

UFO

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EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - July 13, 2002 CR: R. Timm

German documentary being made on UFO case

■ Timm claims close to 40 percent of Pendleton people have seen a UFO

By CASEY WHITE
of the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — It's been 56 years since pilot Kenneth Arnold's headline-making flight, during which he claimed to have seen "nine peculiar looking aircraft" in the skies above Mt. Rainier. He told his story after landing in Pendleton.

Now a German freelance writer/director is retracing the path of Arnold's sighting from Mt. Rainier to Boise in its historical context in a documentary for German television.

Matthias Unterburg, cameraman Harold Schmuck and soundman Gerrit Kannwischer were in Pendleton Thursday to interview Roy Timm of Pendleton and stop at the East Oregonian, from which Arnold's story was shared with the rest of the country.

Timm contends that he, his mother and brother saw flying saucers the same day Arnold did. He has kept extensive records of numerous local sightings of UFOs, extraterrestrials and crop circles, and put many of those in a self-published book.

The Germans also interviewed EO editor Richard Hensley. In 1947, stories of Arnold's sighting, written by Bill Bequette, were picked up by the Associated Press and printed around the nation. Unterburg noted that Bequette



Staff photo by Casey White

A German documentary film crew interviews Pendleton UFO expert Roy Timm Thursday.

helped coin the term "flying saucer."

This is Unterburg's fifth documentary as a writer and director. His other works include documentaries on World War II. The documentary is being produced by three affiliates of the German First Channel. Some of Unterburg's other work has been sold and broadcast to some 30 countries around the world.

A trained historian who received his master's degree in history and sociology in London, Unterburg is filming this

documentary to chronicle reports of UFOs in the 1940s and '50s.

"There are conflicting explanations about what people have seen," Unterburg said. "Kenneth Arnold even initially told police that he may have seen an experimental plane."

Unterburg said he cannot say whether UFOs and extraterrestrials exist.

"There are skeptics and there are believers," he said. "I don't exclude any of these possibilities. I don't have any

proof that they exist, but I also don't have any proof on the opposite side. It's sort of an open issue."

Unterburg became interested in Arnold's sighting two years ago.

"It's not a thing I normally lean to," he said. "But a UFO story going back to one incident is fascinating. Arnold's sighting set the pace."

Timm has photos of various UFO sightings and crop circles, many of which he has placed on his Web site, www.nwhistoryofsaucers.com,

along with letters from people who claim to have seen an extraterrestrial. Unterburg and his crew interviewed Timm at his home Thursday.

The 67-year-old Timm has been legally blind for 11 years, but he said he saw several UFOs earlier in his life. Timm said several of his cousins and friends have been abducted and taken aboard a space ship, where implants were placed in their shoulders and ears. Those implants have since been removed.

Timm said that he wants the people of Pendleton, as well as around the country, to know the truth about extraterrestrials and UFOs.

"Why can't we just live with the truth?" Timm said. "We're (believers) not a bunch of kooks or a bunch of deadbeats, like everyone thinks."

Timm claims that close to 40 percent of the people in Pendleton have seen a UFO or related sighting but that few come forward to admit it.

"I kept it all in for over 50 years, but I'm not holding anything back anymore," he said. "People just need to know the truth."

Unterburg may not be able to get to any "truth" in his documentary, but he said he will try to cover all sides of the issue by talking to many people about the phenomenon.

Germany does not compare to the United States when it comes to people claiming to have seen a UFO, said Unterburg.

"It's not in the press or media at all," Unterburg said.

The documentary is scheduled to be broadcast in Germany in November.

UFO Web site wants to hear about sightings

Alien hunter says evidence shows we are not alone

By LUIS CABRERA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — In Freehold, N.J., a woman reports seeing an enormous craft "right out of ET" hover in the night sky for several minutes before it glides away over a wooded area.

A Michigan woman writes of being trailed in her car for two hours, from Kalamazoo to Muskegon, by a flying object covered in colored lights.

Near Yuma, Ariz., a group of boaters on the Colorado River reports seeing three bright,

disc-shaped objects that are joined by two others before all streak off to the north.

Proof that we are not alone? Almost certainly, says Peter Davenport, a former biotech executive and self-described "alien hunter" who has posted those and 1,124 other sightings already this year on the Web site of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center: www.ufocenter.com.

"The evidence suggests to me that they are here on a daily basis," said Davenport, 54, who has run the 28-year-old center since 1994.

Davenport acknowledges there's no smoking-gun proof that aliens are among us — no seized flying saucers or

uneearthly skeletons on display. But he says evidence, from UFO sightings to investigations by fellow "UFOlogists" into reported close encounters, animal mutilations and possible alien artifacts, is mounting.

"I will not be surprised if, in the final analysis, we discover that we live in a galaxy that is teeming with intelligent life," and that much of that life has been racking up frequent flier miles to Earth, he said.

Whether or not Davenport is proved right, the center's Web site is clear proof of one thing — thousands of ordinary people want to believe.

"Actually, it's amazing to me how many people also have seen things or had (UFO) experiences in the past," said Susan Nelson, 46, a north Seattle homemaker and mother of two who said she never thought much about UFOs until she spotted one two years ago.

The UFO center doesn't usually disclose the names of spotters, but Nelson agreed to be interviewed. She said she was outside her home at about 10 p.m. on April 28, 2000, when she saw a "really large, bright,

solid white object" race through the space between some trees.

After chewing over what she had seen for a few days, Nelson did an Internet search, found Davenport's site, and learned through him that others had seen the same object in Western Washington and British Columbia.

It was a relief, she said, to find she wasn't the only one.

The Internet has helped create a virtual community of UFO spotters, Davenport said. It also has led to a boom in reports for the center, since spotters can easily find it on the Web and no longer need to pay long-distance charges to make a hotline report.

However, some UFO skeptics are unimpressed by the high volume.

Barry Beyerstein, a brain researcher at Simon Fraser University in suburban Vancouver, British Columbia, believes that even those giving the most meticulous UFO descriptions are probably just fooling themselves.

"Perception is a very creative act," he said. "There's ample room for our brains to fill in more than is actually

there."

Beyerstein, who serves on the executive council of the highly skeptical Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims for the Paranormal, noted some incidents cited by researchers where witnesses gave wildly inaccurate descriptions of hoax UFOs.

ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR
July 15, 2002

Other days

50 years ago
July 15, 1952

■ If flying saucers are cruising over Arkansas, dropping thin strips of tinfoil to divert radar attention, the Air Force doesn't know anything about it. Neither does the Air National Guard or the FBI. But, Mrs. Ernest Hill of Houston says that her farm is littered with thousands of strips of tinsel.

ALIEN ARMADA!

50 Years Ago, Unidentified Flying Objects From Way Beyond the Beltway Seized the Capital's Imagination

By PETER CARLSON
Washington Post Staff Writer

In the control tower at Washington National Airport, Ed Nugent saw seven pale violet blips on his radar screen. What were they? Not planes—at least not any planes that were *supposed* to be there.

He summoned his boss, Harry G. Barnes, the head of National's air traffic controllers. "Here's a fleet of flying saucers for you," Nugent said, half-joking.

Upstairs, in the tower's glass-enclosed top floor, controller Joe Zacko saw a strange blip streaking across his radar screen. It wasn't a bird. It wasn't a plane. What *was* it? He looked out the window and spotted a bright light hovering in the sky. He turned to his partner, Howard Cocklin, who was sitting three feet away.

"Look at that bright light," Zacko said. "If you believe in flying saucers, that could sure be one."

And then the light took off, zooming away at an in-

credible speed.

"Did you see *that*?" Cocklin remembers saying. "What the hell was *that*?"

It was Saturday night, July 19, 1952—50 years ago this weekend—one of the most famous dates in the bizarre history of UFOs. Before the night was over, a pilot reported seeing unexplained objects, radar at two local Air Force bases—Andrews and Bolling—picked up the UFOs, and two Air Force F-94 jets streaked over Washington, searching for flying saucers.

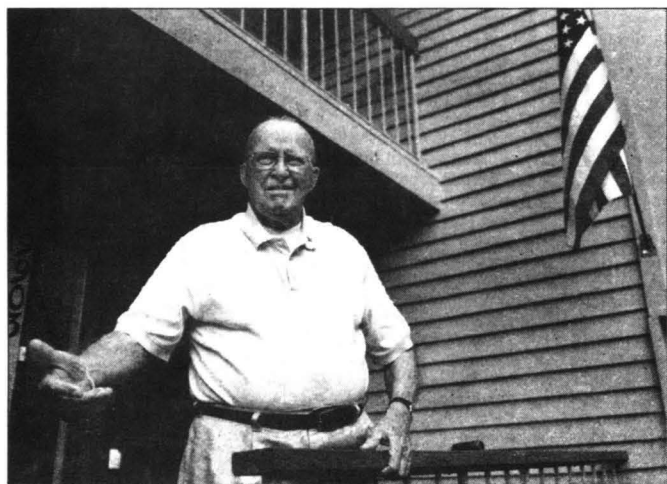
Then, a week later, it happened all over again—more UFOs on the radar screen, more jets scrambled over Washington. Across America, the story of jets chasing UFOs over the White House knocked the Korean War and the presidential campaign off the front pages of newspapers.

"Saucer Outran Jet, Pilot Reveals," read the banner headline in The Washington Post.

"JETS CHASE D.C. SKY GHOSTS," screamed



BY MARK ZINGARELLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



Experts disagree on what it was that was spotted in the sky that night 50 years ago. Former air traffic controller Howard Cocklin is still convinced that he saw an object over Washington National Airport on July 19, 1952. "I saw it on the screen and out the window," he says.

the New York Daily News.

"AERIAL WHATZITS BUZZ D.C. AGAIN!" shouted the Washington Daily News.

As rumors spread, President Truman demanded to know what was flying over his house. Soon the federal government was fighting the UFOs with the most powerful weapons in the Washington arsenal—bureaucracy, obfuscation and gobbledygook.

That seemed to work. The UFOs never returned.

At least, not that we know of.

As Big as Life

In a way, this whole strange episode began with Marilyn Monroe.

The actress appeared on the cover of Life magazine's April 7, 1952, issue, looking sultry in a diaphanous, low-cut dress, her eyelids drooping seductively. It was the kind of cover that attracts attention. And just above Monroe's left shoulder was a cover line touting a different story: "There Is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers."

The article was titled "Have We Visitors From Outer Space?" It reviewed 10 recent UFO sightings and concluded that they could not be written off as hallucinations,

hoaxes or earthly aircraft. An unnamed Air Force intelligence officer was quoted saying, "The higher you go in the Air Force, the more seriously they take the flying saucers."

The story ended with a series of questions that sound like something Rod Serling might intone at the end of a "Twilight Zone" episode:

"Who, or what, is aboard? Where do they come from? Why are they here? What are the intentions of the beings who control them?"

It wasn't the first media account of UFOs—there had been lots of publicity since several well-known sightings in 1947, including one in Roswell, N.M.—but the Life article marked the first time that a trusted, mainstream magazine had given credence to the theory that UFOs might be alien spacecraft.

The Life story was big news, covered in more than 350 newspapers across America. Soon, the number of UFO sightings reported to the Air Force skyrocketed—from 23 in March, before Life's article appeared, to 82 in April, 79 in May, 148 in June.

Were these increases due to saucers swarming over America? Or did Life's story

(continued on page 3)

make Americans more likely to report strange things they saw in the sky?

By mid-July, Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt—the head of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's official UFO study team—was getting 40 reports of UFO sightings a day. Many were bogus but some came from pilots and other respectable citizens, and Ruppelt took them seriously.

Then—a few days before the first sightings at National Airport—Ruppelt interviewed a government scientist who made a startling prediction that Ruppelt recorded in his 1956 memoir, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects."

"Within the next few days," the unidentified scientist said, banging his hand on his desk for emphasis, "you're going to have the granddaddy of all UFO sightings. The sighting will occur in Washington or New York—probably Washington."

'Falling Stars Without Tails'

The blips first appeared on radar screens at National at 11:40 that Saturday night—seven unidentified targets about 15 miles southeast of the city.

