described their experiences to the assembled press. Some spoke of inexplicable encounters with unidentified lights and objects in the air, others of the crashes of strange craft, of "unaccountable, unelected and illegal projects". Yet others even claimed to be involved with the "back-engineering of advanced technology".

Many expressed frustration at their failure to be taken seriously. All referred to a worldwide conspiracy to keep the truth from governments and public alike. As each individual spoke there was hushed attention, as each sat down applause filled the room. At one point a cameraman for a US TV station was heard to say: "Bloody hell, this is amazing - bloody hell."

And yet, since that day in May 2001, the silence has been deafening.

Last year, the Sunday Express was the first newspaper to publish an article on the Disclosure Project, a US-based UFO group whose stated aim is to press the US Congress for an open hearing.

The group's founder, Dr Steven Greer, claims he is continuing to gather "deep-insider witnesses" who, if released from their security oaths, would tell Congress what they know about an alleged cover-up of the existence of UFOs and extra-terrestrials as well as the possession of their advanced, life-changing technology.

But one year on, the Project seems nowhere nearer achieving its goal, despite positive feedback from US Senators and overwhelming interest from the public via their website. Dr Greer is now concentrating on a grassroots effort to spread the word via a global network of representatives.

"This is the best chance we have had in 50 years to find out what is really going on," says David Williams, one of the Disclosure Project's UK representatives. Now an IT director in the finance industry, he is a former crypto-analyst in the Royal Signals, once based in Whitehall.

"While I was there I had Top Secret clearance, and the continuous flow of UFO reports that crossed my desk intrigued

me," he says. "They came from everywhere, and I forwarded them on to various MoD and Government departments."

"I don't know what happened to them after they left me. I have been trying to find out ever since, and after the 2001 press conference I decided to get involved with the Disclosure Project. It only needs the wider public to realise that one of the witnesses, someone like John Callahan, is telling the truth for the whole thing to be blown wide open."

John Callahan, a former senior investigator with the Accidents and Investigations Branch of the US Federal Aviation Authority, is a bluff and imposing presence. His story, like the man, is hard to dismiss. At the press conference he recalled how, on November 18, 1986, the pilots of Japan Airlines Flight 1628, flying over Alaska, reported they were seeing "a huge ball with lights running around it... four times as big as a 747". The sighting was significant because the object was simultane-

aneously being recorded on ground-based radar at Anchorage Air Traffic Control.

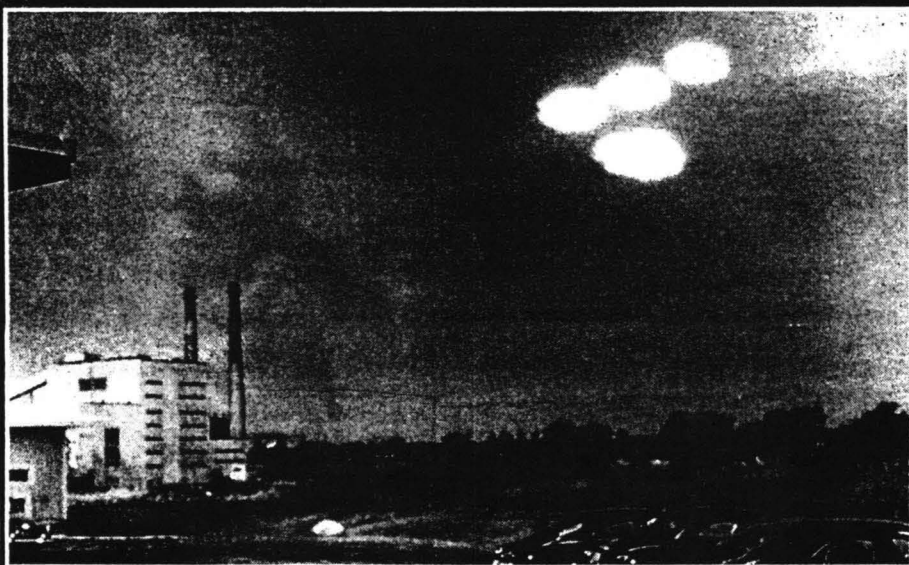
The flight crew and ground radar operators watched as the UFO performed aerobatics and flew at speeds beyond the capability of any

known aircraft. At one point the captain expressed concern at the effects the object appeared to be having on his instruments. After more than half an hour, the "strange craft" disappeared and the 747 landed safely.

THE FOLLOWING day Mr Callahan attended a hurriedly convened meeting at the request of Admiral Engen, then Administrator of the Federal Aviation Authority. This meeting was attended by all of those directly involved and, claimed Mr Callahan, three anonymous CIA men. He says these men confiscated all the audio, radar recordings, printouts and documents associated with the previous day's events and "told us this had never happened and we had never had this meeting". He paused for effect. "I took copies of everything before the meeting. They never asked anyone if we had copies, so I never told them I did."

There was a flurry of clicking cameras as Mr Callahan held up numerous documents and invited the audience to inspect

After 50 years, the cover-up conspiracy goes on...



CLUSTER CONUNDRUM: The US Coast Guard released this picture taken at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1952



LIGHTS FANTASTIC: A UFO photographed over Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1984

them later. But many who were at the press conference were bemused at the subsequent lack of publicity for the event.

"Perhaps the media were taken aback by the seriousness of what they heard and just did not know how to handle it," David Williams remarks. "It is surprising no one has even tried to discredit the witnesses. Why have the big US corporations [Lockheed Martin, Northrop, Boeing and others] named as part of the cover-up, not objected and sued?" Only last month the US newspaper

Florida Today contributed to the continuing speculation on how an event "with testimony designed to be so compelling the [national] media couldn't possibly freeze it out" had been left in the cold.

"We were disappointed but not surprised by the limited coverage," says Dr Greer, an accident and emergency doctor who now devotes all his time to the Project. "So we took our message direct to the people - local radio, TV and well-attended public meetings."

Since the press conference, it

has emerged that Dr Greer is not alone in seeking to persuade the US Government to support disclosure.

Charles Huffer, a US-based UFO researcher, met the then campaigning Governor George Bush in 2000. Live on CNN, Huffer secured a promise from Bush that when in office he would "get right on to" the UFO issue and tell the people what was really going on. Once in power this campaign promise has been ignored, and last year one of Huffer's supporters went on hunger strike in protest.

This year US business development consultant Stephen Bassett plans to run as an independent in the 8th Congressional District of Maryland on the UFO disclosure ticket. The election, in November, is expected to be hotly contested. Bassett's objective is to win sufficient votes to have a say in bringing the issue before Congress.

But interest among the general public has also been considerable. The Project's press conference was broadcast and watched live over the Internet by almost a quarter of a million people. "It was the largest web-cast in history," says Dr Greer.

Since then a further million have downloaded a recording of the event from the Disclosure Project website, which has received more than six million hits since May last year. Dr Greer reports that more than 100 new witnesses have

cast on cable and satellite TV."

One concern for many observers has been that the Project may not be as rigorous as it needs to be when screening witnesses. And there does appear to have been some dissension within the ranks. Some witnesses feel that the more exotic stories, such as contact with aliens, should have been excluded. "There is enough out there - unusual aerial craft that need explanation," said a source who did not want to be named. And at least one prominent witness has requested that his name be withdrawn from the Project as he feels some of the conclusions being drawn from the testimonies are "a step too far".

Edgar Mitchell, the Apollo 14 astronaut, and one of the few men to have set foot on the moon, is no longer a Disclosure Project witness, though he continues to support its aims. "I still believe that governments should open their files on the UFO subject, but we don't seem to be much closer to that, though likely it will happen sooner or later," he told the Sunday Express.

"I am not a 'witness' of UFO events either in space or on Earth. I don't have any first-hand experience, but I have discussed the matter with some 'old timers' who do have first-hand knowledge."

One of the big tests of the Disclosure Project in the future will be the quality of the new witnesses and its openness to the sort of scrutiny it is claiming should be directed at others. The

history of UFO sightings has been tarnished by fabrication - not just by people seeking attention but even by UFO researchers.

In the past few months, a prominent group has admitted planting false information to discredit others in an apparent attempt to prove that the whole UFO phenomenon can be dismissed.

"Is it possible we have been scammed by some witnesses? Yes. Do I think it likely? No," says Dr Greer, his hackles rising. "We are not the CIA, we can't afford to run \$50,000 background checks on everyone. Our objectives are to disclose the truth to the public and to persuade Congress to hold an open hearing."

"Over 20,000 letters have gone out from constituents all over the US to their Congressmen. We have received numerous expressions of serious interest from Senators. Only last week I had a Congressman ring and ask us to give him a private briefing."

"To get a Congressional hearing one of three things will have to happen," Dr Greer continues. "The media will have to call for it, or the public need to be heard asking for it, or there has to be a massive, undeniable UFO event."

WHAT IS clear is that a large number of individuals have come forward and made statements whose implications, if true, are profound. If the witnesses are who they say they are - and are found to be lying - then we should be very concerned about the type of individuals who fly our planes, control air traffic, man the missile silos and protect our communities.

If, on the other hand, the witnesses are telling the truth then -

no matter how extraordinary - this is a serious issue. "If we believe them," says David Williams, "then we have to accept that we are not alone. Someone is covering up and we should want to know why."

"We may have been deceived by some of our witnesses, but not by all of them," he continues. "There are too many people who have seen something they can't explain. Those trying to keep the secrets rely upon most of us being too busy with our lives to be bothered. But more and more people are getting interested, and one day there will be enough to demand that governments tell us what they know."

● For more information contact David Williams at disclosureproject@btinternet.com or visit the Project's website at www.disclosureproject.org

'There are too many people who have seen something they can't explain to keep all this secret forever'

come forward, several from the UK. "This is not surprising," says Denis Plunkett, head of the British Flying Saucer Bureau, still an active organisation though wrongly reported last year to have closed down. "For 50 years I have been receiving reports from military personnel and police officers. Most did not want any publicity, they were just trying to understand what they had seen."

When asked if the Sunday Express could interview a UK witness, Dr Greer said: "We do not want to reveal any of our new witnesses now. There will be another press conference later in the year, which we are planning to broad-

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COURIER, Kent, England - June 7, 2002

Flying saucers are a fact, said veteran commander

LORD Dowding, who led Fighter Command to victory over the Luftwaffe in 1940, did not dismiss the idea that flying saucers, or unidentified flying objects as the RAF called them, might be zooming around in space, or even making landings from time to time.

This is clear from notes he made in August, 1955, while living at Oakgate, Great Bounds, Southborough.

They were found by a reader in a copy of book, *The White Sands Incident* by Daniel W Fry, bought for 50p from a second-hand bookshop.

The book, subtitled "A technician talks with a spaceman and rides in a flying saucer", proba-

bly belonged to Lord Dowding. In his handwritten notes, apparently prepared for a talk to last some two-and-a-half hours, Dowding wrote: "Existence of saucers beyond question. Tens of thousands of sightings, photos in air and on ground."

UFOs had been pursued by fighter planes and tracked by radar at speeds of 9,000 mph. Most reports, he noted, came from RAF sources.

Lord Dowding was anxious to find more cases for examination, and went on: "I believe them to be extra-terrestrial. They are so much in advance of what any nation could have at present."

He mentioned the problem of keeping the vehicle cool at such

high speeds and noted their apparent facility for noiseless hovering.

The government, he said, had attempted to mislead the public over UFOs, adding: "Scientists and Westerners don't like things to happen which they cannot explain, so they try to say these things don't happen. Quite apart from space travel, the secret of FS would remove the curse of limitations of power at low cost."

The veteran airman planned to say that the prospect of producing unlimited power at low cost was of tremendous interest, "shaking to the core" vested interests in coal, oil and electricity.

Dowding had long been interested in the occult and believed

that the young men who died in the Battle of Britain in 1940 lived on in another world.

After being peremptorily retired after that victory he wrote and lectured extensively on the theme of survival after death.

Lord Dowding died in 1970 aged 87 and is commemorated on a granite memorial in the Calverley Grounds close to his last home.

UFO seen hovering over area

A RIPLEY man believes he saw an unidentified flying object circling Ambergate last week.

Ivan Roulston (56) saw six double rows of white lights appear over the village while driving along Heage Road.

The lights, which appeared at 5.15am on Thursday, vanished after six seconds. Mr Roulston, of Highfield Lane, said: "At first I thought it was a helicopter, but it stood still."

Sixteen years ago, the hosiery trimmer saw a similar configuration of lights while travelling from Jacksdale to Ironville.

He said: "A blind friend asked me to go out there with him. He sensed there was something weird there."

Omar Fowler, of the Derby-based Phenomenon Research Association, said a similar UFO was spotted over Allenton in March.

"The light patterns do not confirm to Civil Aviation Authority regulations. We think they could be alien aircraft," said Mr Fowler.

2002
April 30,
Derby, England -
EVENING TELEGRAPH,

Witness photographs UFO near MacMillan Pass

By JULIUS DEBUSCHWITZ

Humans are not the only creatures disturbed by UFO activity. Animals, too, can react strongly.

In mid-July 1988, two Ross River hunting outfitters set out to bring horses and equipment to the MacMillan Pass summit on the North Canol Road for the upcoming hunting season.

The trip traditionally took place at this time to get the horses used to their new surroundings and settled down before the arrival of clients. On this particular trip, a third man named Kevin went along to help out and enjoy the spectacular scenery.

The last hour of the trip presented the men with unobstructed views above the timberline. In the afternoon, they reached their destination, about 2.5 km past the summit and the Yukon/N.W.T. border.

Kevin took his camera and went to a gravel pile located about 200 metres from the truck. On the way, he turned around and took a photo of the vehicle, while one of the outfitters was in the back of the truck and the other

beside it. After climbing the gravel pile, Kevin took a photo of the valley to the south.

Lining up another shot through his viewfinder, he suddenly heard a very loud fluttering sound approaching him from behind and above. Although tempted to look up, he kept his right eye on the viewfinder, figuring that whatever was coming would fly into view.