It was a clear, hot, humid night with very little air traffic, and the controllers at National watched the strange blips amble across their screens. They'd cruise at a leisurely rate of about 100 to 130 miles per hour, then abruptly zoom off in an extraordinary burst of speed.

"They acted like a bunch of small kids out playing," Barnes, the head controller, wrote a few days later in a piece for a New York newspaper. "It was helter-skelter, as if directed by some innate curiosity. At times, they moved as a group or cluster, at other times as individuals."

Barnes called his counterparts at Andrews and Bolling to ask if they saw anything unusual on their radar screens. They did. They were getting blips in the same places.

At Andrews, controller William Brady looked out the control tower window and saw what looked like "an orange ball of fire, trailing a tail." It was, he later told Air Force investigators, "unlike anything I had ever seen before."

At National, Cocklin looked out his window and saw what he recalls as a "whitish blue light" that emanated from a solid object that was "round with no distinguishing marks such as wings or a nose or a tail." It looked, he says, "like a saucer."

Sometime after 1 a.m., National's control tower radioed Capital Air Flight 807, from Washington to Detroit, and asked the pilot if he saw any unusual objects. Captain S.C. "Casey" Piernan, a pilot with 17 years of experience, radioed back: "There's one—and there it goes."

For the next 14 minutes, as he flew between Herndon and Martinsburg, W.Va., Piernan saw six bright lights that streaked across the sky at tremendous speed. "They were," he said, "like falling stars without tails."

Watching the radar blips flying over the Capitol and the White House, Barnes called the Air Force to report unidentified aircraft in restricted air space. But it was very late on a Saturday night and the Air Force bureaucracy responded sluggishly. By the time F-94 interceptors jets left New Castle Air Force Base in Delaware—the runways at Andrews were closed for repairs—it was after 3 a.m.

When the F-94s soared over Washington, the strange blips disappeared from the radar screens at National. The F-94 pilots cruised around the area for a while but saw nothing. When they headed back to New Castle, the blips reappeared.

The controllers watched the UFOs flit across their screens until dawn, then disappear.

Trying to Clear the Air

Nobody bothered to call Ruppelt about the sightings. When he flew to Washington a couple of days later on unrelated Project Blue Book business, he learned about them by reading newspapers at the airport.

"Radar Spots Air Mystery Objects Here," read the headline on the front page of The Washington Post.

"Air Force 'Saucer' Expert Will Probe Sightings Here," said the Washington Daily News.

Ruppelt asked his colleagues who the expert was. You are, they told him.

At the Pentagon, Ruppelt found the Air Force brass deeply concerned about one particular aspect of the sightings: What should they tell the press?

Nobody had any idea what—if anything—had been in the air over Washington on July 19, but the newspapers were demanding answers. Reporters, Ruppelt



In the summer of 1952 the strange sightings and the stories of jets chasing UFOs over the White House knocked the Korean War and the presidential campaign off the front pages of newspapers.

wrote, "were now beginning to put on a squeeze by threatening to call congressmen—and nothing chills blood faster in the military."

Ruppelt volunteered to stay overnight to interview the controllers at National and Andrews, then report what he learned to the press. But Ruppelt got entangled in the thicket of military bureaucracy.

He called the Pentagon's transportation section to get a car so he could travel to the various airports. Only colonels and generals can get cars, he was told. He called two generals, but it was after 4 p.m. and they were gone for the day.

He went to the finance office to get permission to rent a car. Take a bus, the woman there told him. It takes a lot of buses to go from the Pentagon to National to Andrews, he replied. Take a cab, she said, and pay for it out of your per diem. But his per diem was \$9, he said, and he had to pay for food and lodging.

The woman then informed Ruppelt that his orders were to fly back to Ohio that night, and unless he got those orders amended, he'd technically be AWOL. He asked to talk to her boss. He'd left at 4:30 to avoid traffic, she said, and now it was 5 and she was leaving, too.

Ruppelt gave up. "I decided that if flying saucers were buzzing Pennsylvania Avenue, I couldn't care less," he wrote. "I caught the next airliner to Dayton."

A Return Engagement

About 10 o'clock Saturday night, July 26, Ruppelt was at home in Dayton when a reporter called to say that UFOs were back in the sky over Washington.

What, the reporter asked, did the Air Force plan to do about it?

"I have no idea what the Air Force is doing," Ruppelt replied. "In all probability, it's doing nothing."

He hung up, then called the Pentagon and learned that he was right: The Air Force was doing nothing. He made more calls, dispatching two officers—Maj. Dewey Fournet and Lt. John Holcomb, a radar expert—to National's control tower to see what was happening.

Fournet and Holcomb arrived to find National's controllers tracking a dozen unexplained blips. An Air Force B-25 happened to be passing through the area, so the controllers asked it to check out some of the radar

targets. The B-25 went to one site and spotted nothing except a tourist boat cruising the Potomac.

Perhaps, the controllers surmised, a temperature inversion—a layer of hot air between two layers of colder air in the sky—had bent the radar beam, causing it to mistake objects on the ground for things in the air. Temperature inversions were common in Washington on hot days, and the controllers were familiar with the phenomenon.

But Fournet and Holcomb were convinced that some of the radar blips were solid metal objects, not inversion-induced mirages. Radar operators at Andrews saw them, too. And civilian planes flying into Washington reported seeing strange glowing objects in places where the radar was getting blips.

The controllers called for interceptors, and about 11 p.m. the Air Force dispatched F-94s to search the sky over Washington. When the first jets arrived, the blips disappeared from National's radar screens and the F-94 pilots saw nothing unusual. But when they returned to New Castle, the blips returned to the radar screens.

About 1:30 a.m., the jets soared back over Washington. This time, pilots saw several streaking lights. One pilot gave chase but he couldn't catch the streaking light.

"I tried to make contact with the bogies below 1,000 feet," pilot William Patterson told investigators. "I was at my maximum speed but... I ceased chasing them because I saw no chance of overtaking them."

Trading on Hot Air

On Monday morning, the story of UFOs outrunning fighter planes was splashed across front pages all over America. In Iowa, the headline in the Cedar Rapids Gazette read like something out of a sci-fi flick: "SAUCERS SWARM OVER CAPITAL."

"We have no evidence they are flying saucers," an unidentified Air Force source told reporters. "Conversely we have no evidence they are not flying saucers. We don't know what they are."

In the absence of hard information, the Washington Daily News printed a roundup of rumors. The "most persistent rumor" was that the saucers were American aircraft secretly produced by Boeing "at some remote site." An "absolutely weird" rumor was that the saucers were alien aircraft that had crashed and then been repaired and flown by

the Air Force.

That Monday, the Air Force tried to reassure the nation by promising to keep jet fighters poised to chase the saucers at a moment's notice. But that statement didn't reassure Robert L. Farnsworth, president of the United States Rocket Society, who warned President Truman not to attack the UFOs.

"Should they be extra-terrestrial, such actions might result in the gravest consequences, as well as possibly alienating us from beings of far superior powers," Farnsworth telegraphed Truman. "Friendly contact should be sought as long as possible."

Truman was as baffled as everyone else. He asked his Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Robert B. Landry, to find out what the UFOs were. On Tuesday morning, Landry called Ruppelt, who'd flown back to the Pentagon. Ruppelt said the sightings might be weather-related mirages but he didn't really know.

Nobody knew, not even Maj. Gen. John Samford, the Air Force's director of intelligence. But Samford called a press conference at the Pentagon at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. It was the largest Pentagon press conference since World War II, Ruppelt wrote, and Samford's performance proved to be a brilliant demonstration of the art of bureaucratic balderdash.

He arrived in Room 3E-869 precisely at 4, accompanied by Ruppelt and several other officials. He opened with a rambling monologue on the history of UFOs, which, he noted, dated "to biblical times." He mentioned UFO sightings in 1846 but never got around to the UFO sightings of 1952.

When reporters asked about the Washington sightings, Samford told a story about radar picking up a flock of ducks in Japan in 1950. When they asked if radar at National and Andrews had seen the same blips simultaneously, he speculated about the definition of the word "simultaneously." When they asked if the UFOs could be material objects, he mused about the definition of the word "material." When they asked if the F-94 pilot who chased the strange light was a qualified observer, he wondered about the meaning of the word "qualified."

Speaking about what that pilot saw, Samford uttered a sentence that ought to have a place in the Bureaucratic Gibberish Hall of Fame: "That very likely is one that sits apart and says insufficient measurement, insuffi-

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(continued from page 3 - POST,
Washington, DC - July 21, 2002)

cient association with other things, insufficient association with other probabilities for it to do any more than to join that group of sightings that we still hold in front of us as saying no."

Along the way, Samford mentioned the "temperature inversion" theory—that a layer of hot air in the sky might have caused radar to mistake things on the ground for flying objects. First, he said it was a "possibility." Later, he said it was "about a 50-50 proposition." Then he said it was a "probable" explanation.

He talked until 5:20, then the reporters dashed back to their offices to meet their deadlines. Sifting through notebooks full of gobbledygook, they seized on temperature inversion. It was an irresistible concept for newspapermen. The UFOs, they wrote, were caused by Washington's famous "hot air."

Ruppelt was amazed. Samford hadn't really explained anything, but whatever he had done, it worked.

"Somehow," Ruppelt wrote, "out of this chaotic situation came exactly the result that was intended—the press got off our backs."

When newspapers stopped writing about the UFOs, people stopped reporting UFOs. "Reports dropped from 50 per day to 10 a day within a week," Ruppelt noted.

And the UFOs never returned to the sky over Washington. Perhaps they'd seen enough.

The Arguments Still Fly

Sitting at his desk, wearing blue pajamas and a gray bathrobe, Philip J. Klass holds up a government report and smiles mischievously.

"I will let you borrow it," he says, "provided that you provide one testicle as security." The report is called "A Preliminary Study of Unidentified Targets Observed on Air Traffic Control Radars." Not many people would trade a testicle for it.

The report was issued by the Civil Aeronautics Administration in 1953, shortly after Klass began writing for Aviation Week. He's still writing for that magazine, but not often these days because he is 82 and ailing.

"The gist of the report," he says, "is that the Washington sightings were temperature inversions."

He wrote about the report in Aviation Week in 1953. That began his career as America's most prominent UFO debunker. Over the past 49 years, he's written five books on UFOs and engaged in countless debates with UFO believers. He can cite evidence and quote reports all day long, but he seems to prefer rattling off one-liners.

He says: "If there are UFOs and they want to make themselves known, *land!* And if they don't want to make their visits known, *turn off the lights!*"

He says: "If UFOs are abducting people, why do they choose only ugly people? If they abducted Olympic athletes, I could understand."

Bruce Maccabee isn't laughing. "One thing you have to understand: This is serious business," he says. "The skeptics like to make fun of us."

Maccabee, 60, is a civilian physicist for the Navy and a prominent UFO believer. In the '70s, he filed the Freedom of Information Act request that led to the release of the FBI's file on UFOs. The file was called "Security Matter X"—"the real X-Files," he says.

Maccabee believes there were "solid objects" in the air over Washington 50 years ago. "And I think those solid objects were not made by us," he says. "And by us, I mean human beings."

Like Klass, Maccabee buttresses his argument with an official government report. It's called "Quantitative Aspects of Mirages" and it was issued by the Air Force in 1969.

"They proved in their own study that there wasn't enough temperature inversion to cause this effect," he says. "The Washington sightings cannot be explained as a radar mirage."

After 50 years, the debate over the Washington UFOs goes on and on.

"You have dueling experts and dueling reports," says Kevin D. Randle, author of "Invasion Washington: UFOs Over the Capitol," a new book on the 1952 sightings. "One expert says it was temperature inversion. Another says it wasn't. In that situation, you have to refer back to the air traffic controllers and the pilots who actually saw the objects."

Former controller Howard Cocklin is still convinced that he saw an object over National that night. "I saw it on the screen and out the window," he says. "It was a whitish-blue object. Not a light—a solid form. An object. A saucer-shaped object."

Now 83 and retired, Cocklin says he never saw anything like that saucer—not before, not since.

"It just went away," he says, sitting in an armchair in his Fairfax living room. "Where did it go? Why don't people see these things today? Why 50 years ago?"

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Aug. 4, 2002

Shyamalan movie draws attention to crop mystery

By CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Charles R. Mallet has spent nights camped out in fields of grain in England, trying to see what makes the big, elaborate patterns known as "crop circles" — which he believes are messages from some unearthly place.