He then caught a glimpse of an object above him with his left eye, and a split second after that he saw it through his viewfinder moving quickly into the valley ahead of him. There, it seemed to slow down, and Kevin photographed it. A moment later, the object wavered, went silent, made a rapid right turn, and accelerated into the distance.

Kevin ran back to the truck. The horses were going crazy, trying to jump out of the truck. One of the outfitters was on top of the side rail, trying to calm the horses and preventing them from jumping, while the other was desperately trying to open the end gate.

Both men were afraid the horses



UFO YUKON

might injure themselves. After some time, the horses calmed down, and the outfitters told Kevin they had never before seen the horses act that way.

Kevin then told them that he had just seen a UFO, and that this occurrence might have caused the horses to react so strongly. The outfitters had not noticed the UFO and did not believe Kevin.

Kevin submitted his negative for analysis. His camera was a Pentax P3N and not available for inspection since it had been stolen in the meantime. Kevin used Kodacolor Gold 200 ASA print film and either a 28-80 mm or 28-70 mm zoom lens.

Only a preliminary analysis has been completed. A 4335 dpi scan of the negative with a KODAK Profes-

sional PCD Film Scanner was performed by a professional lab in Vancouver. No object was found in the frames preceding or following the frame showing the UFO, suggesting no lens defect.

A cropped unenhanced raw scan shows an object that appears to be highly symmetrical. It consists of a domed top and bottom of a rectangle or flattened cylinder. On top of the larger dome is a slightly smaller one, and the bottom of the large dome has a light-coloured curved portion whiter than the background clouds and brighter than the snow on the mountains. It is unlike any conventional flying object known to the investigator or witness.

Further enhancement (using Corel Photopaint 6.0, Brightness = -41, Contrast = +53, Intensity = +22) underscores the object's brightness variation. Its left vertical side appears lighter, while the bottom left and right corners seem to have bright spots.

Moreover, it looks like a white bar is protruding about 45 degrees to the right out of the object's bottom. A somewhat darker hue surrounds the

entire object.

The photograph was taken in a southeasterly direction, and most of the object appears to be silhouetted. Thus it is unlikely that the object's bottom would have reflected sunlight.

Rather, it seems to be self-luminous, and if the distance to the object can be determined, power output of this light source could be calculated.

Estimating the size of the UFO was difficult, since the photo was taken with a zoom lens and the focal length setting is unknown.

Utilizing frame angular coverage, a topographical map of the area, and pixel count width, the angular size of the UFO was determined to be about 0.28 degrees or roughly 0.55 moon diameters.

To view the photos and the map portion described, go to www.ufobc.ca/yukon on the Internet. (Investigated by Martin Jasek.)

To report a sighting or for more information, call 456-2468. Outside of Whitehorse, call toll-free 1-866-733-8367.

This column is published on the first Friday of every month.

UFO tourism zone declared in Chile

MAYOR HOPES TO CAPITALIZE ON UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

By Kevin G. Hall

Mercury News Rio de Janeiro Bureau

SAN JOSÉ DE MAIPO, Chile — The snowcapped Andes have long attracted globe-trotters, but the mayor of this picturesque Chilean mountain district insists visitors are coming from even farther away: other galaxies and solar systems.

Villagers have reported so many UFO sightings during the past two decades that Saturday, Mayor Miguel Márquez declared his Maipo River region just outside the capital of Santiago an official UFO tourism zone.

He plans to erect two observation centers, place signs where there have been sightings and offer workshops on, among other topics, how best to photograph alien visitors.

He believes the nearby mountains contain a "natural energy" that attracts visitors, even those from another world.

"This zone is the UFO capital of Chile," Márquez said in an interview. "Many people have made sightings, including me personally."

"I'm not going to say I've seen aliens," he added carefully. "But I've seen objects."

Chile's Corporation for the Investigation of UFOs, a band of believers based in the capital, approached the mayor with the UFO-tourism concept several months ago.

Since tourists were already coming to the region to relax, the group's leaders suggested, why not encourage them to scan the skies for alien beings?

The idea is to have "foreigners come and see this zone for themselves and speak about UFOs," said Eric Martínez, a Santiago salesman who heads investigations for the UFO group in his spare time.

He currently is looking into a report that a Chilean woman was abducted by aliens, or as



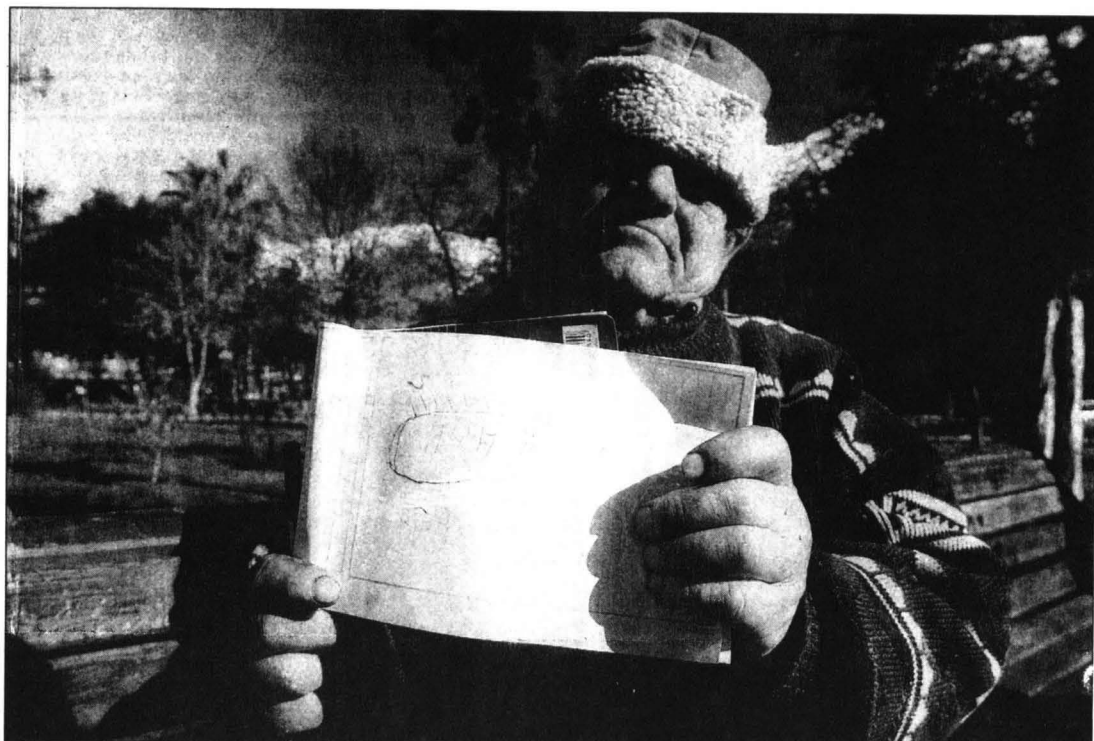
MERCURY NEWS



Goatherd Pedro Antonio Tobar was unimpressed by the UFO sightings, saying only, "I don't believe in them."



Mayor Miguel Márquez hopes to declare his municipality the No. 1 place in Chile for close encounters with UFOs.



HELEN HUGHES — KNIGHT RIDDER PHOTOGRAPHS

Rubén Guajardo shows a rough drawing of the UFO he says he saw. He said it had antennas on top and gave off a bright orange light.

Martínez prefers to call them, "unidentified biological entities."

Martínez said his group has videotape of actual UFOs that will be released "at the appropriate time."

A huge orange object

Márquez didn't need much convincing from Martínez's group, having witnessed two UFOs himself. And if you don't believe him, ask José Rubén Guajardo, a truck driver who works for the mayor.

Guajardo, 61, who prefaced his remarks by saying that he does not drink alcohol, said at 4:30 a.m. March 26 he was riding in a truck near the San José volcano.

Coming toward the truck alongside a river, he recalled with great animation, was a

huge object lit up in orange. He drew it on paper for a curious reporter. It looked like a giant fish with antennas.

"I didn't tell anyone because no one would believe it. My wife told me I was lying," Guajardo said. "It was with us for about half a minute to a minute, then we lost sight of it. Before that, I'd only seen them at a distance, but this one was real close."

Up the icy mountain road a few miles in San Gabriel, farmer Beno Vergara stopped unloading hay for a minute. Yes, he's seen UFOs, too.

"We wanted to get closer to see it," he said, describing a round object emitting beams of red, white and yellow light.

Nearby, on horseback and wearing a colorful poncho and wide-brimmed hat, goat herd-

er Pedro Antonio Tobar was unimpressed.

"I don't believe in them," he said, then he galloped off.

Cosmic consciousness

A conservative country characterized by Germanic discipline and the British stiff upper lip of its immigrant forebears, Chile would hardly seem a nation of UFO spotters.

Yet Chilean newspapers, radio shows and TV programs report UFO sightings regularly and lavishly.

One explanation is that Chile's location far down the Southern Hemisphere places it under the center of the Milky Way for an observer on Earth. This draws astronomers worldwide to Chilean observatories and gives the country a certain cosmic consciousness.

In addition, the Southern Lights — just like the Northern Lights that produce rich colored displays over Alaska and Canada — play richly in Chile's nighttime sky.

To the naive eye, the aurora's glow behind a hilltop can look a lot like something around the bend giving off a weird light.

"If you don't know how to explain it, you have a UFO," said Jorge Ianischewski, author of a popular Chilean astronomy guide.

"People from the city, they don't know the sky. The sky is something strange to them," he said.

"The southern sky is rich in objects."

Contract Kevin Hall at khall@krwashington.com.

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Feb. 1, 2002 CR: G. Conway

By JULIUS DEBUSCHEWITZ

On a clear summer night in late July or early August 1996, Sue and her sister, Sarah, pulled into the service station at the Dempster cut-off.

They were driving home from Whitehorse to the gold fields south-east of Dawson City. The attendant remarked that they had five minutes to spare — the station was closing at midnight.

Refueled, they continued towards the Indian River. Sue's son was waiting for them, and they were running late. Although the night was not dark, they thought he might get worried if they lingered too long. They hoped to get home by 1:30 a.m.

They were ascending the rather steep hill above the tree line towards King Solomon Dome on Hunter Creek Road. Coming up to the summit, they noticed something very unusual in the sky just ahead of them over a ridge on their left.

It was a totally motionless giant cigar-shaped object, at a slight angle and with a row of rectangular windows. Sue checked her watch. It was

2:30 a.m., but her watch had stopped. Sarah accelerated, not trusting what they were seeing. Home was about 30 minutes away; they wanted to get there fast.

After crossing the summit, they followed the ridge line to the west but could not see the object during this time. Once they were on Quartz Road to the south, starting their descent into the Indian River valley, the object was almost straight ahead of them, affording them a closer look.

The front of the object angled slightly up into the sky, and a number of "ships" was swarming around it. These small "ships" — the sisters estimated there were about 12 or 13 — appeared as bright but hazy lights and were actually going into and out of the object's front.

Sue and Sarah decided to get out of there fast; perhaps Sue's son could verify their sighting when they got home.

A little later, they lost sight of the object behind a hill on their left. Reaching the point where Quartz River valley opens up, they spotted the object again.



UFO YUKON

Though the "ships" had disappeared, the object seemed unbelievably close. Straight ahead of them, it appeared to loom right over their gold claim this side (north) of the Indian River.

Passing a placer mine, they noticed that the workers were completely unaware of the UFO and thought of stopping and pointing it out to them, but since they were close to home, they kept going.

Soon they saw the object move behind Haystack Mountain, which was now in full view but 10 km on the other side of Indian River.

Watching the object with the mountain in front of it, the sisters realized two things: the object was much larger than they had first assumed, and

it was much farther away. The object descended behind Haystack Mountain, increasing its tilt. Expecting it to shoot up and away to the left, thinking its front was pointing up, they were surprised to see it continue its way down behind the mountain.

Less than a minute from home, they observed the last part of the object disappear behind the mountain, believing that it must be going into the dirt since it couldn't possibly fit there without doing so.

Pulling into their driveway, Sarah leaned on the horn to get her nephew's attention. When he came out of the house, the sisters tried to tell him what they had witnessed.

He, however, had been very worried about them, asking why they were late — it was already 3:30 a.m. Inexplicably, they had lost two hours.

They all continued to look for the object, but it never did show up again. On the following day, the sisters went to the mining camp they had passed the night before and talked to the cook, who had not heard anyone else mention anything unusual. The cook was also quite skeptical, sepa-

rated the sisters, and asked each of them to draw what they had seen. To her surprise, the drawings matched. The cook confirmed this when interviewed later.

During the investigation, drawings were made by the witnesses, showing the relative size of the object to the terrain. Photos were also taken. Since the witnesses and the investigator could not explain how the object was able to hide behind Haystack Mountain, topographical maps were consulted, and an elevation plot of Haystack Mountain and the valley beyond was obtained.

Superimposed on a photograph taken from the same direction, the plot showed there was enough room behind the mountain for the object to manoeuvre. However, the plot also showed that the ship was more than half a kilometer long!

(Investigated by Martin Jasek.)

To report a sighting or for more information, call 456-2468. Outside of Whitehorse, call toll-free 1-866-733-8367.

This column is published on the first Friday of every month.

Close encounters of the Caledonian kind

Now it's official: Bonnybridge in Scotland is the UFO capital of the world

by Stephen Khan
Scotland Editor

THE COUNTRY is usually associated with spectacular mountains, tumbling rivers and deep-fried Mars bars. But Scotland has a proud new boast: it has become the landing strip of choice for flying saucers and other mysterious, metallic, hovering craft. More odd incoming craft have been tracked over the hills and glens than anywhere else on Earth, and UFO enthusiasts are flocking north to experience close encounters of the Caledonian kind.

A survey published tomorrow will reveal that 300 UFOs are seen in Scotland each year - four times as many as in France and Italy, which appear to be aliens' next favourite destinations. Even New Mexico, home of the Roswell air base and Area 51, where UFO believers insist

that alien corpses were kept and studied by the US government, has seen less activity over the past decade.