Now, he and others who investigate crop circles worry about "Signs," the latest movie by "The Sixth Sense" creator M. Night Shyamalan, in which crop circles are an ominous element.

"Knowing this guy's movies, it's going to be a little more thoughtful than 'Independence Day,' but it's not going to have much to do with the real crop circles," said Mallet, 32, of Cherhill, in England's Wiltshire County.

Crop circles first drew widespread attention in the 1980s, when they appeared in fields around the world, especially in England. Their allegedly supernatural origins were quickly thrown into doubt when people began admitting to creating them; in 1991, two men said they made circles in southern England at night using boards.

But true believers, who number in the thousands,



In the new film "Signs," the lives of the Hess family are changed forever after they find an intricate pattern of circles and lines carved into their corn field, shown in this undated publicity photo. Circle watchers, an intense international network of people following

and investigating the often debated phenomenon of crop circles, are already complaining about the upcoming M. Night Shyamalan film. They think the movie will not tell what they believe is a story of true supernatural mystery. (AP)

say people could not have made most of the circles.

"Signs," which opens Friday and stars Mel Gibson as a Pennsylvania farmer who finds the circles on his land, is a thriller.

Linda Howe, 58, a former documentary filmmaker, has written several books on circles. Asked if one could be used in the film, she said no.

"It would have been a reference book that Mel Gibson would have been going through," she said. "They wanted to put an image there with murder or death

or danger, something to do with dark fear. I could not have my book tied in with any wrong information with crop formations."

"Signs" producer Frank Marshall said the circles are merely a hook for Shyamalan to tell a story of a man struggling with his beliefs.

"The movie isn't really about crop circles. It's just one of the stories that exist within the movie," he said.

But he added that the crop circles in the movie, filmed in Bucks County, Pa.,

are "totally based on the research. The cornstalks are not broken, they're bent. They're very geometric. Our crop circles are as authentic as the ones that are found around the world."

Dutch researcher Eltjo Hasselhoff, 39, said he is happy to see crop circles used as a theme.

"But I do believe there is a mystery about the crop circle phenomenon. The information you find about crop circles is often completely wrong," he said.

Unusual things common at UFO powwow here

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE, Rochester, NY - July 6, 2002 CR: L. Bryant

BY STAFF WRITER
GREG LIVADAS

We are not alone.

Up to 300 members of the Mutual UFO Network have landed in Rochester this weekend for their 33rd annual International UFO Symposium.

"The rest of the world thinks it is nonsense, and it's not," said Richard Dolan, a Rochester author and resume writer. "There is a widespread, global phenomenon affecting a lot of people."

Speakers will be talking about unidentified submarine objects, a goat-sucking creature in Puerto Rico and other unexplained happenings.

"Villagers encountered a robotic being on their farm," Esen Sekenkarar of Istanbul, Turkey, said of an experience she was investigating.

The weekend symposium also includes a book sale and art show. As participants were arriving Friday at the Hyatt Regency hotel downtown, Dan Wright of Michigan was conducting a class to train people wanting to investi-

gate UFO sightings. Among his pointers: Don't drop your jaw or widen your eyes when people explain what they saw.

Also in attendance is Betty Hill, who said she was abducted by aliens in 1961. She said she was examined by the creatures, who stuck a needle in her belly button.

"I invited them back," said Hill, 83, of Portsmouth, N.H. Two months later, she said she came home to find the blue earrings she wore during the abduction on her kitchen table, in a pile of dried leaves.

Hill, who said she traveled around the world talking about her experience before retiring from the speaking circuit in 1991, considers herself fortunate. "I know life exists in the universe, and it's more advanced than ours."

Michael Brein, 61, a travel guide writer from Ashland, Ore., has never met an alien, but he's active in the club because he's fascinated with communication.

"I suppose and wonder what it would be like to encounter people from another world," he said.

Brein, sporting shoulder-length gray hair and a Hawaiian shirt, admits there is a "lunatic



DANESE KENON staff photographer

Don Ledger, an author, researcher and pilot, speaks Friday as the Mutual UFO Network's 33rd annual conference opened. Ledger is one of many set to speak this weekend.

fringe" who follow UFO stories. "But if you look beyond the fringe and look into the meat of the subject and listen to people who are well-grounded, you think maybe you should take the subject more seriously."

Joe Nickell, a columnist for *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, published in Buffalo, said the conference will be attended by UFO proponents.

"They have long been looking at and helping to create the UFO mythology," he said. "To the extent that they're actually investigating a mystery, then I agree with them. But much of what's done is really mystery mongering and an extended argument from ignorance."

"In most sciences, there is an actual thing to study. Ufologists are studying something that may not exist at all."

While admitting that ufology includes "loonies," Nickell said, "Something on the fringe, such as UFOs, tends to attract a diverse group."


Tom Nesser of Greece said he just wants to know the truth. He said some reports are easier to dismiss than others.

"It's another thing when an airline pilot sees something making a right-angle turn right in front of him," Nesser said.

"If there's something going on, I'd like to know about it." □

E-mail address: glivadas@DemocratandChronicle.com

FREE LUNCH



CATHY FREE

Way far-out drop-ins welcome

YOU KNOW YOU'VE found the right place by the doormat on the front porch. "All Species Welcome," it says.

Dave Rosenfeld didn't put the mat out for the stray cats and squirrels that frequently drop by his apart-

ment in Emigration Canyon. He put it out for the aliens. Not illegal aliens but space aliens, particularly the kind with clammy gray skin and enormous, buglike eyes.

Dave hands you his business card and you immediately want to go home and tack it to your bulletin board so everyone can see it. "Alien Dave, UFO investigator and contact-ee," it reads, next to a picture of a little alien with an "Alien Busters" red slash through it.

"Come on in," says Dave with a grin, motioning to a sofa surrounded by a collection of UFO videos, magazines and books. He wanted to get together for a Free Lunch of takeout Indian food to talk about his favorite hobby and the group he started six years ago to investigate Utah UFOs, crop circles, Bigfoot sightings and other paranormal activities that most of us haven't experienced outside of watching the "The X-Files."

As director of the Utah UFO Hunters, Dave, 33, regularly goes on "sky watches," hoping to add to the collection of alien spacecraft photos in his family photo album.

He already has a couple of snapshots that are pretty spectacular: One shows a bright, saucer-shaped craft, surrounded by a neon-green glow, while the other is of a strange,

cylindrical object that Dave says he spotted hovering at the top of Emigration Canyon one night.

"It was huge," says Dave, "and one end of the cylinder was much brighter than the other. This canyon is a great place to spot UFOs. That's why I moved up here."

Ever since 1994, when Dave claims he was visited by an alien while sitting in his pickup truck in the canyon, he has been fascinated by life outside Utah, er, Earth.

"It was after midnight and I saw something staring at me through the passenger window," he says. "It was a typical 'gray' with big black eyes. Did I freak? Of course, I freaked! I flew down the canyon, then I noticed it was half past 3. I was missing a chunk of time. That's what happens when most people have an encounter."

You might laugh at his stories and wonder if he's been pouring something besides cream into his coffee, but Dave doesn't care.

"Look, there are 16 people in the UFO Hunters, and a lot of them are professionals," he says. "We have an EMT, a probation officer, a rescue scuba diver, even a guy who's in the military. We go out and look for UFOs, and there are times when you can't deny what you're seeing. Why is

it so hard for some people to believe that ours isn't the only planet with life on it?"

Dave, who runs a mobile semi-truck wash when he isn't heading to the hills with his binoculars and camera, has a comeback for every question you give him.

If UFOs exist, why hasn't one landed on the White House lawn?

Dave sighs. "With the current world climate, would you land on the White House lawn?" he says. "You'd be shot at."

If aliens really are hanging around Emigration Canyon, why hasn't anybody at Ruth's Diner had an encounter?

"Because they choose who they contact," says Dave. "I've come to the conclusion that some of these aliens aren't aliens at all, they're earthlings. This is their home planet. They've been here a lot longer than we have."

Just then, the doorbell rings. A short gray alien who has spotted the welcome mat? Dave laughs. "Nah. They wouldn't bother to knock," he says.

Have a story? Let's hear it over lunch. E-mail your name, phone number and what's on your mind to freelunch@desnews.com or send a fax to 801-466-2851. You can also write me at the Deseret News, P.O. Box 1257, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.

Farmers spark out-of-this-world attention

By KAT RICKER
Capital Press Staff Writer

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. — It's not often that something farmers do results in a weekend event 50 years later.

It's even less often that their action is taking what comes to be known as one of the nation's most sensational photographs of an unidentified flying object. But that's the case for the late Paul and Evelyn Trent, once farmers in McMinnville.

On May 11, 1950, Evelyn Trent was out feeding her rabbits when she noticed a disc-like craft hovering in the sky. She called to her husband Paul, who grabbed his camera.

The local paper, at that time the Telephone-Register, picked up the photograph. Within months, it ran nationwide in LIFE magazine.

When McMenamins Co. opened its Hotel Oregon in McMinnville, the microbrewing firm capitalized on the Trents' photographs and found the farmers new fame. McMenamins launched an event, in

its third year last weekend, on the anniversary of the sighting.

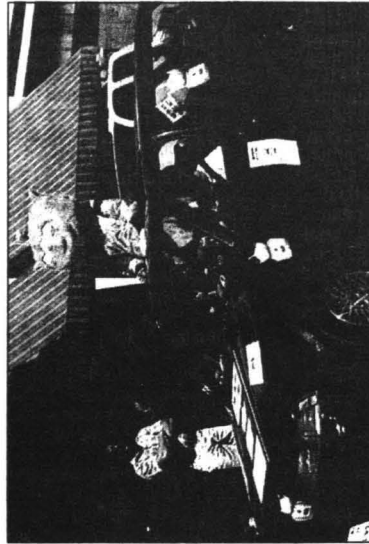
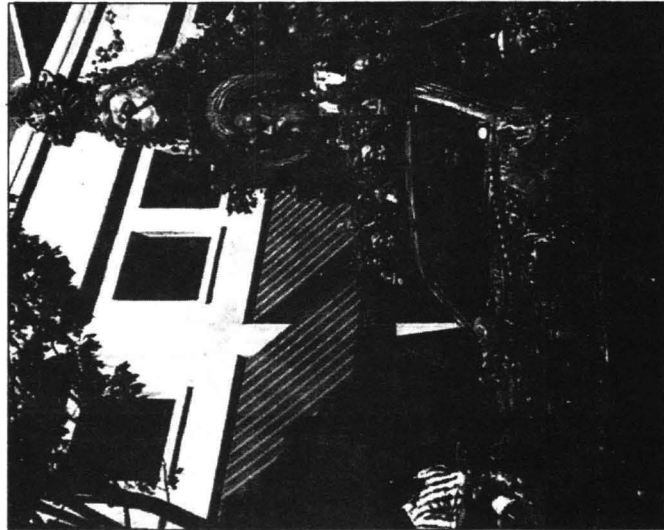
An organization called Oregon UFO Research brought in speakers and films. There was plenty of levity, too.

Downtown was packed Saturday for an out-of-this-world parade, and the event concluded with an Alien Ball at Hotel Oregon Saturday night, featuring costumed participants and a reggae band.



Best-costumed participants in the UFO commemoration parade held honors as alien King and Queen. The two lead the parade which celebrates the Trent UFO sighting.

RANDY WRIGHT/HOUSE
Capital Press

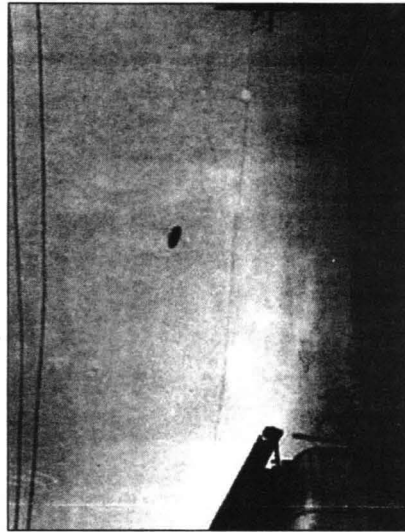


KAT RICKER/Capital Press

This three-eyed alien may have one eye trained on Hollywood, looking for more cinematic appearances to follow "Toy Story," the movie which introduced the image in a computer-generated form.

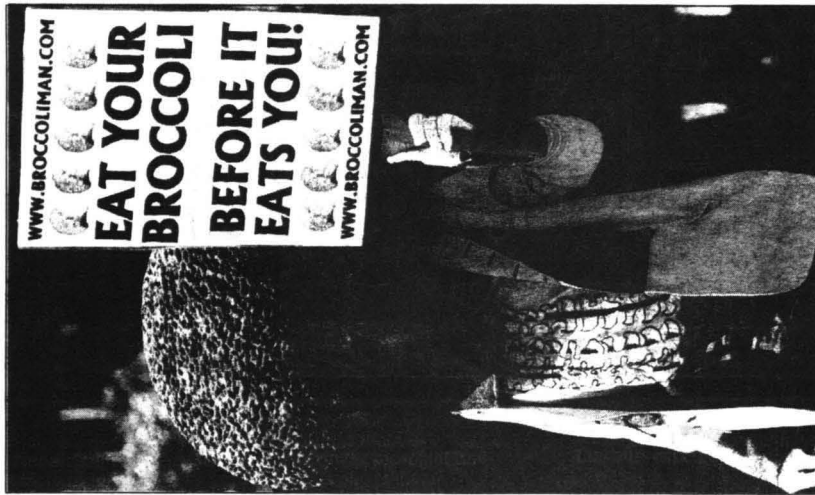
The parade was a pageant for vehicles decorated in many outlandish ways. This vehicle features a working waterfall. Details on it and its artist can be found at www.xtremothecolown.com.

RANDY WRIGHT/HOUSE
Capital Press



This is the photo that started it all. The late farmer Paul Trent snapped the shot on his McMinnville, Ore., farm in 1950. When LIFE magazine ran it, it gained national fame as one of the best photographs of an Unidentified Flying Object. It was also one of the earliest photos of its kind that was widely publicized, and some credit it with sparking the public's fascination with UFOs.

Photo from Oregon UFO Research



RANDY WRIGHT/HOUSE/Capital Press

Mike Shkolnik of Tigard, a.k.a. Broccoliman, gets ready to march in a parade through downtown McMinnville, Ore., Saturday, May 11.

ALIEN INVASION

GREGORY M. JONES
RECORD STAFF WRITER

The UFO Festival did good business Friday and Saturday to the delight of festival workers. The Allen Market Trade Show had steady business throughout the day, and turnout for the lectures at the museum was excellent.

"It has been real busy here," said event volunteer Kate Cox. "It's been better than I expected."

Other vendors expressed mixed opinions about the turnout, but were still pleased with the number of people present.

"It has been slower than I expected," said first year vendor and author Dan Medley as he explained his book to passersby. "But I love it and I am having a great time and meeting friendly folks."

While some other vendors expressed similar thoughts as to their perceived lack of people, all were still happy to have come and hoping for things to pick up Saturday.

"The trade show has been smaller than in years past," said vendor Cindy Wojcik who has operated a booth at the trade show for five years. "I was hoping it would pick up on Saturday and it did, the events brought people in."

Festival goers were pleased with what they saw at the trade show.

"There is more alien stuff this year than there was last and I love it," said Debra Cameron. "I've been coming down from Albuquerque every year for this since the 49th anniversary."

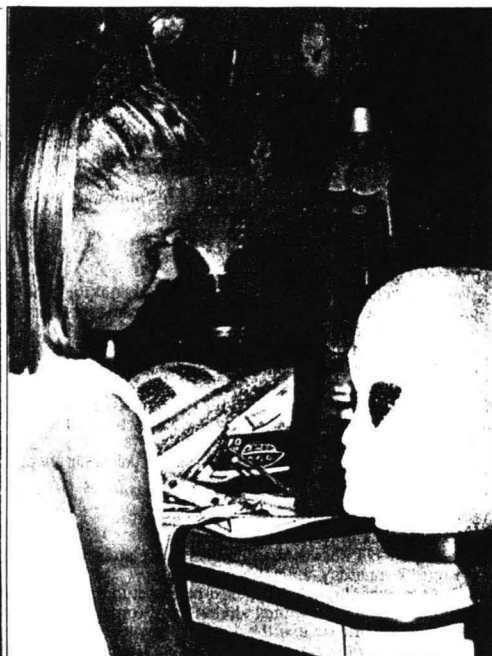
The International UFO Museum and Research Center did excellent business both Friday and Saturday, in large part due to the great number of people in attendance for the lectures. The museum reported having approximately 3,000 visitors on both Friday and Saturday.

"It has been better than years past," said IUFOMRC employee Jim Fugitt. "I think we've surpassed our goals and we're very pleased."

George Fawcett's 1 p.m. lecture at the museum set the tone for the following lectures, all which were delivered to a packed auditorium with standing room only. More than 150 people packed the back room of the IUFOMRC to listen to Fawcett, and turnout was identical for Jim Moseley's lecture



Robert McIntire and his alien friend Bob watch the Electric light UFO parade on Main Street Friday night in Roswell. The seventh annual Roswell UFO Festival is supposed to draw up to 10,000 people this year to take part in activities.



Molly Bierwierth, 4, of Roswell takes a look at an alien lamp and some of the other wares on sale at the Alien Market Trade Show Friday at the Roswell Civic Center.

Stone wowed by festival

GREGORY M. JONES
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Actress Dee Wallace Stone was on hand for a majority of the events during this year's UFO Festival. Stone, perhaps best known for playing the role of Elliot's mother in Steven Spielberg's "E.T. The Extraterrestrial," has also had roles in other films such as "Cujo," "10," "Critters," "Alligator II: The Mutation," and the made for television movie "Bad as I Wanna Be: The Dennis Rodman Story."

Stone had a grueling schedule running back and forth between the International UFO Museum and Research Center and the Civic Center signing autographs and selling photographs, participating in the Electric Light Parade Friday night, and helping judge the costume contest Saturday morning.

"I think it is awesome," Stone said of the festival. "I had no idea the magnitude of people who are into this stuff."

Stone was contacted by the Roswell Chamber of Commerce and the IUFOMRC to come to the event in part to commemorate the 20th



Daily Record • Bill Moffitt

Dee Wallace Stone, left, works the crowd at the Alien Costume Contest at the Roswell Museum and Art Center Saturday as master of ceremonies Teresa Davis-McKee looks on. Stone starred as the mother in the 1982 Steven Spielberg film "E.T. The Extraterrestrial" which will be re-released on DVD and video in October.

anniversary of E.T.

Earlier in the day she told the crowd at the costume contest that working on the film was great and the cast and crew was like one big family.

"Steven Spielberg is a wonderful director," she said later. "He knows exactly what he is doing."

Stone enjoyed her stay in Roswell, despite her busy schedule saying "I've had a great time." She said the people have been fabulous and extremely friendly to her.

Stone is currently giving acting lessons and selling motivational video tapes and photographs. She has her own web site, deewallacestone.com, where interested parties can purchase these items or e-mail the actress.

Friday night. Internationally renowned UFO expert Stanton Friedman also spoke to a packed house Saturday night.

"We've been very pleased with everything so far and there is still tomorrow," said IUFOMRC employee Bruce Rhodes. "I think by the time we're done we'll have had around 10,000 people."

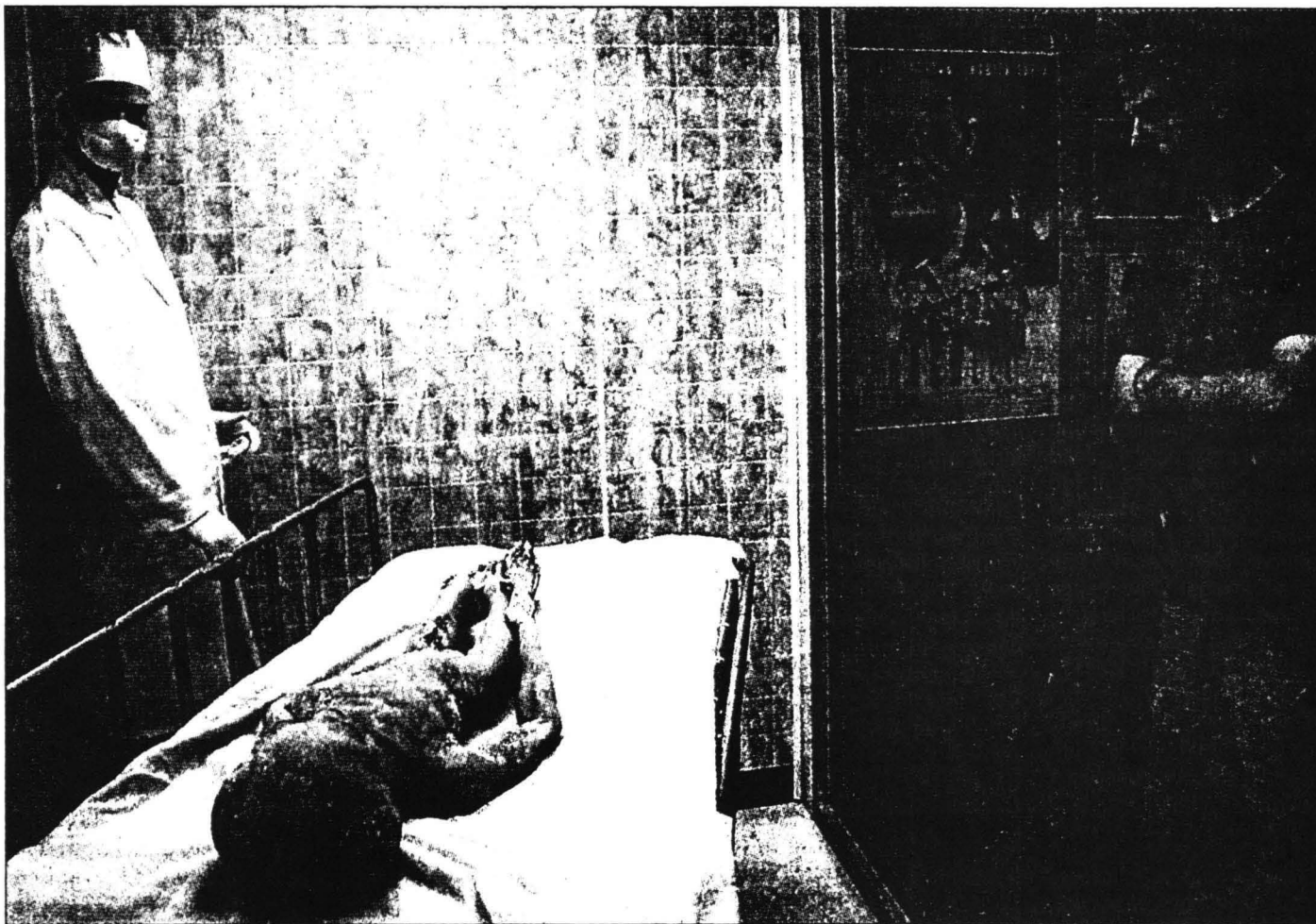
Outdoor activities were sparsely populated throughout the afternoon in the area surrounding the Civic Center. Some attendees braved the hot sun to browse the outdoor vendor's booths or to take a ride on the "Monster Bus," a small school bus customized to resemble a monster truck. However, outdoor activities did not get rolling Friday until the hot desert sun went down, at which point hundreds of people and their dogs lined Main Street for the Electric Light UFO Parade.

Unfortunately, turnout for Friday night's UFO/Alien Masquerade Ball at the Sally Port Inn was less than expected.

Saturday morning, approximately 50 model aircraft pilots, some of whom ventured down from Albuquerque or up from El Paso, gathered to discuss plans for the morning's model aircraft fly in. Around 8 a.m. they filled the early morning sky around the abandoned airport with the buzzing of remote controlled airplanes.

The Roswell Museum and Art Center's west banquet hall was filled to capacity for the 10 a.m. Alien Costume Contest. So many people showed up for the event that a security guard had to turn aspiring attendees away due to the lack of room in the hall.