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO* magazine, has tried to explain the phenomenon. 'UFOs tend to be attracted to regions that are fairly remote,' he said. 'Plus, if you have a remote area, look out for air bases; Scotland is littered with air bases. In 90 per cent of reports, a bit of diligent research will produce a simple explanation.'

But that leaves 10 per cent unexplained. 'When you think of the number of sightings in Scotland compared to the size of its population, it is phenomenal,' said Ron Halliday, who has written two books on the appearance of UFOs in Scotland.

Yet it is not remote Highland or Borders areas that play host to the visitors. The Nineties saw a sudden surge of sightings in the central Scottish areas of West Lothian and Stirlingshire, particularly around the small town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk. 'The area has become known as the Falkirk triangle,' said Halliday. 'There have been various suggestions as to why it is such a magnet for UFOs. One theory is that the area

near Bonnybridge is a window into another dimension. That would explain why certain people see a UFO and others don't - because a UFO is some kind of paranormal phenomenon, rather than a nuts-and-bolts spaceship.'



UFOs have a fondness for Bonnybridge. Photograph by Gordon Terris

Halliday added that the sightings went beyond strange lights in the sky. Some people had encountered shimmering discs just yards away from their bodies, while others said they had been attacked by UFOs.

The most famous such incident occurred in 1979, when forestry worker Bob Taylor claimed a gang of large shimmering spheres, with spikes protruding from them like naval mines, set upon him. He lived to tell the tale and thousands of reported encounters and UFO spotters followed.

Craig Malcolm has sought a slice of real-life *X-Files* action by taking video footage for six years outside the Forge restaurant in Bonnybridge. While three airports and a gas-flaring oil terminal all lie within a 30-mile radius and offer some explanation for what he shot, footage of a ball of light dog-legging back and forth across a clear sky is nevertheless eerie.

Bonnybridge's status as a UFO capital prompted one councillor to call for it to be twinned with Roswell and plans have been mooted to build a multi-million-pound UFO theme park. Whatever the truth about UFOs, the Falkirk triangle has attracted hundreds of visitors from the US, Japan and England.

UFO group planning conference in county

JOHN SAYER,
Spindle Road,
Norwich.

The Norfolk UFO Society (NUFOS) collects, catalogues and disseminates information on UFO sightings and related phenomena in Norfolk and East Anglia and maintains contact with other groups and individuals interested in these subjects.

Later this year NUFOS, in collaboration with The Cereologist (the Journal for Crop Circle Studies) and the Norfolk branch of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, will be holding a one-day conference on UFOs and crop circles.

Any readers interested in our work, or with information they wish to share with others (especially concerning UFO and crop-circle sightings), should contact our chairman and director of research, Mick Hardy (42 Haslips Close, Norwich NR2 4PX).

For details of NUFOS membership, meetings and events, please contact our secretary and treasurer, John Sayer (17 Spindle Road, Norwich, NR6 6JR).

HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Australia - June 27, 2002 CR: P. Norman

Mystery lights have Victorians asking ...

What is out there?

FORGET about black panther sightings or elusive tasmanian tigers - unexplained lights in the sky have a Victorian community in a stir.

Almost nightly for the past year in a Grampians valley, in the state's west near Stawell, locals have watched in awe as the mysterious lights pulse and hover.

They report that up to 30 lights - mostly white, but some red or yellow - float through the uninhabited valley and silently congregate above the plains.

Australian UFO researchers have sent video footage of the phenomenon to overseas experts.

They have invited a Norwegian UFO expert, who observed similar lights in his own country for three years without finding an answer, to visit the remote valley.

It is also hoped retired NASA scientist Richard Haines will come and view what is described as the most consistent series of unexplained sightings in Australia.

The *Herald Sun* this week visited the valley and photographed a display of several lights.

Cynics will point to weather balloons, fireflies, stars, atmospheric anomalies or hoaxes.

But those are impossible explanations, according to veteran UFO researcher Paul Norman, regarded by enthusiasts as a methodical investigator of strange events.

The weather bureau doesn't use weather balloons in the area and the lights are too low to be stars. Mr Norman said they were too big and bright to radiate from animals or insects.

By MARK DUNN

And atmospheric anomalies or hoaxes are not high on the list because nightly sightings have been reported for a year - regardless of weather conditions or the season.

If they are hoaxes, those responsible are persistent. Mr Norman says the only similar activity to the Grampians mystery is in Norway, where Professor Erling Strand heads the Hessdalen UFO research project.

For more than three years Professor Strand, defence experts and scientists observed lights in the skies above Hessdalen but failed to find the cause.

The lights in the Grampians - also claimed as an area for black panther and, yes, even thylacine (tasmanian tiger) sightings - appear to glow and then pulse in concert.

Stawell abattoir worker Stephen Swanwick stands on the precipice of the valley cliff flicking his torch on and off at the distant lights in the hope they will respond.

Mr Swanwick, 46, said he had visited the site almost every night since June last year after claiming to have seen two large egg-shaped lights floating above the gorge.

He has taken dumbfounded workmates to the ridge to view the spectacle and has reams of video footage. The



Observer: Stephen Swanwick with footage of strange lights near the Grampians. Picture: PAUL TREZISE

burly meatworker also claims to have seen silver disks during the day.

'To me it's simple,' he said. 'To me they are craft not from our planet. I don't care what anyone else says.'

'They light up and you can see their core. They can turn orange, a strong pale yellow or red.'

'A lot of people see these things and don't say anything because they are afraid of being laughed at.'

Local bed-and-breakfast operator Barry Fryar has also seen the lights on four or five occasions since December.

'It looks like they are coming towards you and then they just shoot

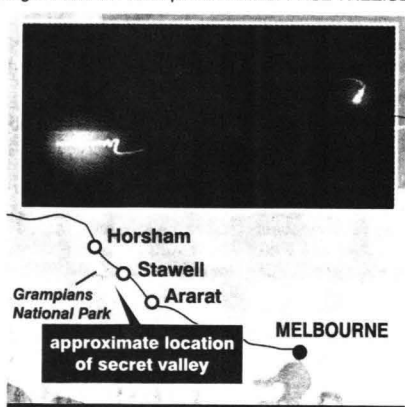
away. I have no idea what they are,' Mr Fryar said.

Armed with a healthy degree of scepticism, *Herald Sun* photographer Paul Trezise and I went to the Grampians earlier this week to see for ourselves.

We watched through binoculars and a high-powered camera lens for almost two hours as the mainly white lights moved across the sky and hovered above the tree line of the ranges.

At one stage, a small red light flew towards a larger companion and disappeared.

We left the Grampians with no understanding of what we had seen.



I WANT you to look at the sky. Stare out into space for a moment. And imagine you see, materialising about 1,000 feet up, a vast craft.

It is silent. It is ablaze with lights along its frame. It is twice the size of a Boeing 747, at least. Maybe it is the length of a football pitch.

And then it streaks away, turning impossibly on its axis to hurtle directly over you with the velocity of a missile from a nuclear silo.

In three seconds it has blasted over the horizon, without making a sound.

You look at your watch, and it has stopped. You look up and down, but there are no other witnesses. What do you do?

Do you wipe it from your mind? Do you rush to phone a friend, or the local TV station? Do you hammer on your neighbours' doors, demanding to know if they saw it too? Do you doubt your own sanity?

Do you tell yourself it was a dream, or a trick of the light? Do you assume it was an alien spaceship? Do you suspect it was some secret military spy-plane?

I know what I would do because, when I was 25 years old, a celebrity in Israel and unknown everywhere else, I saw such a craft.

I was in the Sinai desert, riding in an army command car with three military personnel and an American scientist named Andrija Puharich. I'd done a show for electronic warfare technicians at a secret mountain base, at the personal request of a well-known general, and we were crossing the desert heading back to Tel Aviv at 5.30am.

Very low in the sky, about two miles away, I saw a grey ship with a dull metallic hull that floated silently, casting no shadow.

Joking apart, UFOs are no laughing matter

URI GELLER

NOT BENDING THE TRUTH



Puharich saw it too. I could not ignore it, and I did not doubt my own eyes, but I felt instinctively that the others in the command car were oblivious to this thing.

I asked the driver, "What's that?" and pointed. "A hill," he answered. He was wary, as though I was trying to trick him.

"Above the hill." "That's called 'sky'."

When I didn't laugh, all the army men wanted to know what was so important about that hill.

"I thought," I said with a grin, "maybe there was a UFO!"

My career was damaged

And we all fell about.

That's my answer: if I saw a UFO I'd believe it, but pretend to joke.

Puharich's answer was different: he recorded the incident, exactly as it happened, in my biography. This clearly was not a joke, and the result was catastrophic — the unflinching accounts of 'close encounters' earned the book, simply called 'Uri', international ridicule.

My career was badly damaged. In 1974 UFOs were strictly for nuts.

I have deep admiration for

Officer Craig Stevens of Millstadt Police Department in St. Clair County, Illinois, because recently he faced the same question.

And his answer was to file a report, which his superiors made public, together with a rough sketch and a Polaroid which shows a cluster of lights in a black sky.

Officer Stevens was not the only patrolman to witness the massive, triangular object. Police in nearby Lebanon, Shiloh and Duplo all reported the silent craft, moving slowly and so low that one eyewitness described windows and a dull red glow from within.

Others said it emitted intense white light.

For an hour before dawn the police channels were crackling with reported sightings and incredulous queries.

Over Lebanon, according to Peter Davenport of the US National UFO Reporting Centre, "the object suddenly accelerated quite dramatically, and seemed to streak to the west, covering several miles in just a few seconds".

These officers risked their

jobs to tell the truth as it appeared to them on that icy night.

But would the truth have been plain to anyone looking up, or would some, like the soldiers in that desert car, have seen nothing?

Harvard professor of psychology John Mack suggests our

even phenomena bigger than jumbo jets.

The French military's belief is less esoteric than that. The Institute of Higher Studies for National Defence, including an admiral, airforce generals, the Ministry of the Interior's police chief and the ex-president of the National Space Studies Centre, reported in July that UFOs appear to be real — and could represent a threat to French security.

Citing cast-iron sightings, including reports from military and civil pilots, the Cometa Report was presented to President Chirac and Prime Minister Jospin before its public release.

And you — what would your answer be? Do you believe, with the French, that UFOs are solid machines?

Or with Professor Mack, that some subtlety of the psyche is at work here?

Or would you, as I once did, just try to pass the whole thing off as a joke... and leave the risks to someone else.

● Visit Uri at www.urigeller.com and email him at urigeller@compuserve.com

Paranormal phenomena

brains are like sieves, straining an impression of reality from the world around us.

In different states of consciousness, the holes in the sieve expand and contract, capturing different versions of reality.

In REM sleep, we perceive a very different universe to one we see when we are awake, stressed out and buzzing with caffeine.

And if we are alert and relaxed, in that wonderful state of confident calm when everything is possible, perhaps our minds are refined enough to witness paranormal phenomena —

Unflinching account earned book international ridicule

SOUTH WALES ARGUS, Newport, Gwent, Wales - June 7, 2002

UFO cynic: Now I'm a believer!

By Helen Morgan

A BALL of fire in the night sky over the valleys has prompted one Newbridge "cynic" to consider the possibility that UFOs really do exist.

Fuad Abbas claims he spotted the circle of orange light in the sky between Risca and Newbridge late on Tuesday evening.

Mr Abbas, who lives in Stonewood View, Pantiside, said he was looking out of his window towards Risca at about 10.40pm when he spotted what appeared to be a luminous object about the size of a football.

"I just thought 'what is this?'" he told the Argus yesterday.

"I have always been very sceptical about this sort of thing - now I have seen it with my own eyes."

He said at first he thought the light could be a firework or an aeroplane's rear flame, but did not believe either theory was correct.

He said there was no noise to indicate it may have been either of those explanations.

"For a second the light became intense like a projector then it suddenly zoomed away shrinking very speedily in size and intensity, disappearing completely in about three seconds," he added.

"It was my very first time seeing such a spectacle in my whole life and made me reconsider my earlier attitude towards UFOs."

"I am not sure what it was - but I used to be sceptical as I used to be."

Mr Abbas's two sons Hadeel and Ridwan asked him what he had seen, but the object had disappeared before they could look out.



FUAD ABBAS: He's convinced he saw a UFO from his bedroom window

Blackwood Police said that no reports of any unusual sightings had been reported to them.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, which deals with possible UFO sightings, said anyone who spots anything unusual can report it on a special UFO line on 0207 218 2140.

He added: "We will investigate if we feel there is any merit in following up the sighting."

POST, Birmingham, England - June 24, 2002

Forget Nessie - look out for the aliens

Scotland was yesterday dubbed "the Costa Del Sol for aliens" after coming top of a league table of the world's UFO hotspots.

Researchers have discovered that Scotland has the highest concentration of UFO sightings of any country in the world.

The results, published to coincide with International UFO Day and commissioned by VisitScotland, the country's national tourist body, show that there are 300 reported UFO sightings in Scotland a year — four times as many per square kilometre than France and Italy, who come joint second in the rankings.

Scotland's reputation as a UFO hotspot stems from the early 1990s, when there were

dozens of sightings in and around the village of Bonnybridge in Stirlingshire.

The area quickly became known as the 'Falkirk triangle' and there were also more sightings in nearby West Lothian.

Bonnybridge councillor Billy Buchanan even called for a UFO visitors' centre to be built in the village to cash in on the phenomenon.

Stirling-based UFO expert Ron Halliday, author of the books *UFO Scotland* and *UFOs: The Scottish Dimension*, explained why he thought there were so many strange sightings in the Bonnybridge area in particular. He said: "One theory is that the area around Bonnybridge is some kind of window into another dimension."

"That would explain why some people see a UFO and others don't — because a UFO is some kind of paranormal phenomenon rather than a nut and bolts spaceship."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO* magazine, offered another

explanation as to why Scotland has become a UFO hotspot.

He said: "UFOs tend to be attracted to regions that are fairly remote. Plus, if you have a remote area, look out for airbases — Scotland is littered with airbases."

Scotland world capital of . . . UFO sightings

LONDON Want to see a flying saucer? Then come to Scotland.

The country — better known as the home of the legendary Loch Ness monster — has the highest concentration of UFO sightings on the planet, according to figures released early today.