Saturday night, a concert featuring Chris Daniels and the Kings, Doug Bluefeather and the Men in Black entertained festival goers at the auditorium.



Daily Record • Andrew Poertner

Ted Hine of Boston examines an alien autopsy exhibit at the International UFO Museum and Research Center Thursday.

Visitors flock to 'Alien Nation'

ANDREW POERTNER
RECORD MANAGING EDITOR

More than a half century later, Roswell's claim to fame remains its 1947 UFO Incident and it's still packing in the tourists.

The city's fifth annual UFO Festival got into full swing Thursday as thousands of tourist hit the city to learn more about extraterrestrials, buy up a variety of UFO memorabilia and trinkets and just plain have a good time.

Kicking off the festival was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Roswell Convention and Civic Center. Present were representatives from city government, the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce and the UFO Committee.

City Councilor Judy Stubbs addressed the crowd saying "Have a good time and thank you for coming here and helping us celebrate our history."

Ray Baca, CEO of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce, kept his remarks short and simple.

"Welcome, enjoy yourselves and have a good UFO weekend."

Roswell Chamber of Commerce chief executive officer Shawn Hughes said the UFO Festival is a fun event that plays an important economic

role for the city. Hughes said the festival attracts people from across the nation, people who might relocate here, start a business here or just spread the word that Roswell is a good place to live and work.

"This is kind of the flagship event for the local tourism industry," Hughes said. "It gives them a reason to make Roswell a destination, not just a point of transition" to other tourism stops in the area.

"You've got to get them here before you really get them hooked," Hughes concluded.

Throughout the day visitors stopped by the civic center to check out the Alien Market Trade Show. While not all the items at the show were alien-related, there was a wide variety of alien merchandise for sale. Customers could purchase alien buttons, clothing, pens, inflatable aliens and even alien drinking cups to quench their thirst.

Tourists also descended en masse on the International UFO Museum and Research Center. Julie Shuster, head of the museum, said an hour before closing on Thursday the center had received about 1,500 visitors.

"It's nuts, but it's fun," Shuster said. Some of our staff are getting tuckered and it's just the first day."

Authorities clueless about mysterious fireball

By The Associated Press

HENRYETTA [OK] - Police said today they still don't know what to make of more than 20 reports of a mysterious fireball in the sky.

Henryetta Police Chief Audie Cole said his officers have exhausted their investigation into the object, which streaked through the sky for about 10 to 15 seconds Saturday night. Two minutes later, residents felt the tremors of an explosion. "From what they tell me, it was a pretty good boom," the chief said. "The officers have done everything they could do."

Officers checked on planes at the airport and Tinker Air Force Base. They even looked into whether there had been a

major truck accident on Interstate 40 that threw something into the air. There was no such accident and none of the ideas got them any answers, Cole said. About 20 people called police Saturday night to report the flying object, which some said had a flaming blue tail.

"When we first saw it we thought it was a missile," said Henryetta resident Shirley Brown. "It had a blue flame and a red flame coming out of the back. It was like a comet, but it was metal." Other residents called the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office. "Six people called with reports of a large missile-type object with large flames flying across the sky," Okmulgee County Under-sheriff Eddy Rice said. Authorities said they have no clue where the object landed. "There is nowhere to even start," Rice said. "Usually people are pretty good about calling if they see smoke, and we haven't had anyone call to report that." The chief said the projectile likely was flying 10 miles south of Henryetta.

In addition to its normal exhibits, the UFO Museum is also hosting a series of lectures on the UFO phenomenon and there are a number of science fiction writers conducting book signings.

UFO expert keeps head in the clouds, feet on the ground

George Fawcett wasn't looking for attention.

That wasn't necessary.

At the time the Lynchburg College junior reported seeing an unidentified flying object hovering over the Hopwood Hall administration building more than half a century ago, he was a three-sport letterman, head of the intramural program, a member of about 10 campus organizations and a fixture on the school newspaper.

Unfortunately for his credibility, he was also alone.

"I had gone to visit my roommate in the infirmary," Fawcett said in a recent telephone conversation from his home in Lincolnton, N.C., "and I was a little bit late getting out. The next classes had already started, so there was no one around when I was walking across campus and saw it."

"It" being an object "shaped sort of like a tire or half a ball, blazing orange against a dark-blue sky, about 30 feet in diameter."

"It was 1974 in Columbia, S.C.,"

Fawcett said. "I was there for the opening of the movie 'UFOs: Target Earth' at the Plaza 3 theater, showing some of my slides and giving a narrative between shows. I was leaving the theater when this guy came up and said, 'I'd like to talk to you. Let's get some coffee and doughnuts across the street.'"

Fawcett said the man first asked him his thoughts on world and national politics (and, inexplicably, the stock market), then pressed him to sign an oath of silence, and finally offered him \$12,000 ("A lot of money to me back then") to forget all about his UFO research. They wound up agreeing to disagree, but Fawcett admitted, "I was scared."

He also told of being asked by a nationally known museum to donate his extensive collection of UFO memorabilia (photographs, tapes, clippings), only to find out later that the museum planned to "white-wash all of it with Air Force explanations. So I wound up giving it to the museum at Roswell (the International UFO Museum and Research Center)."

If all of this makes Mr. Fawcett sound a bit, well, paranoid, you wouldn't know it to talk with him. He sounds more like a graduate student on the research trail than a confidante of Mulder and Scully. Not only that, but he used to be a newspaper reporter (that makes him credible, doesn't it?)

"The University of Colorado investigated over 1,000 UFO sightings and found that they couldn't explain 30 percent of them," he said. "The Air Force did a study and came up with 40 percent unexplained. My research showed only 22 percent that couldn't be explained.

The date was July 6, 1951. A few months later, when he returned for his senior year, Fawcett told the Lynchburg News, "The thing zigzagged, then settled down in a straight course and moved off toward the west."

It then left George Fawcett to try and convince everyone else. Big man on campus or not, the revelation of his sighting brought the expected ribbing down upon him, along with the nickname "Leaky." It also moved his life in another direction.

Fawcett had been intrigued by reports of flying saucers since he was a teenager, and followed the 1947 Roswell, N.M., incident with keen interest. Whatever he saw above the LC campus only put a finer edge on his curiosity.

Since then, he says, he has read more

than 1,000 books on the subject ("Both pro and con"), spoken before more than 600 groups and investigated nearly 2,000 UFO sightings, many of them in the Carolinas and a few in Virginia. He has become a key player in the burgeoning field of UFO experts and pundits, and earlier this month he spoke to 300 people at a conference in (where else?) Roswell. And now, he insists, he's far from alone.

"Based on the latest Gallup poll," he said, "if you believe in the existence of UFO's, you're in the majority."

This summer, movie audiences across America will be chuckling at Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as alien-fighting "Men in Black," but George Fawcett says he's met a MIB in real life. Not dressed in black, exactly, but with a definite MIB attitude.



"My philosophy is to keep my head in the clouds and my feet on the ground. I look into each case very carefully, both the circumstances and the person doing the reporting."

Most of the "explained" cases are honest examples of mistaken identity, Fawcett said.

"In my experience, only about 1 percent turn out to be hoaxes."

Since leaving LC, Fawcett has worked for a textile mill, as a journalist, and (primarily) as the director of several YMCAs. He and his wife now run a sandwich shop. Yet he has always found time to indulge his passion.

"I've been researching UFOs for 60 years," he said, "and it's brought me to a few conclusions. One, UFOs are real. Two, UFOs are not natural phenomena. Three, UFOs are not conventional objects. Four, UFOs are unconventional objects with a high degree of technology. Five, UFOs are a threat to both national security and human survival.

Not that he's expecting The War of the Worlds to start tomorrow.

But Fawcett said he's heard enough credible reports of injuries and property damage caused by aliens and their crafts to buy into the "ET" image entirely.

"Some UFOs are friendly," he said, "and some are not."

As his reputation grows, so do the demands on Fawcett's time.

"When I got back home from speaking at Roswell, I had 300 e-mails on my computer," he said.

And this weekend, he was in Florida at the funeral of Bob Sabo, a fellow "UFOlogist" who recently donated \$30,000 to the Roswell research center.

Leaky or not, George Fawcett doesn't claim to know everything. He doesn't know where these strange craft come from, or where they go when they're not appearing to people. He's not sure what they want, or how many there are.

"I think it's possible to keep an open mind without having an empty head," he said. "One of the things that's convinced me is the similarity among reports from all over the world — China, Russia, South Carolina, you name it."

And the little men?

"If you accept the fact that Mickey Rooney is real, why not?"

► Laurant, a columnist for The News & Advance, can be reached by e-mail at todurl@hotmail.com.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - June 29, 2002



WE'RE WATCHING ...
From left, Russ Kellett, Jody Holden and Simon Hickey keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary

022692

Watchers of our skies

by Louise Howbridge

SCARBOROUGH is a hotbed for Unidentified Flying Objects and if there is one person who should know it's Russ Kellett.

The 39-year-old expert has been investigating the paranormal phenomena for the past 10 years and has hours of footage of extra-terrestrial encounters.

Unexplainable flying triangles, silver saucers and bright balls of light are just some of the strange objects he has seen during the day and night.

Through a UFO investigation organisation he established, Russ has spoken to hundreds of people, many in Scarborough, who have also spotted strange objects in the skies.

Some even claim to have come face-to-face with aliens.

"I have got all the evidence I need to know there is something going on," said Russ, who lives in Filey.

"Some of the objects I have seen on video, the speed they move and the manoeuvres they make, is beyond the technology we have so if it's not ours whose is it?"

"There are definitely things flying around and I don't know where they come from but they are not made by British Aerospace."

Russ has dedicated the past 10 years of this life to trawling through piles of witness statements, photographs and video footage from people who claim to have had first-hand experience of the UFO enigma.

Through detailed research he attempts to discount theories that it could be anything from a satellite, meteor, planet or star to a hot-air balloon, handglider or kite.

"Like anything there will be a

small percentage that want to believe so they will make stories up and there will probably be a small percentage of people who will make stories up and lie about anything no matter what the subject," said Russ, who works with an image enhancement expert from Warwick University.

"Yet we have a large percentage of people who have seen something and have gone so far as to write out official report forms, sketch the object they have seen and they can collaborate this with other witnesses that were there at the time."

Russ has spoken to many people who have spotted UFOs over the Scarborough area, and while standing in Filey's Crescent Gardens on June 21 he saw a black object hovering over the sea.

A similar object was seen by a fellow enthusiast over Filey three days later.

"This area is outstanding in this phenomena," he said. "It's a very rural area and there is not much light pollution which may be one reason why people see more UFOs around here."

Just two of the stories he has been told involve a fisherman spotting a UFO over the North Sea which then plunged into the water and another man seeing an unusual spinning object which resembled a fairground carousel hovering over Dalby Forest.

"A favourite place is Staxton where there have been all sorts of strange objects seen."

"There have also been a lot over Oliver's Mount where there were six silver balls of light flying around

which could not be put down to anything," he said.

"One man told me he was driving over Cayton Bay and saw a big bright orange ball of light which followed him as he drove towards Hunmanby, this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Russ's fascination with the unexplained began when he was five after his father and a few workmates spotted a huge metallic silver cigar-shaped object in the sky over Bradford.

"I can remember my dad telling me the story over breakfast and that really started me off," recalled Russ, who does not work because he suffers from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

But it was not until more than 20 years later that Russ was bitten by the UFO bug after what can only be described as a thoroughly bizarre experience in 1988.

"I was waiting on my motorbike at a level crossing on my way to a place called Utley, the barriers were down, the lights were flashing and a train was coming," he said.

"As the train raced past I noticed a light all around me and I could feel the heat from it. I looked round to see who it was as I felt they were too close for comfort and that's when I realised the light was coming from above, then it disappeared."

Bemused by his experience, Russ made his way home and the next morning he awoke to find his face neck and hands were all red, like he had a suntan.

This lasted for a few weeks before his skin blistered and peeled.

He also became plagued with constant colds and flu which he struggled to shake off.

Coincidence or otherwise, he will never know.

"At the time I didn't really think anything about it until two years later when I was on my bike with my friend who was riding pillion," he said. "One minute we were riding home and the next we were walking through the door feeling dazed, all I can remember us seeing a big silver ball of light in the sky. We have not got a clue how we got home."