Around 300 Unidentified Flying Objects are spotted in Scotland each year, the most per square kilometre and per head of population of anywhere in the world, figures compiled by Scotland's official tourist body found.

VisitScotland said 0.004 UFOs were spotted for every square kilometre of Scotland — a rate four times as high as in France or Italy, this planet's other UFO hotspots. The 2,000 UFOs are spotted every year in the United States represent just 0.0002 sightings per square kilometre.

There was one UFO sighting per 17,000 inhabitants in Scotland compared to one per 61,200 in Canada, and one per 136,450 in the United States.

"Traditionally, Scotland has had a lot of odd incidents, right through history, from ghosts and poltergeists to supernatural beings and the Loch Ness monster. So, Scotland is well-known as a place where strange things happen," said Ron Halliday, author of *UFO Scotland*.

Others had a less dramatic explanation.

"UFOs tend to be attracted to regions that are fairly remote. Plus if you have a remote area, look out for airbases; Scotland is littered with them," Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO* magazine, said. "In 90 per cent of UFO reports a bit of diligent research will produce a simple explanation."

Reuters

METRO TODAY, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - June 24, 2002 CR: G. Duplantier

B.C. is Canada's UFO hot spot

BY SCOTT EDMONDS
The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — From a strange funnel of fire in Alberta to a triangle of light flying over Sydney, N.S., reports of unidentified flying objects increased a staggering 42 per cent last year in Canada.

"We're not sure (why)," said researcher Chris Rutkowski, one of the authors of the annual Canadian survey of UFO reports.

"We're thinking that perhaps more people are seeing something that's really there or perhaps more people are aware of how or whether they should report things."

The trend started well before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 in the U.S., so that has been ruled out as a factor.

For the first time, researchers also tied reports to cities and found that Vancouver and Ottawa topped the list with 17 and 15 reports respectively.

Once again, British Columbia was the best place to be in Canada to spot a UFO. The province accounted for 123 of the 374 reported sightings and has led the country consistently since 1999.

Ontario was next with 87 sightings and Alberta was third with 40 reports.

"All of the cases got some degree of investigation by researchers in various parts of the country," said Rutkowski, who works at the University of Manitoba.

"About 15 per cent were left unexplained. The rest either had explanations or we didn't have enough information to make an evaluation."

Included on the list of the unexplained was the fire funnel that left a crater more than 30 metres wide in a field near Etzikom, Alta.

"Some astronomers and experts in meteorites investigated and decided that it wasn't (a meteorite)."

A number of sightings were reported in the sparsely populated North.

"There was a cigar-shaped object that hopped as it flew, rather than flew regularly, over Whitehorse," said Rutkowski. It was seen at 10:30 a.m. and left a vapour trail as it moved across the sky, disappeared behind a mountain and then returned.

"Pilots flying a supply plane in Nunavut saw a stationary light (hovering) over the ground in an area that's uninhabited and they couldn't explain it."

Other sightings included:

- Six orange objects spotted flying in V formation over Portage la Prairie, Man.
- A luminous object that hung in the sky over Hull, Que., for two consecutive nights before appearing to explode.
- Airline pilots flying over Craik, Sask., who saw what they thought were the lights of another aircraft until they were told by air traffic controllers that there was no other plane on radar.
- Three dots of white light that "played tag" with each other over Richmond.



Caleb Bickford, 8, and his sister Caitlin, 13, walk around in one of seven crop circles found on their parents' farm east of Red Deer, Alta. in this Sept. 17, 2001, file photo. Many UFO enthusiasts believe the mysterious crop circles are not created by hoaxers as scientists say, but by flying saucers. File

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - March 1, 2002 CR: G. Conway

The big question: are UFOs real?

By JULIUS DEBUSCHEWITZ

In the last 11 monthly columns, I have attempted to present a good cross-section of UFO sighting reports in the Yukon. The sightings ranged from the short glimpse to the dramatically detailed ones.

Consequently, the reports mirrored those events as well as the observational skills of the witnesses. Given the climate of disbelief, it is gratifying to receive as many reports as we do. No doubt, many sightings are dismissed as freak occurrences by witnesses or are never reported because of the attached stigma.

Let's examine that problem for a moment. As you have seen, sighting investigators always attempt to first come up with a plausible explanation for a UFO sighting.

The investigation is based on an effort to eliminate all known or reasonable explanations. In other words, an investigator will go to great lengths to establish the fact that the UFO was not an aircraft, a weather balloon, nor a natural phenomenon of some sort. This is done by contacting the authorities regarding aircraft traffic and balloon launchings.

In addition, experts in a given field are contacted for clarification (as was done with the unidentified flying sound in the Wolf Creek subdivision by consulting a local ornithologist). Moreover, reports are often made or passed along to the police or the Department of National Defence.

The latter is less than helpful in trying to sort out known phenomena from UFOs. No government agency is keen



UFO YUKON

on discussing possible secret tests of as yet publicly-unknown aircraft, but rejecting sighting claims out of hand is not helpful at all; nor is the habit of heavily censoring UFO sighting reports.

Yes, we all know this has happened in the U.S., but it might surprise readers that our own federal government follows suit.

The UFO Yukon Research Society has managed to secure a number of sighting records on microfiche from the federal government, a large portion of which was so heavily censored as to be useless for any serious investigative effort.

Many people dismiss UFO sightings as figments of the imagination. The reason for doing that has, I believe, to do with the fact that these individuals themselves have never witnessed one.

Hence they simply do not believe because they have never seen. Understandable, perhaps, but those same individuals agree with medical science that

the common cold is caused by a virus, or that certain infections are caused by bacteria. Why? Have they ever seen a virus or bacterium?

Indeed, if you follow the reasoning that one can only believe what one sees, then it must be true that viruses and bacteria were non-existent prior to the microscope's invention. I remind you of a comment by C.W. Leadbeater: "It is the commonest of mistakes to consider that the limit of our power to perceive is also the limit of all there is to perceive."

Others believe that UFO sightings are real, but that they can always be explained as natural phenomena. The argument goes that witnesses do indeed see something, but that this "something" is always explainable by known scientific facts.

Of course, many — though not all — scientists argue exactly that point. While one can understand that attitude in lay people, it is inexcusable in scientists.

After all, we depend on scientists to figure out the unusual or unknown for us. Physicists in particular should be taking a much more enlightened view, since it is their branch of science that is at the brink of a totally new way of thinking.

As Gary Zukav points out in *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*: "Common-sense contradictions, in fact, are at the heart of the new physics. They tell us

again and again that the world may not be what we think it is. It may be much, much more."

I urge all readers to keep an open mind about what may or may not be "real."

This is my last UFO column. While I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the sighting reports with you, I have decided to focus my attention on a number of other subjects.

This does not mean, however, that the UFO Research Society will cease to exist. Much important work needs yet to be done.

Indeed, the society is alive and well. It is the proud recipient of The Yukon Foundation's Klondike Defense Force Fund and will host the second annual UFO Conference at the Alpine Bakery on March 9, 2002 at 7 p.m.

Seats are limited, and tickets can be bought in advance at Pure Essence (Shopper's Plaza) for \$5 each.

Meanwhile, keep reporting those UFO sightings, no matter how strange they may seem.

And in the words of one of our founding members, "Keep looking up, wayyy up!"

To report a sighting or for more information, call 456-2468. Outside Whitehorse, call toll-free 1-866-733-8367.

XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, China - June 19, 2002

Chinese Scientists to Head for Suspected ET Relics

DELINGHA (QINGHAI), June 19 (Xinhuanet) — A group of nine Chinese scientists will go to west China's Qinghai Province this month to closely examine the relics thought by some to have been left by extraterrestrial beings (ET).

It will be the first time scientists seriously study the mysterious site near Delingha City in the depths of the Quidam Basin, according to government sources with the Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, where Delingha is located.

The site, known by local people as "the ET relics," is on Mount Baigong about 40 kilometers to the southwest of Delingha City.

On the north of the mountain are twin lakes dubbed as the "lover Lakes," one with fresh water and the other with salty water.

The so-called ET relics structure is located on the south bank of the salty lake. It looks like a pyramid and is between 50 to 60 meters high.

At the front of the pyramid are three caves with triangular openings. The cave in the middle is the biggest, with its floor standing two meters above the ground and its top eight meters above the ground.

This cave is about six meters in depth. Inside there is a half-pipe about 40 centimeters in diameter tilting from the top to the inner end of the cave. Another pipe of the same diameter goes into the earth with only its top visible above the ground.

Above the cave are a dozen pipes of various diameters which run into the mountain.

All the pipes are red brownish, the same color as that of surrounding rocks.

The two smaller caves have collapsed and are inaccessible.

Scattered about the caves and on the bank of the salty lake area are a large number of rusty scraps, pipes of various diameters and strangely shaped stones. Some of the pipes run into the lake.

According to Qin Jianwen, head of the publicity department of the Delingha government, the scraps were once taken to a local smelter for analysis.

The result shows that they are made up of 30 percent ferric oxide with a large amount of silicon dioxide and calcium oxide. Eight percent of the content could not be identified.

The large content of silicon dioxide and calcium oxide is a result of long interaction between iron and sandstone, which means the pipes must be very old," said Liu Shaolin, the engineer who did the analysis.

"This result has made the site even more mysterious," Qin said. "Nature is harsh here. There are no residents, let alone modern industry in the area, only a few migrant herdsmen to the north of the mountain."

Someone has suggested that the site might have been a launch tower left by ET.

The area is high in altitude, with thin and transparent air. It is an ideal place to practice astronomy, Qin said.

In fact, the Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has a large radio telescope just 70 kilometers from the site.

Yang Ji, a research fellow at the observatory, said he hypothesizes of ET relics is understandable and worth looking into.

"But scientific means must be employed to prove whether or not it is true," he added.

TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual translators will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from Argentina newspapers and other media sources.]

April 29, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — MUTILATED CATTLE FOUND IN ARGENTINA — Salliquelo — A few days ago, strange lights appeared in the night skies over Salliquelo, Province of Buenos Aires, and in the morning, cattle ranchers of the area found three mutilated bovines showing signs of having undergone a surgical intervention with unusual implements. A veterinarian told local media that the incisions "are strange ones in which some sort of heating element appears to have been used."

The news was broadcast at the national level on Saturday through Cronica TV, which took images from the local cable access channel, showing images of the animals and a technician named Daniel, who analyzed one of the cases, providing details on the strange event. According to the televised report, the animals were found by the owners of rural premises near Salliquelo, a small city located some 80 miles east of the Pampan locality of Anchorena, after "strange lights" were reported in the sky.

These bovine deaths were attested to by local police. A veterinarian inspected the abnormal carcasses, "They present strange cuts, as though resulting from an intense heat source. The skin is burned along the edges of the cuts, and the absence of blood in veins, muscles and ligaments is simply desiccated." He said, "It's as though you were cutting a piece of paper with a hot wire—the edges become dry, scorched and thinner. Furthermore, all traces of blood vanished. We only found some coagulated remains in the heart."

Daniel told the Salliquelo TV that unusual cuts can be seen in the animals' bodies and heads. "One of them shows a perfectly straight cut on one mandible. Furthermore, its tongue is missing, along with most of the alimentary tract, larynx, pharynx and saliva glands. The outer ear is completely missing. Another curious incision appears on the body (ribs and abdomen) which is teardrop-shaped through which genitalia was extracted," he explained. "It is a strange circumstance, since there are no signs that the animal put up a fight, nor is there any evidence of scorched pastureland. I'm not saying that this is the handiwork of alien beings, but it's a strange circumstance, nonetheless. Even the other animals refuse to come close to the dead ones, and curiosity is a characteristic element of bovines," he concluded.

Intense bright lights were filmed over Argentina on April 18, 2002 by Ricardo E. D'Angelo. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 6, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — ANOTHER DEAD COW FOUND IN THE QUEHUE REGION — GENERAL ACHA (DNA) — Another cow was found mysteriously slain in a field of the Quehue Region. The event occurred this time at the "La Gilardina" rural establishment, located approximately 10 kilometers south of this locality. The animal was missing certain organs as in earlier cases, which now add up to more than ten. In an interview with *La Arena*, the officer in charge of the Quehue police station, Julio Acosta, stated that at 18:30 hours on Tuesday, Angel Junco, the foreman of "La Gilardina," reported having found a dead cow that was white and drained of blood, missing the right half of its jaw, tongue, right eye and all of its udders. But unlike other cases, the animal had been completely hollowed out, because its lungs were also missing.

According to the information provided by Acosta, the event would have taken place in the early morning hours on Tuesday, since Junco had been roaming the premises the day before and didn't come across anything unusual. The police investigation was under the command of Quehue deputy sheriff Julio Acosta, from the police station located along provincial route 18. Meanwhile, a resident of Quehue reported that at 22:30 hours on Monday night, when the event would have taken place, he had witnessed several intense lights in the vicinity of "La Gilardina." — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 6, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — STRANGE DWARF REPORTED IN CATTLE MUTE AREA — GENERAL ACHA (DNA) — The presence of a "dwarf" or "green midget" wandering the backyards of many neighborhoods in General Acha has been the latest subject of conversation. It appears to be a short, green entity which runs away with haste when detected. A resident of the El Oeste neighborhood informed this newspaper that the entity appeared twice on her property: once in the morning and once in the afternoon. According to the woman, her husband was resting on both occasions, but when he reported to the backyard in response to his wife's screams, the mysterious entity vanished by rapidly climbing up a tree. While the man did not see the "dwarf," he gives his spouse the benefit of the doubt, stating that he has known her for 40 years and can vouch for her physical and mental health. All versions agree in that the entity is short in stature. Another resident added that it moved so quickly that it was hard to describe it. The fact is that this entity, described as "a green dwarf," is causing a stir in the city and its manifestations have been the subject of conversation in certain circles. The stories have already captivated radio audiences and interest and curiosity for the subject increase as time goes by. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 11, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — FIVE COWS FOUND DEAD UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AT CUCHILLO-CO — GENERAL ACHA (DNA) — Five cows were found dead this past weekend in a field of the Cuchillo-Co region. The animals' lifeless bodies were missing organs and their mysterious deaths were added to the more than ten cases that still perplex police officers and veterinarians involved in investigating these events. The Aberdeen Angus cows were found at the "La Sierra" rural establishment, owned by Gregoria Echavez, located on Lot 24, some 150 kilometers west of General Acha. Police sources informed *La Arena* on Sunday that Maria Alejandra Veralli had filed a complaint after receiving a telephone call from her sister, discussing the fact that the deaths of five bovines had been ascertained, and some of them were missing vital organs. The police undertook the pertinent action and reported the event to the 2nd Duty Court. Subsequently, for reasons of jurisdiction, the police report was forwarded to the Cuchillo-Co sheriff's office, given that the field is located on Routes 28 and 13. This weekend's finds were added to the rest of the cases which have kept police and veterinarians on edge. Readers will recall that cows slain under strange circumstances were found in the fields of Macachin, Salliquelo (province of Buenos Aires), Bernasconi, Jacinto Arauz, Villa Iris and the General Acha region. In all of these cases, the animals had been rendered bloodless and presented incisions made by high-precision instruments which are unknown to parties conducting the investigation. The shroud of

mystery is further thickened by the fact that in the hours prior to one of these discoveries, strange lights were seen in the vicinity. The authorities are already researching these cases, but no answers have been found up to now. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 13, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — STRANGE CATTLE DEATHS — TWO MORE CASES IN SANTA ROSA AND TOAY — It doesn't involve the enigmatic "Yeti" or the renowned Loch Ness monster. It is a strange event closer to home: "the dead cows lacking organs or blood" which have flourished throughout the province and astonished many, without any explanation having been found for such a singular phenomenon. Farm animals near Santa Rosa had their turn now, and not only did the provincial police become involved, but professionals from the National University of La Pampa involved themselves to perform analyses. There are two deaths near this capital city which can be added to the twenty uncanny bovine deaths in the province. Yesterday, from Regional Unit I, it was learned that there was another case in addition to the one reported by *La Arena* on Tuesday, and with more spectacular details: in a field belonging to the Stock Capella family, located at Km 126 on Route 14, scant kilometers from Toay, a heifer was found with a large portion of its head burned off "as though by a fire," and the animal's sexual organ removed "as if by surgery." But it isn't all animal flesh: workers, neighbors and other witnesses to the case claim having seen "the strangest lights in the sky, which look like UFOs—unidentified flying objects—and burned holes around the heifer." It must now be determined if its organs and blood are still present. — THE FIRST LOCAL CASE — The first case to appear in the vicinity of the capital city was in the San Jorge field of the Campo Lagos region, 18 kilometers to the northwest, and according to police sources, both cases occurred the same day. Owner Claudio Ferrero, found a nine-month-old cow dead some 11 days ago. This Monday, he found that its face and neck were missing flesh and its sexual organs had been removed.

The site was visited yesterday by Police officers from Regional Unit I and the Second Section, along with a team from the Criminalistics division. Heading this group were the chief of the capital area, Sheriff Hector Garcia, and the officer in charge of the 2nd Section, Nestor Garcia. — THE VETERINARIANS — Camcorder in hand, the authorities followed the autopsy performed by a team from the School of Veterinary Medicine of UNLPam in the cold morning air. The autopsy team, which arrived from General Pico, consisted of veterinarians Alberto Parani, Jorge Dubani and Abel Herrera, who conducted an on-site visual inspection. The experts took samples, opened the cow, and finally removed its head. They found that the animal's face was missing its muscles, along with the musculature of the neck. Furthermore, a hole was discovered in the animal's hindquarters through which its genitals were extracted. The animal's face "looked as though it had been burned," and according to Ferrero, two strange incisions were noted on an ear and on the neck. Despite the fact that the bovine died several weeks ago, it was discovered this Monday with the strange marks, which caused him to alert the authorities. — THE HYPOTHESES ADD UP — But on this occasion, the telltale signs found in other strange animal deaths were not found: the animal had its full complement of organs and blood. There were some bite marks in evidence, but no predators were seen nearby, according to the field's owner. While veterinarians noted that the culprit could be animal, they were startled to see the cutting and perfect degloving of the jaw, as well as the hole in the cow's hindquarters, aside from the absence of blood in its surroundings. There is no dearth of hypotheses: ranging from the "official" explanation of a lightning bolt, which did not catch on: an undetermined illness; a predator, although the incisions do not correspond to any known ones; clandestine poaching, although the characteristic cuts of this activity are missing, and even ufologists have tried to see strange operations in these deaths. Since May 15th, when the first dead bovine was found with alarming signs — missing viscerae, organs, blood and facial musculature — in Macachin, there have been 18 more cases in the province: eight at General Acha, five at Cuchillo-Co, four in Jacinto Arauz, one in Quehue and now one in Santa Rosa. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Proyecto CATENT and Gloria Coluchi

June 14, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — MYSTERY IN LA PAMPA OVER MUTILATED CATTLE — FURTHER CASES IN MACACHIN AND RIVERA — MACACHIN (Agencia) — It became known on Wednesday that several cows had been found dead under mysterious circumstances in fields of the Rivera and Macachin regions, showing incisions and removal of organs. One of the affected parties showed this newspaper a videotape and explained that he had found a dead cow whose organs had been removed through incisions, showing "evident signs of cauterization." One of the new cases in the hitherto unexplained wave of bovine deaths through mutilation was recorded last weekend on the property owned by the Diez family in Arano, a property some 20 km west of Rivera. On Wednesday, the landowner's son showed *La Arena* a video and explained his experience. "My father found the dead animal last Saturday and discussed it in the afternoon upon his return. We immediately went back with a friend and saw that it had several strange incisions whose edges showed signs of an intense heat which cauterized the wound." According to the young man and what appears on the videotape, the cow presents a perfectly round mark around its ocular cavity, from which the orb was completely missing. It also had incisions on the upper and lower maxilla; the tongue had been cut out "with signs of high temperature." Another incision began in the abdominal area and progressed toward the tail, where it was perfectly skinned back, revealing the absence of mammary glands, reproductive organs, anus and intestines. However, the most curious detail was that a veterinarian took an interest in the case and was authorized to visit the site on Monday. Oddly, he informed the Diez family that the animal's left ear had been cleanly cut away with signs of heat manipulation, despite the fact that the ear could be clearly seen in the videotape. — MORE CASES — Another strange case was recorded on the property of Macachin-area cattleman Pedro Miller, located some 15 km southeast of Macachin. The police paid a cursory visit to the site, accompanied by a veterinarian. The animal, a red heifer, was found dead in a strange position: spread out on its four extremities. It also betrayed the customary incisions in the mouth area and the ears. Finally, a new case emerged last week on a field belonging to the Kuperschmidt family, some 15 km south of Rivera, where the strange events affected three steers. The reports were confirmed by the local headquarters of the Prov. of Buenos Aires police, although no official action was taken. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 15, 2002 — *Nuevo Dia*, Coronel Suarez, Prov. of Buenos Aires — ANIMAL MUTILATIONS: Veterinarian Who Examined First Case Believes Culprits Arrived by Air — Doctor Daniel Belot, a SENASA Technician in Salliquelo, doesn't believe in Chupacabras, but has never seen anything like it. He was the veterinarian who analyzed the first animal mutilation in the area, in Salliquelo. He has examined over a dozen cases for which he can find no explanation, and is disconcerted. He does not believe in the intervention of any agencies other than human, but he discards nothing in the light of the magnitude of what he has observed. He is convinced that the perpetrators arrived by aerial means and is certain that the animals were slain elsewhere and subsequently dumped in the field. He asks that all strange animal deaths be reported promptly. Dr. Belot is startled, moved and disoriented by the sudden appearance of mutilated animals throughout the region. In spite of his considerable professional experience, Belot, who is a technician for SENASA, claims having never seen anything similar and believes that only those who have seen any such case can understand the magnitude of the