Russ decided to join a UFO group and established an organisation called UFO Network in the early 1990s which was made up of enthusiasts and investigators who researched sightings and spoke to witnesses.

"People ask why I see things and they don't. They may be like ghosts, some people can see them, some can't and others are not interested and don't want to see anything."

"I have stopped looking for and investigating small anomalous objects which could be a star or comet. I am now looking at the bigger picture, something more substantial like a craft," he said.

Russ has teamed up with fellow enthusiasts Jody Holden, 20, of Southdene, Filey, and Simon Hickey, 17, of Station Road, to set up a club which will log local sightings and arrange sky watches.

He will be giving a talk and video presentation about UFOs at Filey Evron Centre in John Street on Friday July 12 from 7-10pm. Admission is free.

Russ has his own website: www.ufo-images.tv

He logs and documents evidence of sightings. He can be contacted by anyone who may have had a UFO encounter on 07901 597743.

Strange but very true

- a UFO sighting occurs somewhere on the planet an average of every three minutes

- the first documented UFO sighting is in the Bible. The prophet Ezekiel described a "great cloud with fire enfolding itself, a wheel in the middle of a wheel that descended and fired lightning bolts into the earth"

- the first photograph of a UFO was taken in 1883 by astronomer Jose Bonilla in Zacatecas, Mexico

- Winston Churchill reported a strange airship in Kent, England, in October 1912. It was the first case of a UFO being "officially" reported

- on February 25 1042, a large dark object over the Los Angeles coastline was mistaken for a Japanese attack and drew a barrage of aircraft fire. Memos to President Roosevelt confirmed the existence of unidentified aerial objects

- UFOs were often seen and photographed during NASA's space missions in the 1960s.

Crop circles: hoaxes or 'signs'?

Summer movie revives debate about source
of mysterious shapes in farmers' fields

By JASON ZASKY



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mel Gibson plays farmer
Graham Hess in the thriller
Signs, now on general release.**

In the movie *Signs*, opening in theatres this week, Mel Gibson plays a farmer who becomes famous after crop circles begin appearing in his fields. For the uninitiated, crop circles are patterns—man-made or the work of non-human, intelligent beings (depending on who you believe)—created by flattening crops in a preconceived fashion so that a recognizable design becomes evident.

Determining the true nature of crop circles is difficult because crop circle artists (a.k.a. hoaxers), researchers, historians and enthusiasts rarely make definitive claims. While *Signs* isn't likely to clarify any hot-button crop circle issues, it promises to be entertaining and will certainly add fuel to an already lively debate.

Ask 10 people from the crop circle community where and when crop circles first appeared and you will likely get 10 different answers. According to Andy Thomas, longtime crop circle researcher, founding member of Southern Circular Research and editor of *swirlednews.com*, "the very earliest account that may well describe a formation is from Assen, Holland in 1590, but the most famous example is the 'mowing devil' illustration, recorded in a pamphlet issued in Hertfordshire, England in 1678."

However, John Lundberg, self-professed crop circle artist and operator of *circlemakers.org*, credits artist Doug Bower with creating the contemporary crop circle phenomenon in the mid-to-late 1970s. "He took his inspiration from the Tully 'UFO nest' case [Jan. 19, 1966]—a swirled circle of swampland in Australia that was allegedly left behind by a UFO," says Lundberg.

Regardless, there's little doubt that in the last 15 years crop circles have become more common

and more sophisticated. In the early '90s the term "cerealogy" (the study of crop circles) first appeared. During this time cerealogists (crop circle researchers) of varying repute have popped up; they frequently publish books or release documentaries publicizing their work. There's even an annual crop circle conference called "The Glastonbury Symposium," a three-day event held each summer in Glastonbury, a small town in southwest England.

The site of the conference isn't a coincidence. The majority of the crop circles discovered each year are in southern England, with Germany, Canada and the Netherlands also well represented. "There is a clear correlation between the distribution of crop formations and geologic conditions," says Thomas. "Underground water seems to be the key, for whatever reason. Work has shown that the vast majority of crop formations in southern England cluster around aquifers," he continues.

It's also possible that the most prolific crop circle creators simply live and work in southern England. According to a 1997

press release by Lundberg and fellow artist Rod Dickinson, "crop formations... are artworks constructed anonymously under the cover of darkness by small teams of skilled and experienced artists."

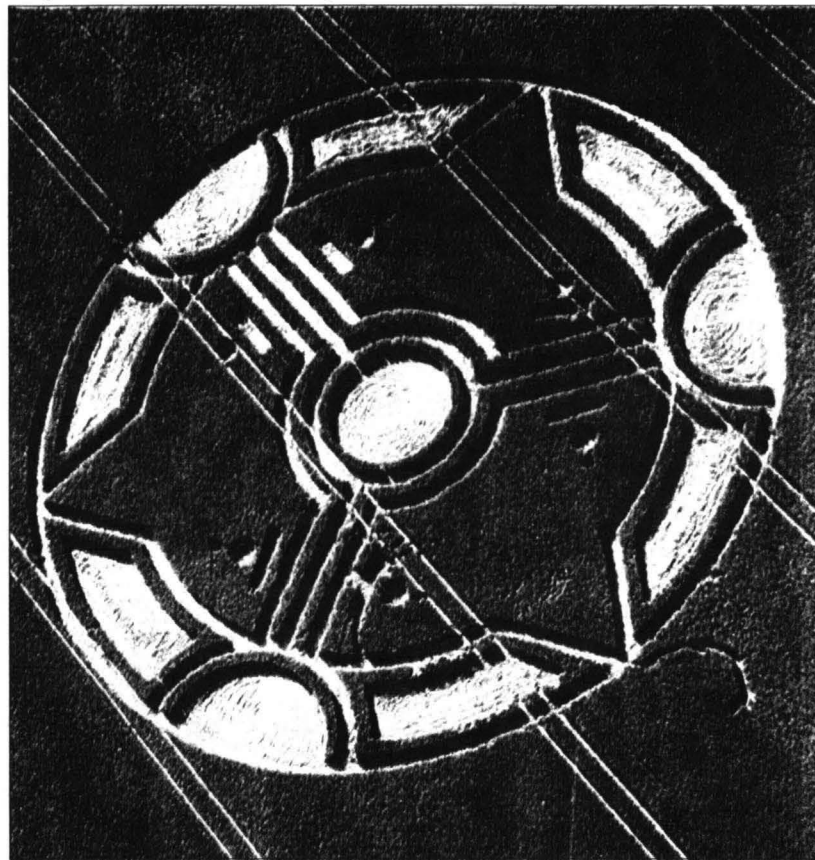
"Our group has been active for the past 11 years, and there are three other circle-making groups currently active in the U.K.," says Lundberg. Still, he refuses to specify how many circles his kind create each year. "It varies, but I would not want to put a figure on it. Our group never claims formations... Most [circle makers] want to remain anonymous," he emphasizes.

According to the "tools" page on *circlemakers.org*, crop circles can be constructed using not much more than two "stalk-stompers," a ball of pre-stretched nylon string, a two-foot-long marking pole and 100 feet of plastic surveying tape. However, it would seem that sophisticated designs would also require the use of more precise surveying tools and techniques.

Still, there are those who insist that only the most simplistic of crop circles are man-made and that the rest must be the work of beings with superior intelligence. "The only people who say they are man-made are the people who aren't paying attention," claims Suzanne Taylor, operator of *mightycompanions.org* (a Web site focused on the transformation of consciousness) and executive producer of an upcoming crop circle documentary. "We have no way to do the geometry of these things; it's beyond our design capacity. It's all we can do to figure out what they did," she continues.

"It's very hard to say whether we're dealing with a phenomenon of extra-terrestrial intelligence, some kind of super-consciousness, collective telekinesis, natural forces, or something even more bizarre."

According to crop circle investigator and lecturer Michael Glickman, "my own work sug-



NEWSLINE

Part of this year's crop of crop circles as photographed this summer by Chad Deetken, Vancouver's circle investigator. The circles are near Liddington Castle, Oxfordshire, England.

gests that five to six per cent are man-made, but as the whole hoax thing is based on deceit, who can be sure?" In his recent video release, *The Pi Hypothesis and The Big Triangles*, he implies that the more sophisticated formations are not the work of humans, but "profound communications from non-human intelligent life."

While Thomas evokes a more measured tone, he clearly believes that some greater power is at work. "After 11 years of crop circle research, I can honestly say that I don't know [who is responsible for crop circles]," he says. "It's very hard to say whether we're dealing with a phenomenon of extra-terrestrial intelligence, some kind of super-consciousness, collective

telekinesis, natural forces, or something even more bizarre. The one thing I would say for certain is that I do not believe all crop circles are man-made."

Meanwhile, Lundberg seems genuinely happy about the controversy. "There's a very symbiotic relationship between us and the researchers. They need us to supply them with the circles and we need them to promote our work and invest it with meaning by creating myths and folklore around the phenomenon."

Although there are hundreds of crop circles discovered every year, two particular formations stand above the rest in the eyes of enthusiasts — both from Wiltshire, England. One is an elaborate triangular formation that

appeared at Barbury Castle in 1991, the other an enormous six-armed design at Milk Hill in 2001. "Clearly the phenomenon has expanded in complexity in the last few decades," says Thomas. "The reason for this evolution is one of the more fascinating and controversial aspects to the whole mystery."

According to Taylor, the creators of the most sophisticated formations are making a concerted effort trying to demonstrate their intelligence in subjects like geometry and mathematics. "We will never know who or what it is unless it tells us," claims Taylor. "It has some kind of superior intelligence—something we do not have a category for."

failuremag.com

Recent UFO sightings in the Bulkley Valley

HOUSTON TODAY, Houston, B.C., Canada - March 27, 2002 CR: G. Conway

Last week *Houston Today* ran a story by T. Schaefer about unidentified flying objects sighted in the Bulkley Valley.

Brian Vike is a ufologist and UFO field investigator based in Houston. He says this area has drawn national and international attention from ufologists because of the high number of sightings here.

February 2002 was one of the most active months of UFO sightings in the Bulkley Valley in some time. It seems the Bulkley

Valley has become a crossroad for interstellar traffic.

Houston Food Mart telling of an object hovering approximately 500 feet

It seems the Bulkley Valley has become a crossroad for interstellar traffic.

Space did not allow the inclusion of the following accounts in last week's paper, so here are some reports of recent sightings:

- Houston (July 2001): A fellow walked into the tower.

above a transmitting tower on Mount Harry Davis. The object was emitting sparks off its bottom side, shooting down toward the tower.

- Houston (Jan. 1999):

Several snowmobilers on the Telkwa Mountain Range watched a black/silver disc-shaped object hover in the distance.

Husband and wife watch a large white light (object) east of Telkwa. It was reported to be very large and glowed brightly before disappearing rapidly to the north.

(Sept. 2001): A man driving west to Smithers from Houston saw a white light streak low over the valley below him, near Grouse Mountain.

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

(Aug. 2001):

- Houston to Smithers

Beam me up, Scot

BY MIKE TAIT

SCOTLAND is 'the Costa Del Sol for aliens' after coming top of a league table of the world's UFO hotspots.

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

The results, published yesterday on International UFO Day, show there are 300 reported UFO sightings in Scotland a year - four times as many per square kilometre than France and Italy, joint second in the rankings.

Scotland also records the highest number of sightings per head of population, with the figure once again four times higher than second placed Canada.

The research was commissioned by VisitScotland. A spokesman said: 'This confirms Scotland is the nearest thing there is to the Costa del Sol for aliens.'

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

METRO Briefing

■ According to the research, Scotland has 0.004 UFO sightings per square kilometre and one sighting per 17,000 inhabitants

■ By contrast, France has just 0.001 sightings per square kilometre and one sighting for every 86,857 of its citizens

■ Although the USA has 2,000 sightings a year, that works out at just 0.0002 per square kilometre and one sighting for every 136,450 people

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

ings in nearby West Lothian. Stirling-based UFO expert Ron Halliday said: 'When you think of the number of sightings in Scotland compared to its population, it is phenomenal.'