events. The expert has been asked to analyze over a dozen cases, and common patterns appear in all of them to which no explanation can be found. Although he is unwilling to forecast the events, he is certain that more cases will only confuse him more, rather than clarifying matters. The near-certainty that the perpetrator arrives by air, and the certainty that the deaths have occurred 3 to 4 days earlier at a location other than where the carcasses were found only adds to the state of confusion. His account of the facts and some of his interpretations merit analysis, since he is an acknowledged professional with a solid reputation throughout the region, aside from being an official for a national delegation of SENASA, with the added responsibility and weight that this fact adds to his pronouncements. Dr. Belot urged our region's cattlemen to report any anomalous case immediately, since he believes that the sooner investigations take place, there is a greater possibility of reaching a solution, which is hitherto completely unknown. Belot began his story by recalling that "the cattleman told me he had a dead animal in a field and his attention had been drawn to the fact that [the animal] seemed to be skinned to the bone on one side, which I thought was impossible, because it was something I wasn't familiar with, something utterly abnormal. For that reason, I told him that some animal must have eaten it, which the cattleman completely rejected, saying that no animal eats in a straight line. Therefore, I resolved to go and see what was going on." "I was confronted by an unnerving sight," the professional told *Nuevo Dia*, stressing that "those who haven't seen it cannot understand the magnitude of the situation." Belot explained that "the animal lay on the ground like a hare, and the entire left side of its face was skinned to the bone beneath the eye. All of its molars were visible. When we performed the necropsy, we found that it was missing its tongue, all of its vocal apparatus, which is to say the larynx and part of the pharynx, and something very odd: there was no blood inside or outside of the animal. It was perfectly clean. That came as an enormous surprise for us." He confirmed that there was no tearing [of flesh] of any kind on the animal, therefore discarding the likelihood that predators would have attacked it. "It is a deed that appears to have been carried out by humans, but even so, it's something very hard to do." When asked if he was able to come up with any explanation whatsoever, Dr. Belot confessed that "my curiosity has not yet been sated, since I've sent samples to the University of Buenos Aires' School of Pathology and the only response I've received is that how the incisions were made cannot be determined." The professional stated that he did not establish the animal's cause of death, going as far as to state that blood samples taken from other animals to detect strange substances "have yielded no results so far. The ones I have received confirm that there is nothing strange in the [animals'] blood." Belot, who has analyzed over a dozen of these mutilation cases, remarked that vital organs were missing in most of them. In the first case, which is the one I'm discussing here, the animal was missing all of its maxillaries, but others were missing testicles and penises, others were missing ears, others were missing mammary glands, and still others were missing rectums and vaginas. All of this suggests some kind of scientific research, but don't ask me why a scientist is going to conduct research in the middle of different farms without asking for permission, because I can't imagine why." Belot reiterated his astonishment as to the absence of tracks around the mutilated animals, wondering how it is possible "for no other animal to come near." When Dr. Daniel Belot reached the first animal he inspected, it had been dead for 3 or 4 days, a situation which has repeated itself in many of the cases he analyzed. "In many cases they were not yet bloated and did not give off any odor. In others, they presented normal alterations, which increases the uncertainty." The cases observed by the SENASA technician occurred in the Salliquelo region, but were later extended to Casbas and Guamini. Belot acknowledged that in recent days, he learned of the Chupacabras legend. While not dismissing it, he is not a believer. "The facts occurred, they are very strange and cannot be disputed, but I don't know what to attribute them to. I wouldn't want to chance it." The professional does not recall having seen perfectly circular burned grass spots or any alterations near the mutilated animals, as other experts have stated, explaining that "the only mark I saw around the animals within a ten meter radius, is that the grass has continued to grow [...], but no animal will step into that circle, despite the fact that the grass is in good shape." Two months after the first discovery, Belot points out that "after some time, the dead animals have already been attacked by predators. But until recently, they wouldn't come close." Regarding the behavior of the herd's other members, the veterinarian noted that "they appear indifferent, looking from a distance without coming close. What is commonly seen in the countryside is that the rest of the animals sort of 'mourn' the deceased animal, and that has not occurred in this case." The professional further emphasized that "the animals were killed elsewhere and dumped there, and that indication I'm inferring from the way in which the carcasses have been positioned." — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 15, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — The Toll of Dead and Mutilated Cows Near La Adela Rises to 11 — A NEW MUTILATION CASE IS REPORTED — LA ADELA (From our office in Rio Colorado) — Another bovine found dead under mysterious circumstances was added to the ten found only a few days ago in the same field of the Pampan community of La Adela. This has caused growing concern among cattlemen, police officials and the population in general. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 15, 2002 — www.eldiariodelapampa.com.ar/provinciales.htm — COW MUTILATED IN BIZARRE FASHION AT LA ARANA — "Circle of yellow grass 20 meters wide was found" — La Arana (special correspondent) — "The boss said he didn't want to see it because it gave him chills. I brought people to see it, since I couldn't believe it. I wanted others to see that this isn't normal," says Jose Ibarra, still showing signs of the amazement he felt at finding a dead steer on Saturday 6/1, showing signs similar to those found in other parts of the province during events that began in early April. Ibarra is the foreman, for the past 9 months, of the "Las Tranqueras" farm (Km 125, Rt. 14, in the vicinity of La Arana), owned by Luis Stock Capella. On that Saturday, during his morning tour of inspection, he found a 400 kg. steer dead, missing several organs from its body, but astonishingly, without a trace of blood or any tracks whatsoever. To add to the strangeness, when a team of policemen and veterinarians from the Faculty of General Pico reached the field and took samples, [the carcass] showed no signs of putrefaction. "When I found it, there was a circle of yellow grass measuring some 20 meters. What drew my attention the most was the color of the grass. I surveyed the field to see if there were signs of people or cars, and I found nothing. Here you have to drive in along the house and there are no tracks...or you have to come in by air," he adds. The animal was missing part of its nose, its jawbone, tongue, jugular vein and reproductive organs. However, there were no signs of resistance from the beast. "It was lying down. And it didn't kick or anything, because a kicking animal tears up clumps of sod," explained the foreman. "This I couldn't believe, because I hadn't seen it before. Now one has to believe or bust. This is something strange, something abnormal," he repeats. It is also curious that for an entire week, no animal came near the dead cow. "It's strange because as a rule, other cows come close and start mooing. The vultures didn't come near for a week. Only now have they begun to eat it," says Ibarra. Faithful to his "see to believe" philosophy, he reflects as the conclusion of the fantastic experience: "Some say a flying saucer did this, but we'll have to see..." — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 15, 2002 — *El Diario*, La Pampa, Argentina — STRANGE LIGHTS OCCUR AT MUTE SITES — Tonight, in the rural region of Ataliva Roca, a group of people involved in the study of the UFO phenomenon shall conduct a sky-watch in order to determine if activity in the region has increased and establish some kind of hypotheses that relates this to the discovery of dead and mutilated animals throughout the province. This is what local ufologist Oscar Alfredo Mario said yesterday, assuring that strange lights have been seen at the locations where the cattle mutes have occurred. The strange deaths began in early April. There were some cases in Buenos Aires. The first case in La Pampa was in Macachin. The count has since exceeded 20 such deaths. Ten cows were found dead in La Adela alone. "Veterinarians have established that the animals have no conventional wounds, nor have their organs been removed in a conventional manner," adds Mario. The ufologist also mentioned that the Police considered taking precautions upon approaching the dead animals, since some kind of unknown radiation could be involved and could have subsequent effects on humans. "We have eyewitness accounts from local cattlemen who have seen strange lights at night. One farmer claims having seen a vehicle in the rural area of Ataliva Roca only a few days ago," he disclosed. "In areas in which animals have been found dead, we have records of strange lights seen at night. At [the town of] Remeco in 1999, one cattleman claimed seeing two objects in the wilderness 43 nights in a row. This gives us an idea as to the permanent and fluid activity of these unknown phenomena." — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 15, 2002 — *Diario Rio Negro Online*, Argentina — Mutilated Cows Died Painlessly: Astonishment on the Rise — None of them presented gunshot wounds nor piercing incisions. There is considerable fear and doubt among the population. "Intelligence played a role in this," said one veterinarian. There are too many questions, and mystery continues to enshroud the discovery of mutilated cows in the province of La Pampa. Up until yesterday, the dead animals missing certain parts of their bodies, such as tongues, udders, anuses and eyes, had been tallied at 20. It was possible to determine that the animals died painlessly, apparently without suffering, and none of them presented signs of having been shot nor stabbed, although this does not clarify the real cause of these deaths. Furthermore, under no circumstances did the cows bleed to death. Given the evidence on site, the cattle offered no resistance—had they done so, tracks would have been found and some muscular contraction would have been evident [in the carcasses]. But that did not occur in these cases. Experts are certain that the animals died in the very same field in which they were found and could hardly have been dragged there, since the lightest of them weighed 350 kilograms and, second, because no vehicle tracks were found on site. Yesterday, all eyes were on the Pampan veterinarians working on the case, who were nevertheless unable to come up with an explanation for many of the aspects surrounding these mysterious deaths. One of them opined that within this field, there does not exist the technology to perform the almost perfect work evinced in the cattle mutilations. As this newspaper was able to ascertain, both in La Adela (where the latest findings occurred), as well as in other communities, two opposite perspectives have come up: many people fear the unknown while others took the matter lightly. The fact remains that 20 cows are now dead. Yesterday, Jose Casiavillani, a veterinarian from the municipality of La Adela, who performed the necropsy on the cows, was interviewed by Radio Manantial's "Antes que Nada" program. The following is the dialogue between the interviewer and the professional: Interviewer: "The subject has no explanation to us, the laymen, but does it also pose a mystery to you, the expert?" Veterinarian: "That is the case, at least up to now. The field I surveyed yesterday and the day before contains the most numerous cases, there were 11 dead animals and not 10, as originally believed. They were all in the same field." Interviewer: "How long ago did these deaths occur?" Veterinarian: "Possibly Saturday or Sunday. It turns out that the claim was only made on Tuesday and the visit was made on Wednesday. I travelled approximately 5 kilometers, starting at the farmhouse and plunging into the countryside and the cases began to appear, all of them following the same pattern, which we could define as a circle, if it were possible to see it from above." Interviewer: "Arranged in a circle?" Veterinarian: "Yes. It begins some 50 meters away from the farmhouse with four dead animals." Interviewer: "50 meters away from an occupied house?" Veterinarian: "Yes, but at that time, the person in charge of the property wasn't in. So it was that when he returned, he was confronted by this scene, got on his horse, toured the field and came across more dead animals. These cases are very particular, almost inexplicable, because they show a kind of cauterized cut. No hemorrhage occurs when the incision is made." Interviewer: "You, sir, are a veterinarian. Is it possible to do it as it was done?" Veterinarian: "Well, it's possible, but not with field elements. It involves technology, such as an electric scalpel that cuts and cauterizes at the same time." Interviewer: "Was there an abundance of blood?" Veterinarian: "No, not in the cut itself, and that drew my attention. All of the animals are missing an eye, for example—the one that's clearly visible, because the animal was left laying on its side." Interviewer: "How were the cows slain?" Veterinarian: "They don't have gunshot wounds or signs of piercing or perforation." Interviewer: "So what could have caused their deaths?" Veterinarian: "That's the unanswered question. The animals' death is sudden. One knows when an animal is agonizing because it kicks around and leaves traces on the ground. It was the first thing we veterinarians notice when we visit a field to determine how an animal was slain." Interviewer: "They died where they were found?" Veterinarian: "Evidently so. There are no tracks of any kind—human, animal or vehicular." Interviewer: "What do these animals weigh?" Veterinarian: "From 350 kg upward. These are cows which could not have been moved in any way. There are no bulls among the slain." Interviewer: "Were the udders severed?" Veterinarian: "Yes, in a very dramatic way. Cows have four nipples and four mammary glands. We found udders in which a circular cut around the nipple was made. Only one nipple and the gland corresponding to it were extracted, but the rest was untouched. The farmhands who surveyed the field, and are good at the task, were unable to find any tracks. Cows, while not given to attacking and considered harmless to everyone, tend to flee when they see or hear something strange. In these cases, fear overwhelms their curiosity and they take off." Interviewer: "Do cows defend themselves when attacked?" Veterinarian: "Yes, and that's another mystery. That's why I said that there is intelligence at work here, because, how does one reach the site of the latest events without leaving traces? This field is in a dirt road area, and from that route to the field, there is a five kilometer distance, and then a circular route of another five kilometers. It is very hard for one or several persons to catch a cow in the wild. Cows are very slippery; if they hear or see something strange, they tend to flee." Interviewer: "Was there any blood in the field?" Veterinarian: "No, and unlike other cases, there was blood in the animal—in the heart and throughout the circulatory system." Interviewer: "How long was the watchman away from the house?" Veterinarian: "He was on the farm up 'til Friday, and spent Saturday and Sunday in town. He had never seen anything that made him feel suspicious. The watchman could not imagine the scope of what was happening, and when he came across one of the animals, began to butcher it to feed the dogs, but the dogs refused to eat the meat. None of the dead animals are eaten by other carrion beasts." Interviewer: "Are you afraid?" Veterinarian: "No, not at all." The fact is that this newspaper ascertained yesterday that surprise and fear of the unknown was in evidence throughout the region. — TRANSLATION CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi



SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
June 25, 2002 CR: G. Conway



Caddy hunter Jason Walton with a mockup of a Cadborosaurus head.

Tracking Caddy the sea serpent and a few of his monstrous pals

By MARKE ANDREWS

Scotland's Nessie and British Columbia's Ogopogo have had the spotlight too long. It's time for a new sea monster to rise from the depths.

Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for Caddy!

Caddy is the nickname of Cadborosaurus, a sea serpent who, if you can believe eyewitnesses, raises his horse-like head in Cadboro Bay, just outside Victoria. The sea serpent is one of three mysterious creatures profiled by Vancouver documentarists Sheera and Peter von Puttkamer in hour-long episode two of *Monster Hunters*, a two-show series on The Learning Channel.

Unlike most monster legends, Cadborosaurus has actually left evidence of his existence. In 1937, a serpent-like creature with the head of a horse was found in a whale's belly. The photograph of this partly digested critter appears often in *Monster Hunters*, and, as they used to say in the sci-fi B-movies of the 1950s, it's not of this world.

Eyewitnesses assert that Caddy is of this world. One woman, on a leisurely stroll in the woods near Deep Cove, Victoria, claims to have come eyeball-to-eyeball with the big fellow on dry land. In a flash, he slid away into the bay.

"Not only could I see it, I could smell it," says the woman. "And it left a funny taste in my mouth, kind of metallic."

Most other sightings came from a distance, which skeptics dismiss as mistaken identity, the real culprit being a seal or a log.

How, then, could the skeptics explain that photograph, which the von Puttkamers show throughout the 20-minute segment?

The show then travels to south-east Australia, where the yowie, a sasquatch-like creature, is said to roam the suburbs. On one street alone, there have been 60 sightings, and eyewitnesses report the beast has a blood-curdling scream and a penchant for throwing rocks at inquisitive residents. Before you jump to conclusions, you should know that Marilyn Manson has never been to that 'burbs.

The camera crew goes out on a hunt with a group of dedicated yowie hunters equipped with bait, night goggles and cameras, hoping to get a glimpse of the beast. We won't spoil things by telling you what happens, and please don't tell Steve (Crocodyle Hunter) Irwin what's going on in his home and native land.

The final segment concerns the Tasmanian tiger, a wild dog hunted to extinction in the 1930s ... or was it? More witnesses, more claims of its existence, and more theories. One tiger believer has had two encounters in the last 30 years, though one was aural, not visual. He, too, claims to have smelled the creature after a close encounter. He also talks of a government conspiracy about the creature, though the connection seems vague at best.

The Tasmanian tiger has made the news recently with an announcement by the Australian Museum that it plans to clone the beast from the DNA of a pickled pup. The von Puttkamers interview a museum scientist about this project.

Whether you're a believer or not, *Monster Hunters* makes for fascinating viewing. It will certainly make the ferry trip to Victoria more interesting, what with the possibility of Caddy lurking in the depths.

Monster Hunters, airs on the Learning Channel tonight at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m.

UNION-BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA
May 17, 2002

Will Bigfoot step on Northwest loggers?

Bigfoot — as in Sasquatch — believers are joining forces with environmentalists (or, perhaps, it is the other way around) in an effort to preserve Bigfoot "habitat" in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Northern California.

Bigfoot believers who met at a recent convention in a Portland suburb talked of putting the kibosh on logging to protect the big (but hard-to-see) beast.

Hmmm, that seems a bit premature since

there is no convincing proof Bigfoot is an endangered species — or, frankly, that it exists or ever existed.

Believers realize the lack of proof is a problem. Convention-goer Terry Reams concedes killing a Bigfoot may be necessary to prove its existence.

Killing isn't necessary. Simply bagging one with a tranquilizer gun would be good enough.

In fact, just about anything beyond plaster footprints and a fuzzy photo would be appreciated before stomping out the livelihoods of thousands of loggers and crippling the Northwest economy.

A Sasquatch experience

The two recent Sasquatch or, if you prefer, Big Foot, sightings near Mt. St. Helens raises hope that perhaps the near mythic creatures may prove to be real — at least to those folks who aren't already convinced of their reality like Kass and I.

We have good reason to believe that some mysterious critter exists out there in the wilderness far from the hustle and bustle of suburbia.

About 26 years ago, Kass and I went camping on the Little Coeur d'Alene River in Idaho the week after Labor Day.

We had good reason to go that weekend since we expected the crowds would be gone and they were. We had the campground to ourselves except a man nearby who was camping with some horses.

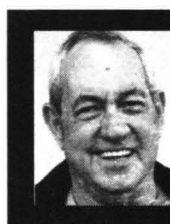
We enjoyed the solitude, but kept having an eerie feeling that we were being watched as we went about our chores.

I drove back to the nearest village to get some fishing line and when I returned Kass was real nervous, feeling something was hovering around the campsite, but we dismissed it because we saw and heard nothing out of the ordinary.

Later Kass drove to a nearby campsite where we had seen some cut wood. She got the Pinto hung up on a rock and as she sat in the car wondering what to do she felt

the car being raised and moved off the rock. She hurriedly drove back to our site to tell me about it.

Passing it off as an overactive imagination, we walked back to where it had occurred. We heard the sound of some animal in the woods paralleling the road and I even chucked a couple of rocks at



By
George
By George
McCormick

the noise to frighten it away. But that didn't seem to faze the critter.

Despite these disturbing signs we stayed and eventually settled down to sleep. The peace and quiet was disturbed only by the restlessness of the horse nearby.

We were awakened in the middle of the night when our neighbor loaded up his horses and left.

We had hardly settled back onto sleep when we were awakened by a horrible smell. We leaped to the obvious conclusion, but the odor was much worse outside than it was under our blankets.

Then we heard the unworldly scream. It literally raised the hairs on the nape of my neck.

It's difficult to describe but

it started off sounding a bit like a cougar and then raised in pitch until it sounded like a screaming woman interspersed with what could have been a coyote singing.

It was about 2 a.m. and it had started raining, so using that as an excuse we rapidly threw our camping gear in the car and headed back to Spokane.

At the time it didn't occur to us that we might have had a Sasquatch visitor.

We returned the next day with one of our sons and explored the area where we had camped.

We found limbs broken off a tree at a height higher than a bear could have reached and what appeared to be a huge nest of branches like one would make to sleep on if one were going to sleep in the open without gear.

The most telling evidence of a Sasquatch visitation was a footprint about twice the size of our son's size 8 shoes near where we had camped.

Later we read about other people's experience with Sasquatch sightings and it was like reliving our experience.

We also heard a tape that reportedly was a Sasquatch scream and it was identical to what we had heard.

We never saw the creature and we couldn't prove our experience was real.

But we're convinced we nearly met a Sasquatch.

HERALD, Provo, UT - March 24, 2002

Loch Ness monster has been peaceful

Well, St. Patrick's day is over, but a mystery still lingers in Ireland.

Legend tells of a dinosaur-like ancient creature that lurks in Loch Ness, which, now that I think about it, is in Scotland.

He crawls from his lair, relentlessly swims the waters of Loch Ness and continues to baffle scientists today.

But as monsters go, the Loch Ness monster is pretty peaceful.

He doesn't abduct people or attack them in their sleep.

He just kind of swims around, enjoying the scenery, and scaring the bejeebers out of people whenever they see him.

So, if you're interested in more information about this creature, here are some excellent Web sites for the Loch Ness monster:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lochness/>

This is a branch site for the TV show "NOVA." You can follow a three-week expedition that used state-of-the-art sonar and sensitive underwater cameras in an attempt to track down and identify this elusive

ASTROMAT



MATT WORSHAM

creature. You can read eyewitness accounts and also learn about other mythical creatures.

<http://www.lochness.scotland.net/index.cfm>

This is a Web site called Loch Ness live and has a ton of Loch Ness stuff.

It has history, sightings, the Ness Files, and even a live Web cam of Loch Ness.

<http://www.nessa-project.com/index.html>

Read about the adventurous 1969 expedition of Dan Taylor, who searched Loch Ness in his yellow submarine "Viperfish."

Learn about his plans for 2002, when he takes his new sub "Nessa" to the loch.

Bigfoot believers swap stories at Oregon convention

By **ANDREW KRAMER**
Associated Press Writer

HILLSBORO, Ore. — Woodsy men in suspenders and muddy boots examined Ziploc bags holding strands of "Bigfoot hair" and grainy photographs of ape-like forms. One man — a school teacher — keeps a pile of dung he says may have come from a Bigfoot.

About 400 people showed up for a weekend regional conference on Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch.

It was a meeting not of skeptics, but of true believers — folks who are quite certain there's a large, hairy ape-like creature roaming the misty forests of the Northwest.

"A lot of people in the Northwest believe in Bigfoot," said Ray Crowe, a retired electrician and director of the Western Bigfoot Society, a Portland-based nonprofit that's considered the largest of its kind.

A big man wearing a dress shirt un-tucked over khakis, Crowe shuffled about as he reviewed fresh photographs, brought in from places like the Mount Hood wilderness in Oregon, the slopes of the Coast Range, and Skamania County, Washington, where a 1969 ordinance protects Bigfoot.

In those places, a sea of trees

hides a body of lore that has captivated people for generations — even though Bigfoot's existence has never been proven.

Supposed evidence of Bigfoot was on display, and on sale, at the weekend convention at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

They included plaster footprints that ranged in size from the eponymous big — 20-inch indentations with toes as big as corn dogs — to a dainty pair from a "baby Bigfoot."

For the kids, there were Chewbacca action figures — apparently offered because of the Star Wars character's resemblance to many people's idea of what Bigfoot looks like.

The search for Bigfoot had its heyday in the Northwest in the late 1960s, after Robert Patterson and Bob Gimlin returned from an expedition in Northern California with film of a Bigfoot about 10 feet tall loping along a creek behind a log jam and gravel bank.

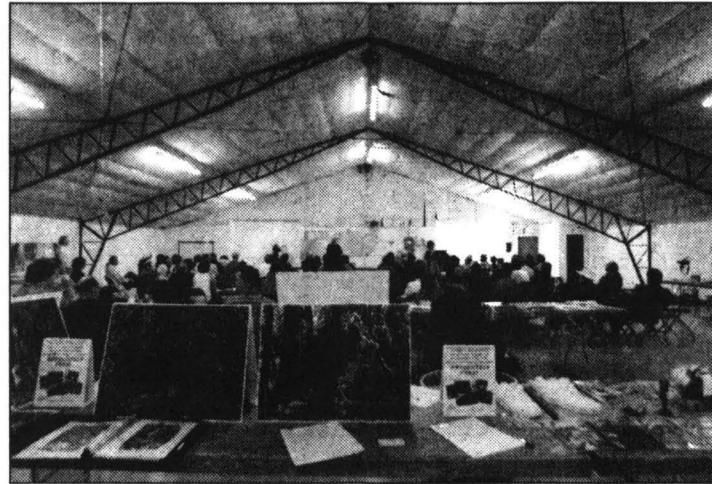
Bigfoot societies were formed and expeditions launched. Peter Byrne, an Irishman who has also sought Yeti in Nepal, opened the Bigfoot Research Center in The Dalles with a \$1 million endowment from a donor.

Huge, humanoid footprints were found across the country.

Bigfoot in Napa?

According to witnesses, in the summer of 1989 Bigfoot made an appearance in Napa County. A family living in Pope Valley witnessed a strange creature near their home on several occasions. The creature was described by one witness as being around 7 feet tall with what looked like grayish-brown hair from head to toe. Witnesses say that the creature left behind a musty skunk-like odor that lasted for about 30 minutes. No other sightings have been reported in Napa County since.

Source: The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (www.bfro.net)



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Above, Bigfoot believers attend a conference in Hillsboro, Ore., Saturday. About 400 people showed up for a weekend regional conference on Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch. It was a meeting not of skeptics, but of true believers, folks who are quite certain there's a large, hairy ape-like creature roaming the misty forests of the Northwest. Right, Bigfoot believer Darron English looks over information and evidence at the conference.

Crowe said he receives about 30 letters a month describing sightings these days, most from around the Northwest.

The weekend convention showed something new is afoot among those who seek the Sasquatch.

Accounts have evolved alongside the changing sensibilities about the environment in Bigfoot country, which is generally understood as Northern California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

In past decades, Bigfoot sightings returned from the woods with loggers and hunters. More recently, Bigfoot seekers include environmentalists who propose preserving Bigfoot habitat from logging, said Crowe.

"It's definitely shifted more to conservation," Crowe said.

But Terry Reams says killing a

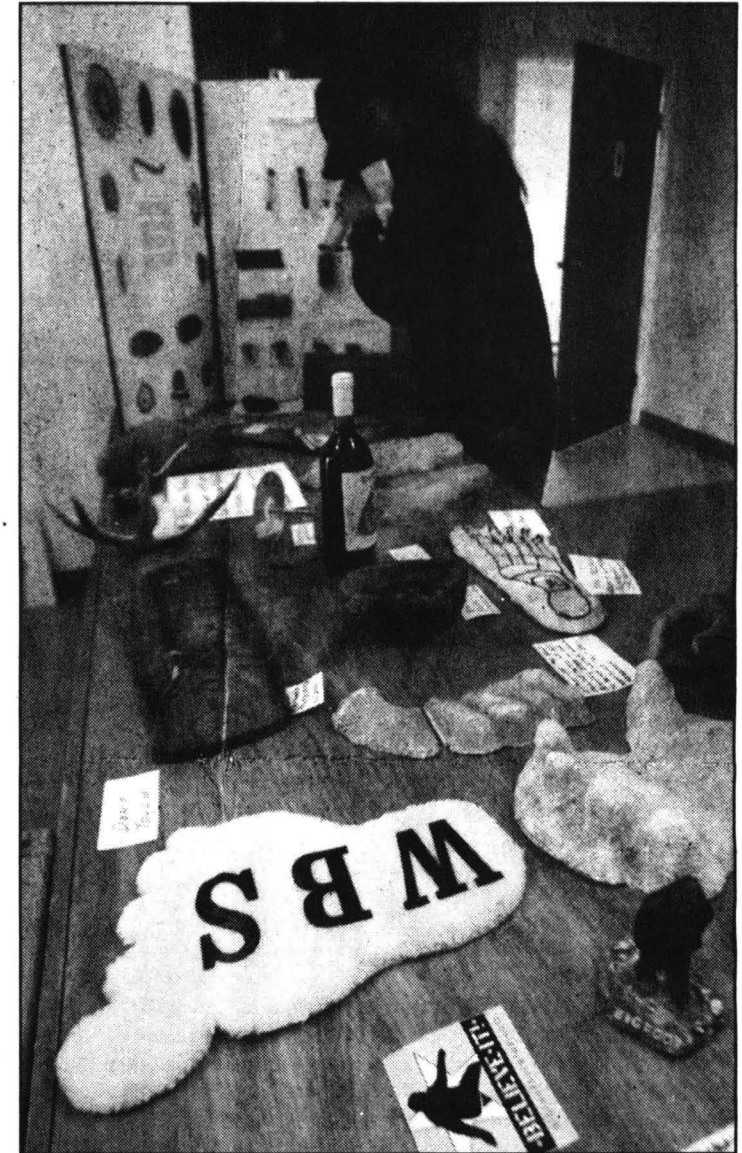
Bigfoot may be necessary to disprove those who doubt its existence.

"In my personal opinion, it has to come down," said Reams, a 51-year-old electrician from Longview, Wash.

Reams told the assembled believers of driving east on Interstate 84 near Cascade Locks on a rainy December in 1975. He looked out the window and saw Bigfoot loping along the shoulder of the highway beside his car, he said.

He now spends weekends hiking and hunting elk in the Dark Divide area of southern Washington, known as the heart of Bigfoot country.

Thom Powell, an eighth grade science teacher, keeps two clumps of dung in a cupboard of his science classroom, and says they may have come from a Big-



NAPA VALLEY REGISTER, Napa, CA - May 15, 2002

foot.

Powell has concealed a video camera in a bird house near Chehalis, Wash. He hopes only to catch a glimpse of Sasquatch eating the tasty morsels he put out as bait.

"We're trying to get people to recognize that there is a popula-

tion of these creatures," he said, hopping between a slide projector and the microphone.

"A common thread is to present a live-and-let-live spirit of animal accommodation," he said.

On the Net:

<http://www.internationalbigfoot society.com>

HOW TO SEE THE FUTURE

COLIN WILSON is one of the world's most respected experts on almost every aspect of the occult and the paranormal. In this compelling series, he has been examining the mysteries of time and destiny — showing, for example, that the attacks on the World Trade Centre last September were predicted by a machine in an American laboratory three hours before they happened. Here, in the last article of the series, he looks at the extraordinary phenomenon of 'time slips', and shows how they challenge our most fundamental ideas about reality...

THIRTY-EIGHT years ago, in October 1963, a young Oxford physicist named Julian Barbour was on a train from Munich to the Bavarian Alps for a climbing trip when his life changed for ever. He happened to be reading an article about Einstein in a magazine. Suddenly, he realised that the great physicist had never answered an obvious question at the heart of all his work: what is time?

In his theory of relativity, Einstein had contradicted Sir Isaac Newton, who believed that time is like a river that flows at a constant speed throughout the universe. On the contrary, Einstein declared, time can flow at different speeds for different people.

For someone moving in a spaceship at a speed close to that of light, for example, time would almost stand still. And by the time the spaceman returned to Earth, most people he knew would have died long ago, while he would still be almost the same age.

But although Einstein suggested that time could play extraordinary tricks like this, Julian Barbour realised that he hadn't examined what time actually was. It remained invisible, intangible, undefined: a total mystery at the centre of modern physics.

That night, as Barbour lay awake in a climber's lodge high in the Alps, he tossed and turned, brooding on this baffling problem. He awoke with a blinding headache, unable to think of anything else, his climbing trip utterly forgotten.

Solving the question that Einstein hadn't answered became his life's work, eventually leading him to a truly extraordinary conclusion — that the passage of time is simply an illusion.

HE UNVEILED his theory in a book called *The End of Time*, published just three years ago. It has provoked intense debate and is one of the most original scientific works of recent years.

Barbour argues that if Einstein is right, and time can differ for each one of us, then time cannot exist in any objective sense at all. Instead of being part of an ever-moving film, every moment we experience is like a snapshot — unique, distinct and self-contained.

Einstein and Newton both assumed that these snapshots are linked in a series, one after the other, like individual frames spliced together on a movie reel.

But Barbour believes this idea is just an illusion created by our brains. In reality, he says, the supposedly distant past and the far-off future all co-exist alongside the moment we call 'now'.

It's a bizarre and unsettling theory. But striking evidence for it is provided by strange events known as 'time slips', well known to investigators of the paranormal, in which people suddenly find themselves surrounded by a scene from the past.

A few years ago, I met a woman who had undergone one of these extraordinary experiences. She was a schoolteacher named Jane O'Neill, and she described to me how, in 1973, she had witnessed a bus accident in which many people were injured.

Jane had helped to rescue passengers who were bleeding to death, and afterwards she found herself suffering from post-traumatic-stress disorder.

A side-effect of her condition was that she began to see visions — bizarre and baffling episodes where she would suddenly find herself surrounded by a scene from the past.

In one such vision, Jane saw a crew of galley slaves, chained down and manning the oars of an ancient ship. Astonishingly, she recognised

by Colin Wilson

one of the slaves as one of her closest friends.

When she told the friend what she had seen, her friend replied: 'That's not surprising. My ancestors were Huguenots, and were punished by being sent to the galleys.'

Jane then visited Fotheringhay church in Northamptonshire with the same friend, and was deeply impressed by a picture of the crucifixion behind the altar. Later, back in her hotel room, she commented on the picture, and her friend said: 'What picture? There was no picture.'

A year later they revisited the church, and she saw that her friend was right. Not only was there no picture, but the church itself looked quite different — much bigger than she remembered.

Jane wrote to the author Joan Forman, an expert on 'time slips', and through her contacted an antiquarian who was able to tell her that the church as she had seen it was pulled down in 1553.

It was as though, during her visit to Fotheringhay, Jane O'Neill had suddenly plunged more than 400 years into the past. The details of the church as it had existed all those centuries ago were as real to her as the present-day building was to her friend.

In her book *The Mask of Time*, Joan Forman relates a similar incident told to her by a Mrs Turrall-Clarke of Wisley-cum-Pyrford in Surrey. She was cycling to evensong at her local church when her entire world seemed to change — the modern road before her vanished, and she found herself walking along a field path.

WALKING towards her was a peasant in the dress of the 13th century, who stood aside to allow her to pass. A moment later, Mrs Turrall-Clarke had returned to the present moment and was back riding her bicycle.

A month later, she was sitting in the same church, singing a plainchant with the choir. Suddenly, the church seemed to change: it now had a dirt floor, lancet windows and a stone altar. Brown-habited monks were walking in a circle chanting the same plainsong.