Explaining why he thought there were so many strange sightings in the Bonnybridge area in particular, he said: 'One theory is that the area

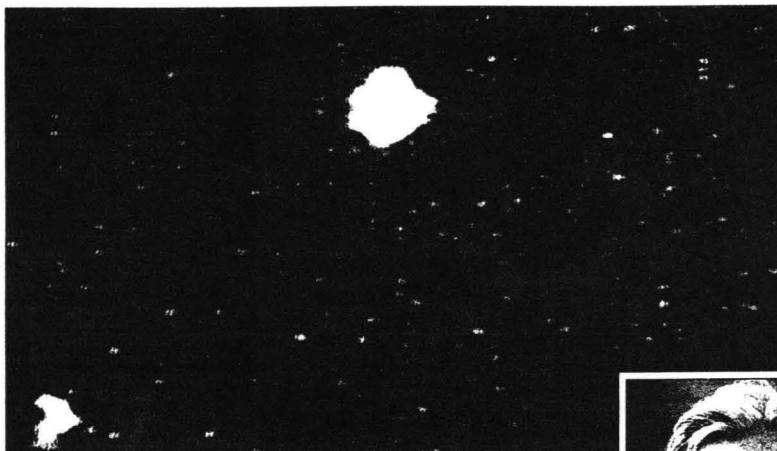
around Bonnybridge is some kind of window into another dimension.

'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 nuts and bolts spaceship.'

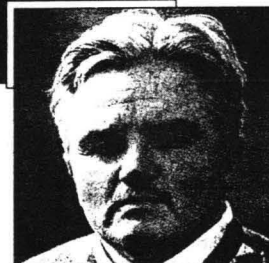
Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, offered another explanation.

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

'In 90 per cent of UFO reports, diligent research will produce a simple explanation, but that still leaves ten per cent remaining unexplained.'



Out of this world? A video grab of mysterious lights in the night sky taken by Coun Billy Buchanan, below



SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - July 21, 2002 CR: T. Good/N. Oliver

Let's be having UFO

EXCLUSIVE
By Keith Perry

THE truth is out there - and stargazing policeman Gary Heseltine is the man to find it.

By day, Britain's answer to TV agent Fox Mulder works as a British Transport policeman fighting crime on the country's rail networks. By night, he turns his detective skills to investigating whether there could be life on other planets.

Now, 26 years after he spotted a UFO with his girlfriend, DC Heseltine has launched Britain's own X Files, a computer database for police officers to record their own sightings of alien beings.

Although colleagues at his Leeds station initially scoffed at the thought of Mr Heseltine, 42, searching for close encounters, they now take him more seriously after his database, Police Reporting UFO Sightings (PRUFOS), was contacted by policemen who have never previously spoken about their experiences.

Other professionals, such as airline pilots, who, like police officers, have previously not disclosed their experiences for fear of ridicule, have also contacted Mr Heseltine.

He hopes PRUFOS will eventually become the most comprehensive database of police sightings in Britain.



Policeman Gary hunts for aliens with his very own X Files

And he's now convinced there's no earthly explanation for how life here has developed.

Last night the Louisiana-born researcher said: 'Humans are so unusual compared to other primates that it can be argued that we are not from Earth at all.'

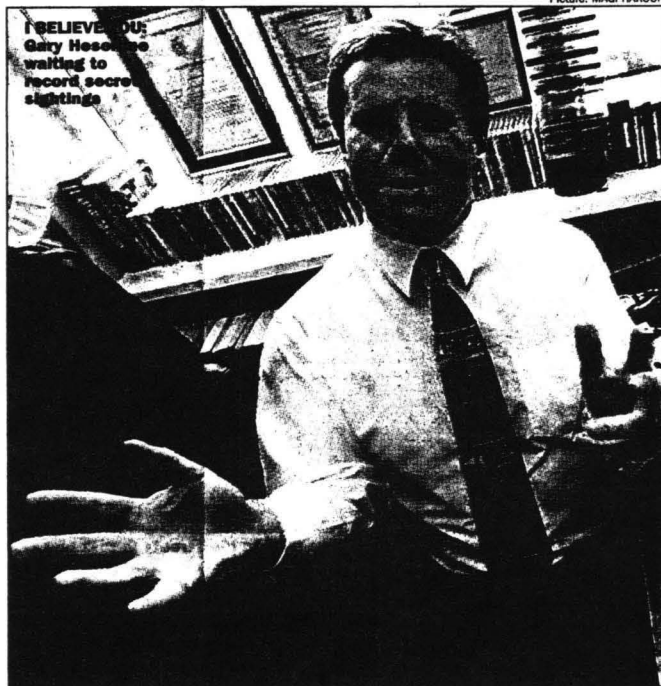
'We are taught that humans are primates very closely related to all other primates, especially

power cut. They didn't believe me and I rushed out into the garden just in time to see the object passing overhead. No sooner had it passed over the top of the house than there was a power cut.'

In 1980, PC Alan Godfrey, reported encountering a diamond-shaped UFO in Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Under hypnosis he said he was spirited away and examined by aliens. Mr Heseltine said it was now regarded as one of the most convincing cases of its type.

Mr Heseltine said: 'I want to create conditions where police can confidentially contact me. If I can help highlight important sightings then the database will prove its worth.'



I BELIEVE YOU: Gary Heseltine waiting to record secret sightings

Picture: MAGI HAROUN

IT'S THE ALIENS WOT PUT MAN ON EARTH!

ALIENS keep visiting us to see how we're doing because THEY put us here, according to a top scientist.

Lloyd Pye reckons that evolution cannot be explained without ET-style beings being involved.

US-based Pye, 57, author of the Everything You Know Is Wrong: Human Origins, has spent 30

■ by TONY LEONARD

years studying Earth's evolution. And he's now convinced there's no earthly explanation for how life here has developed.

Last night the Louisiana-born researcher said: 'Humans are so unusual compared to other primates that it can be argued that we are not from Earth at all.'

'We are taught that humans are primates very closely related to all other primates, especially

chimpanzees and gorillas. This is so ingrained in our psyches that it seems futile even to examine it, much less to challenge it. But we will.'

Baffled

In his study, Pye looked at the differences between apes and man, wild animals, and domestic pets, and wildflowers, and domesticated food-bearing plants.

And he believes we were brought to Earth by UFOs along

with our pets, livestock, and nutritious plants like barley, corn and maize.

He adds that spacecraft visit us periodically because the aliens want to check on our progress.

He said: 'My theories may sound fanciful, even incredible. But they explain things that have baffled scientists for years.'

He added that no one, including Charles Darwin, has ever explained the 'missing link' between apes and man.



ONE OF US: ET's not so alien



IS IT A CASE FOR MULDER AND SCULLY? How do we know whether UFO 'sightings' are hoaxes or genuine contact from other worlds?

The problem is, we lack proof

THE universe is so vast that it is hard to imagine that human eyes will ever gaze on many of its wonders.

Among the countless stars, is Earth the only planet out there blessed with so-called intelligent lifeforms?

Has Earth already been visited by intelligent beings from other worlds or dimensions? Or is it the only planet to hold the miracle of life?

Do our ancient myths and legends hold clues to a time when man was visited by beings not of this Earth?

There are so many unanswered questions it seems impossible to know for sure, and therefore it is hard for the average person to even speculate what the big picture might be.

We have a huge problem knowing what the real proof is, what might be enough for some people, may seem like mere fairy stories to others. Yet I bet most of us can recall a story about some UFO sighting or know someone who totally believes (even if they don't know why) the possibility of another life force out there.

What we need is absolute proof. We need hard physical evidence, where beyond any shadow of a doubt we can say that alien or non-human intelligence is (or has been) in our presence.

Most of this evidence, I believe, is kept safely and securely behind locked doors. Conspiracy theories are abundant. In a recent poll, the majority of the population is said to believe that the Government is hiding what they know about these worldly visitors.

Whether for our own protection or their own abuse of power, the reaction to this secrecy is unclear. If only a small percentage of the many thousands of reported cases are true, this is surely something we all deserve to know about.

Welcome to weird world of UFOs

THERE has definitely been something highly peculiar in the air these past two weeks.

I've found myself totally preoccupied with UFOs. Now I don't know if you believe in the possibility of visitations from other worlds or dimensions, but I've always been curious. Now I'm unsure what exactly sparked this recent preoccupation of mine. Possibly it was David Bowie's fault, as I've been listening to Space Oddity recently, but nevertheless I just haven't been able to shake it off.

On many occasions, I've even found myself, gazing up to the sky at night and wondering: "Is there anybody out there?"

No - trust me, I'm not on some weird, mind-bending drugs. I suppose I'm just open-minded when it comes to all things extra-terrestrial.

So, late Sunday afternoon, I was having an in-depth conversation with a mate of mine about an idea I've had to write a stage play based on a group of people who all believe they have, at some time in their lives, been abducted - when my friend received a phone call, which meant he had to go indoors, leaving me outside on my own.

Of course, once he had left me, I checked out the sky just in case, re-applied my lipply and then noticed a local magazine hidden among the Sunday papers next to me on the bench.

I picked it up and flicked through it. Funnily enough, it happened to open to the back pages, where in a tiny box, with a little flying saucer symbol, there was an advert for the Hull UFO Society.



OUT THERE: Sean Tierney (right) and Jason Lewis, of the Hull UFO Society, examine photographs of UFOs at the Friends Meeting House, Percy Street, Hull

ciety. Apparently, it meets every first Tuesday in the month at the Friends Meeting House, in Percy Street, Hull.

Anyway, the coincidence seemed too good to be true - so I just couldn't resist calling them up on my mobile.

The guy who answered was local and very friendly - not, I might add, at all weird or nerdy.

We talked about the society and he told me it regularly did a skywatch, which meant a handful of them stayed up all night and kept their eyes on anything out of the ordinary happening in the skies.

Then I remembered an unexplained incident from when I was a kid living in Longhill Estate. Nothing so strange there, you may be thinking. Well, last night my dad and I went for a walk to watch the sun setting as we sometimes do, and we were talking about the subject of UFOs, when he remembered that our Ricky, my brother, who's a year older than me, had called the night before and, guess what?

He also, for some unknown reason, had rung the society up and talked to this guy's mother two nights after I had done.

The sole reason he rang was to ask them if they had ever heard of the Longhill Estate incident many years ago.

The woman told him, "It's funny you should mention it really, because a lady rang about the very same thing on Sunday night."

Of course unbeknown to our Ricky, I was that lady.

I spoke to my brother last night and he said, like me, that for no real reason he had been thinking about the very same thing - he saw the article by chance at work and without hesitation had rung them up straight away.

Because of this coincidence I've decided that both my columns this week will be dedicated to the phenomena of the unknown.

So hold on tightly and let go lightly - welcome to the world of the unexplained...

Hwy 16 reports may be linked

A Houston, B.C., based investigator is wondering if people here have seen unusual, bright objects in the skies over Terrace.

Brian Vike, an independent UFO Field researcher, says residents from Smithers to Prince George have reported a recent rash of UFO sightings.

He's wondering if people in Terrace saw anything out of the ordinary during the month of February that would be part of a pattern he's noticed east of here along Highway 16.

Vike says a major sighting took place Feb. 1 just three kms east of Telkwa, outside of Smithers. Witnesses there reported seeing bright objects in the sky.

Witnesses in Houston, Burns Lake and Vanderhoof reported seeing something similar.

To date, Vike has received reports stemming from about Jan. 31 to Feb. 3.

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

Help needed to solve UFO riddle

39, School Street, Greetland.

I received a good response to my appeal for witnesses to the sighting of a UFO above Copley on May 31 ("UFO sighting - can you help?", "Evening Courier", June 11).

I thought I would let people know that the object or light was seen in total for 40 minutes, which rules out a flare or firework, which one person thought it was.

Several people say they thought the object was coming down to land in either the Greetland or Dean Head areas. I have tried to find out where the light or object could have come down but as yet I haven't been able to locate the place.

I still need more witnesses to come forward. I can be contacted on 01422 370125 or mobile 07961 022684.

MARK GIBBONS

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - June 27, 2002

PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE, Beijing, China - June 25, 2002

Mysterious Pipes Left by 'ET' Reported from Qinghai

By PD Online Staff Member Li Heng

The widespread news of mysterious iron pipes at the foot of Mount Baigong, located in the depths of the Qaidam Basin, Qinghai Province, has roused concern from related departments.