Once again, the vision ended as suddenly as it had arisen. Mrs Turrall-Clarke decided to look into the history of the church to check if her vision had any basis in fact.

At first she was disappointed to learn that the church used to be occupied by an order that wore black habits rather than brown.

EINSTEIN'S GUIDE TO TIME TRAVEL

(and the astonishing stories that prove it can happen to us all)

However, further research revealed that brown-habited monks from Westminster had been granted the use of the church in 1293.

Of course, Mrs Turrall-Clarke only had brief glimpses of the past, a few seconds at most. Jane O'Neill actually thought she was in the 16th-century church and was unable to tell the difference. Why?

We have to assume that Mrs Turrall-Clarke had some odd psychic ability that enabled her to catch brief glimpses of the past, whereas Jane O'Neill's accident had disturbed her sense of everyday reality so deeply that her vision of the past lasted longer.

This corresponds with what we know of the way our brains work. In his book *The User Illusion*, science writer Tor Norretranders states that, during any given second, our senses pass on about 11 million bits of information to our brains.

If we were aware of all 11 million bits of data, we would go insane — so our brains filter out all but 16 of them. The other 10,999,984 bits of information are processed by our unconscious minds.

A shock such as the one experi-

enced by Jane O'Neill seems to have damaged her filter system, allowing information to flood her brain. The people we call 'psychics' are simply people with a less efficient filter system than the rest of us, who can see things the rest of us can't.

The same explanation probably fits the most famous of all 'time slips', that of Miss Moberly and Miss Jourdain, two English women who went to Versailles in August 1901 and saw people dressed up in 18th-century costumes.

AT THE time, neither of the women — one a headmistress, the other the principal of an Oxford college — thought it peculiar. But both noticed that they seemed to be suffering from a feeling of depression, which one of them said was like sleep-walking.

It was only when they compared notes later that they realised they had taken a walk in the past.

They could describe the layout of the gardens just as they had been shortly before the French Revolu-

tion, and were even able to give descriptions matching Marie Antoinette and a nobleman of the time. Their book *An Adventure*, setting out their experience, still provokes much debate.

In October 1957, an experience just as remarkable happened to three young naval ratings when they were on a training exercise in Suffolk.

As they entered the tiny village of Kersey, the church bells ceased abruptly, to be replaced by an oppressive silence which made them feel oddly depressed. Except for a few ducks, the village seemed to be deserted.

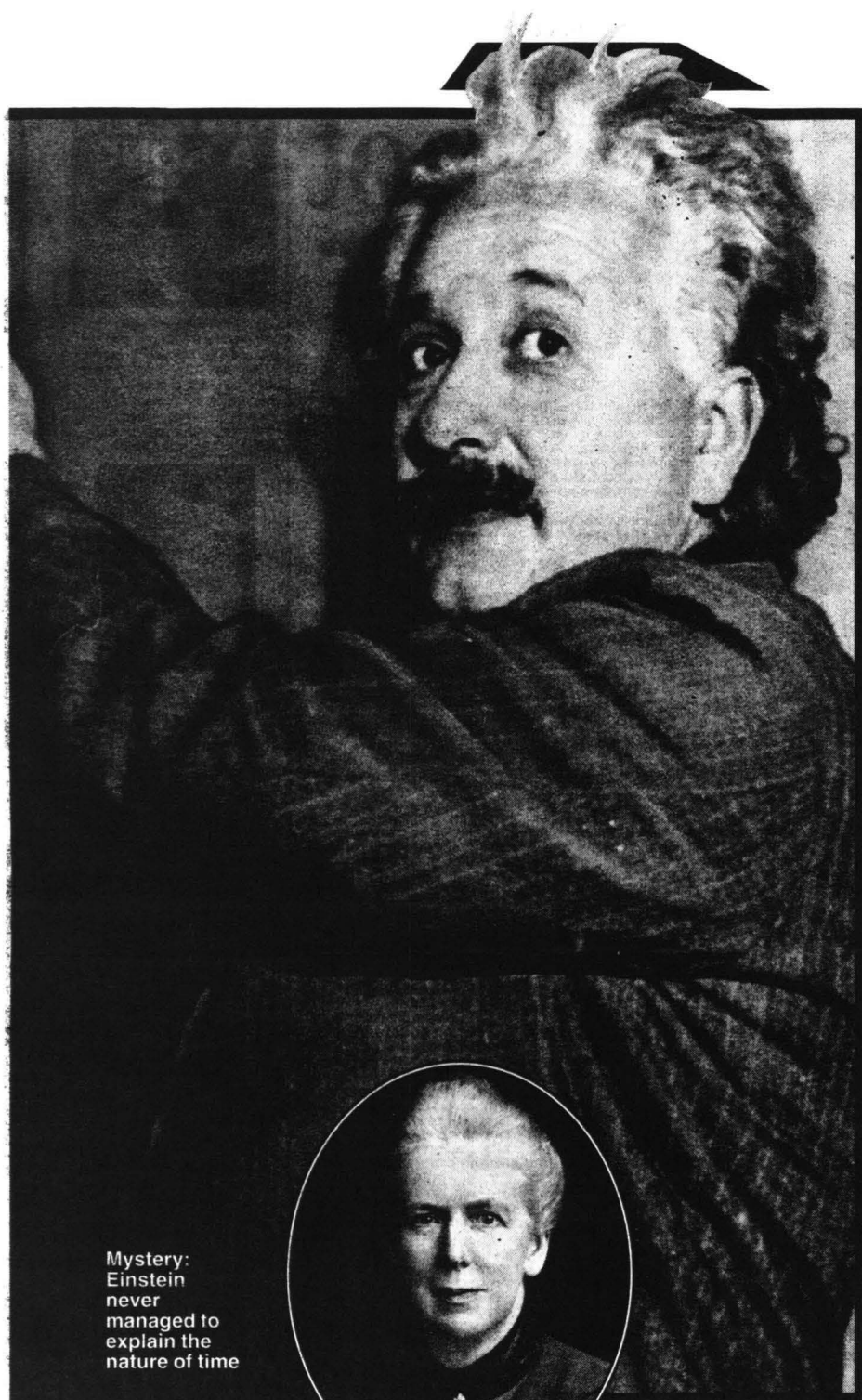
There were no cars, no telephone wires, no TV aerials — nothing that suggested modern life. The skinned carcasses hanging in a butcher's shop were covered in green mould and the place was full of cobwebs.

An eerie sense of being watched caused them to break into a run. But as they paused at the top of a hill, everything went back to normal — the church bells rang and smoke from chimneys hung in the air.

Thirty-one years later, one of the three ratings read a book by the

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19 - DAILY MAIL, London, England - Feb. 19, 2002)



Mystery:
Einstein
never
managed to
explain the
nature of time

Time traveller: Eleanor Jourdain
had a 'time slip' in Versailles

eminent psychical investigator Andrew MacKenzie and wrote to tell him about the experience. MacKenzie succeeded in contacting the other two youths, who confirmed everything their friend had said.

MacKenzie's research finally led him to theorise that the three young men had walked into the village as it had been in 1349, at the time of the Black Death. He gives his reasons in a book called *Adventures in Time*.

In my view, one of the most hair-raising cases of a 'time slip' was experienced by a Mr J.S. Spence, who reported it to the Society for Psychical Research in 1947.

Mr Spence was on holiday in north Devon, and was walking along a beach towards a headland. He found a small tunnel in the cliff and decided to crawl inside, where it broadened out into a vast cave into which a little daylight struggled.

He suddenly experienced a sense of being watched, and scrambled back outside.

He then found a path that led to the clifftop and, feeling oddly depressed and lonely, pressed on

to the top of the ridge. Soon he found a new stone wall, on the far side of which the bracken stretched to the clifftop.

CHECKING his Ordnance Survey map, he was unable to locate his position and plodded on through the depressing stillness, feeling oddly stifled and tired. Then, quite suddenly, the atmosphere seemed to lighten, the grass looked fresher and greener, and his headache disappeared.

The next day he decided to try to find the walk shown on his map. But on the clifftop, the new stone wall had vanished — all he could find was a short section of an old wall covered in ivy. And on the other side of that, there was a sheer drop down to the sea.

Puzzled, he went there the following day and again felt strangely depressed. But he found the new stone wall, and went through a gap in it towards the clifftop.

Suddenly his foot twisted, and he felt himself slipping. He reached out frantically and grabbed a clump of grass. A few moments later, he realised that he had slipped over the edge of the cliff onto a narrow ledge, with a long fall down to the rocks far below.

When he pulled himself back up, the new wall had vanished. All he could find, after a search, was the section of old wall covered in ivy.

It looks as though Mr Spence had wandered back into the past, in the days when the wall was new and the clifftop had not yet collapsed.

But this was an appearance only, for when he tried to walk on what looked like solid ground, he slipped over the edge — and suddenly found himself back in the present, when only one ivy-covered section of the wall was left standing.

According to the usual view of time, such events would be impossible because time is a one-way street, and the past is dead and

buried. But in Julian Barbour's universe, in which time is an illusion, it is a different matter. 'Yesterday' is not really past; it continues to exist in a kind of perpetual present.

There is another explanation that seems to me equally plausible. In an earlier series of articles in the *Daily Mail*, I discussed 'psychic detectives', and the peculiar gift called psychometry that enables sensitive individuals to hold an object and 'read' its history.

A good psychometrist could hold a weapon used in a murder and describe both the crime and the criminal. It is as though every object contains its own history somehow recorded in it, and a psychometrist has the ability to 'play back' the recording.

But perhaps this is an ability we all have deep down. And what happens in a 'time slip' is that we enter a state of mind where that hidden recording suddenly enters our consciousness.

It is rather like a radio set that picks up two stations at once. The inevitable result is that the 'present' seems unreal, which causes subconscious alarm bells to ring inside us, and brings that sense of depression that is so often noticed in time slips.

BUT WHAT about moving in the other direction? If we can slip back into the past, can we also slip forward into times still to come?

And if we can see the future, does that mean that the future is already fixed and decided?

The German poet Goethe described in his autobiography how, having said goodbye to his sweetheart Frederika, he was riding along the road from Strasbourg when he saw his double riding towards him, dressed in a suit of grey and gold.

Eight years later, riding back along the same road, he recognised the spot, and realised that he was now wearing the same suit of grey and gold, and that he had seen his future self.

The detail of the grey and gold suit makes the vision too precise to be dismissed as imagination. And we are forced to conclude that Goethe was predestined to ride back along the Strasbourg road.

The psychologist Carl Jung came to a similar conclusion as the result of an experience that took place in his student days.

As a group of friends were sitting around a table drinking beer, one of them described a dream of the previous night.

His father had promised to send him on a trip to Spain if he passed his exams, and he had dreamed that he was in a Spanish city, looking across a square at a Gothic cathedral. As he was about to cross the street, he had to wait while an elegant carriage with cream-coloured horses drove past.

LATER, having passed his exams, the student went to Spain, and found himself looking at the very same cathedral of his dream. About to cross the street, he had to wait while an elegant carriage with two cream-coloured horses went past.

This story, Jung realised, implies predestination. To dream of a Gothic cathedral could be explained in many ways — perhaps the student had simply seen a picture of it. But when you get the detail of the carriage and horses, this explanation becomes implausible.

The owner of the carriage may have decided to go for a drive on the spur of the moment, and certainly believed he was doing it of his own free will. But if Jung's friend had dreamed of it months before it happened, then he was somehow 'fated' to do it.

An Oxford astrophysicist named Michael Shallis raises this same point in his book *On Time*. He describes how, when he was 12, he came home from school and called

out to his mother, who was upstairs, to ask what they were having for supper.

Suddenly, he experienced a powerful sense that all this had happened before, and that his mother was going to tell him that there was salad for supper. And that is precisely what she did.

Another of Shallis's experiences makes the point even more clearly. He was giving a tutorial in physics, and was discussing radioactive half lives.

Suddenly, he was again swamped with the sense of déjà-vu, and knew that he was going to suggest that he should go to fetch a certain book from his office.

He deliberately resisted this urge, determined to change the course of events. But even as he made this decision, he found himself turning to the student and saying: 'I will just go and get a book from my office.'

In other words, he was unable to oppose the sense of pre-determination.

This seems to apply to all the visions of the future that I have been discussing in this series. If people can predict apparently chance events, then chance must be an illusion, and the future must be fixed.

So would this mean that free will is also an illusion? I would argue that the answer is 'No'.

For the crucial question is: would Michael Shallis have been able to break the pattern of déjà-vu if he had really tried? And the answer to that has surely got to be 'Yes'.

The evidence lies in a story I told earlier in the series, of a woman on a camping trip who recognised a riverbank as the site of a dream in which her baby had drowned.

SO INSTEAD of leaving the child by the river while she went to fetch some soap (as she had done, fatally, in the dream), she tucked him safely under her arm and kept him from the fate the dream had predicted.

In this case, the mother had a very powerful reason for not leaving the child by the river. And if Michael Shallis had had an equally strong reason, surely he would have been able to ignore his sense of déjà-vu and resist the urge to get the book.

I think this shows us an important lesson.

In the 25 years or so that I have been thinking about these paradoxes of time, I have come to accept that the future is, to a large extent, predetermined, and that we exercise far less free will than we would like to believe.

And since this planet on which we live obeys the mechanical forces of nature, of which you and I are a part, this means most things that happen are predetermined.

But I do not believe, as some biologists do, that we are machines.

After all, if an orchestra plays a Beethoven symphony, you could say it was 'predestined' to play a certain sequence of notes, in the sense that the notes are already written down. What is not 'predestined' is whether the orchestra gives a great or mediocre performance.

Similarly, an actor's play script determines what lines he will speak and how the play will end, but not whether he gives a boring or inspired performance. That is a matter of his own free will — and it's up to him to show the determination to make a difference.

When I do things with a sense of enthusiasm and optimism, I notice things seem to go right. When I give way to gloom or boredom, they always seem to go wrong. That alone convinces me that free will is not an illusion.

Exercising free will may be as difficult as losing weight — something that also preoccupies me as I get older. But I have no doubt whatever that it can be done, and that not only can we catch glimpses of the future but we really can change it for the better.