Some experts believe that these might be relics left behind by extraterrestrial beings (ET), for the site, with its high altitude and thin, crisp air, has long been held as an ideal place to practice astronomy.

Three caves are found at the foot of Mount Baigong. Two of them have collapsed and are inaccessible. The middle one 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, a little like a cave dug out by human beings, with pure sand and rock inside.

What is astonishing is inside, for 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.

At the opening of the cave, there are a dozen pipes of a diameter between 10 and 40 centimeters, which run straight into the mountain, showing high fixing technique.

About 80 meters away from the caves is the shimmering Toson Lake, on whose beach 40 meters away, many iron pipes can be found scattered on sands and rocks. They run in an east-west direction, with a diameter between 2 and 4.5 centimeters. They are of various strange shapes and the thinnest is like a toothpick, but not blocked inside after years of sand movement.

More strange is that there are also some pipes in the lake, some reaching above water surface and some buried below, with similar shapes and thickness with those on the beach.



TRANSLATIONS

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

June ?, 2002 — [Source Unknown], Argentina — A New Mutilation in Guatrache — Found Mutilated: In Guatrache, the dead animal found Thursday afternoon was an Aberdeen Angus steer, missing its left eye, the front half of its tongue, its left ear, anus and rectum, and featured a circular cut in its abdomen and another on the left flank. Within the wave of mutilated bovines found with their organs missing, a 20 month steer was found on the property of Luis Cano, located 7 kilometers east of this town on provincial road No. 24. Yesterday morning, personnel from the Guatrache Sheriff's Office reported to the site where the animal was found dead, accompanied by veterinarian Alberto Blanco.

"The circles are perfect," maintained an official of the Sheriff's Office, reporting on the case. "The incisions were made with a peculiar instrument which cauterized as it cut, avoiding bleeding," he added. "The animal had blood inside it, but not on its hair or on the ground.. On one of its flanks, the animal had a circle measuring 7 cm without hair, as though it had been shaved, but its skin was neither burned nor cut. We're expecting another veterinarian to arrive tomorrow: Dr. Pariani from the school of veterinary medicine of General Pico, who is working with Dr. Jorge Dubarry on these strange animal deaths." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 16, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincial*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — CATTLE MUTILATIONS REACH 50 THROUGHOUT THE REGION — New Mutilations in Rivera and Pringles — Strange Mutilation Wave Continues — The mutilation in the [town of] Rivera is the first one to involve a horse. The animal had died from natural causes and its owner transferred it to a remote area. Days later, the carcass showed signs of strange incisions. Meanwhile, the first cattle mutilation in (the town of) Coronel Pringles was registered yesterday, involving a 220 kg. steer. Veterinarian Marcelo Erro and stallholder Abelardo Vivas claim having never seen anything like it. — CARHUE and CORONEL PRINGLES (from our offices) -- Two new animal mutilation cases shook the communities of Rivera and Coronel Pringles. In the first community, belonging to the Adolfo Alsina district, residents had still not overcome the surprise and uncertainty caused by the appearance of a bovine found mutilated at a farm, when word was received that a horse had suffered similar injuries.

"A psychosis has been unleashed throughout the residents," believes veterinarian Jorge Robles, alarmed due to the fact that theories over the causes of the mutilations have spread like wildfire in Rivera.

"The horse died of old age some 20 days ago, right near the house. For that reason I decided to rope it by the legs and drag it to a secluded area. I went by many times in recent days but never paid the carcass any mind until I saw what had happened and was startled," related the horse's owner, who declined to identify himself.

"The animal's missing an eye, like the one that turned up in Salliquelo, and I was startled by the cut that can be seen around its teeth and below its jaw, which is a perfect cut," added the cattle rancher. He added that the horse was also missing its tongue, despite the fact that its jaw was clenched shut. "It's weird, because when an animal dies it stiffens so much that it's hard to open its mouth." The cattleman also noticed that the horse was missing its anus and genitals, as well as skin from the inner section of the genital region. "Under its tail, it had been clipped perfectly down to the hair, but with the abdominal wall showing," he described. The rural location where the mutilated horse was discovered is west of Rivera, some 12 km away from the town. The horse was inspected by veterinarian Jorge Robles, who also analyzed the dead cow found in Arano. "The incisions are the same. The horse is missing its tongue, an eye, an ear and its genitals."

Robles recalled the autopsy he performed on the cow he found at Arano, discovering that its internal organs were intact. "But when I reached the pelvic cavity, I found a hole resembling a tunnel, and I couldn't find the uterus or the ovaries. They also took its eye and ear, and it was missing a patch of skin some two or three centimeters wide, bordering its lips." He further added that the cow had lost the moving part of its tongue, although without having made any incisions in its neck area. The incisions on the horse are identical.

The veterinarian said that in both cases it is impossible to determine an exact pathology. Nor can it be considered, he added, that "classic surgery was employed in making the incisions."

"The wounds are not burned, and while my understanding of laser surgery is scant, I found that there is no laser that can cut hide in that way. Furthermore, there is no sign that the cutting element has touched anything other than hide," he concluded.

The vet dismissed the possibility that a wild animal could make those incisions. "The bird or animal that attacks a carcass isn't after the eye, the ear or the mammary glands. They are carnivores and feed on flesh. In this case, 80% of what's missing is hide. This is what fills one with doubts." The vet confirmed that the places where the animals are found are removed from trails or roads. "The people who discovered the first cases noted that all of the carcasses have their heads toward the east and their tails toward the west. Since it isn't easy to find the cardinal points in a field, I took a compass with me when I went to see that cow again. To my surprise, the head is pointing due east and the tail due west."

"What happened cannot be fit within the framework of medical science," he added. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 19, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — THE SUBJECT HAS CEASED TO BE TRIVIAL — Carcass Count in La Pampa and Buenos Aires Reaches 79 — Four dead animals were found in the town of Coronel Pringles, two in Rivera, one in Coronel Dorrego and another in Abramo (La Pampa). Meanwhile, renowned cult researcher Alfredo Silletta rejected the possibility that the mutilations could have been made by members of any Umbanda-type cult.

The San Roman case is the first one recorded in the Dorteo district. (Agencia Coronel Dorrego) — Eight new animal mutilation cases were recorded overnight within the sphere of influence of the city of Bahia Blanca. At Pringles, after the death of a 220 kg. steer became known, veterinarian Juan Murdrovic detailed 4 gruesome findings: "I was informed of 4 dead cows in a pasture ground near the Las Praderas farm, property of Eduardo Fernandino, located near the border with Laprida. To reach said location it was necessary to employ a tractor, since it is a marshy, boggy region. The last 300 meters had to be traversed on foot.

"There is a hill after the bogland. There, within a 150 meter radius, we found the four dead cows. While there was little natural light, I was startled by the fact that their eyes were fully outside of their cavities. [The carcasses] were in an odd position, on their legs, unlike the others who were lying on their sides." The veterinarian stressed the importance of

an incision on one of the animals' udders which drew his attention. "When the farmhand lifted the cow's legs, there was a perfect circle where said organ was located. Missing from the area were skin, glandular tissue, and there was no sign of a knife-made incision nor any blood. An almost perfect piece of work, geometrically well-executed," commented the veterinarian. Another detail of interest to the professional was the distance between the first two bovines discovered and the other two. "Two cows were almost 20 meters away from each other and the remaining ones were much farther away." The vet declined any speculation on extraterrestrial visits, but made it clear that he cannot explain the mutilations.

"There could be a theory about sudden death or illnesses which bring it about. We would have to wait for other deaths to reach a definite diagnosis, but what is uncommon is the way in which the mammary glands were extirpated," he stressed. Employees of Las Praderas, after finding the dead animals, combed the pasture looking for the extirpated organs or bits of animal hide, as well as signs of broken barbed-wire fencing. But the result was negative. "If someone had the idea of doing something like this at night, he had to do the killing here, because there are no signs of the animals having been dragged. I never saw anything like it in 15 years' work."

La Nueva Provincia consulted with Dr. Alfredo Casan, head of the local SENASA office, to ask for a possible explanation of the animal deaths. The expert admitted to having only received journalistic information on the cases, but will be in contact shortly with local veterinarians to learn all the details. "There is a lot of talk, but we would have to wait for a scientific explanation or someone who can provide evidence," he noted.

Two new cattle mutes were added to the four recorded earlier near River, according to veterinarian Jorge Robles's statements to *La Nueva Provincia*. The case involves a middle-aged cow and a 2 or 3 month old calf who had died days earlier but had been found with various incisions. Robles stated that the calf had died over 15 days ago and the cow a week ago. The farmer and his sons, due to the strange animal deaths reported and the psychosis prevalent among the population, verified the animals' condition and found that various organs were missing.

Robles noted that the fields are located to the southeast of Rivera, some 10-15 kilometers from the town, and are the property of Manuel Candanedo. "As things are going, we will have cases on a daily basis. On the one hand, because they are indeed occurring daily; on the other, because people are checking out dead cows to which they paid no attention a week or ten days ago," stated the veterinarian.

A dead and mutilated Aberdeen Angus bovine was found in the Pampan community of Abramo. The animal—a pregnant black cow, 8 years old—was missing an eye, its tongue, its reproductive apparatus, udders and jaw. The case was reported by Agustin Alvarez to the Bernasconi sheriff's office on Monday night, although the event is believed to have occurred between Friday night and Saturday. The finding occurred on Lot No. 6 of his property.

Unlike other cases, the fetus carried by the animal was not extracted.

As the Bernasconi sheriff's office reported, the incisions are "cauterized" and the bovine gives off no odor and is soft, as though recently deceased. The location where the animal was found, near a mill, has yielded no clues whatsoever.

While police sources blame cultists as being responsible for the dead beef cattle, renowned researcher Alfredo Silleta dismissed this possibility completely. "These cases have nothing at all to do with cults or any other religious ritual as some have said upon learning of the case," declared the cult expert in a telephone interview from La Plata. "Nor is it true that there is a link to UFO sightings and beings from other planets, as ufologist Fabio Zerpa allegedly said. There is no truth in this, and furthermore, I don't believe in such things."

Silleta also maintained that based on the groups he knows, these cases do not correspond to rituals of any type, such as those belonging to the Umbanda sects. "They use other types of animals—roosters, hens and goats," he explained. "Sacrifice takes place before the faithful," he added. Alfredo Silleta is the author of several books on sects and cults, and does not understand what the motive behind the cattle mutilations might be and leaves the matter to scientists. "I have no opinion in this matter and have the same doubts that society at large has. While I have many hypotheses, I don't have the scientific knowledge to say something solid."

The researcher did not discard the theory which emerged in the Samuel Gelblung radio show "Edicion Chiche", where it was maintained that these are "laboratory tests from Europe which are trying to find out, secretly, if Mad Cow Disease is present in Argentina." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 20, 2002 — *Rio Negro Online*, Argentina — MYSTERY DEATH TOLL RISES TO 84 — Two horses found mutilated yesterday in Catriel and Rio Colorado; three cows slain at Lamarque — Three cows and two horses were found dead in different pasture fields of the province of Rio Negro, all of them in a mysterious manner and the cause is unknown. The three bovines were found by Pomona-area cattlemen and presented characteristics similar to earlier cow mutilations. The remaining two are horses: one near Rio Colorado and the other at Catriel.

Meanwhile efforts are underway to find out what is causing the deaths of cows and horses. The causes of the mystery are hitherto unknown. With regard to the horse found near Rio Colorado, it was reported that it was missing an ear, its left eye, tongue, digestive tract and anus. The discovery took place at the farm of Delfor Segura, 40 km from Rio Colorado heading toward Conesa. The police surveyed the countryside to see if more cases could be found, although the results were negative. The animal, a black riding horse, was 600 meters away from the farmhouse, and as in earlier cases, did not give off any odor and did not attract predators. Also notable was the fact that the spot where the discovery took place is hard to reach and 5 kilometers off the road. No tracks nor traces were found in the vicinity. Police sources noted that there were more horses than cattle in the area, and these did not approach the dead animal. The Catriel case was rather similar. Veterinarians and cattlemen are still stupefied, since they cannot find an explanation to the events. The animal lacked testicles, foreskin, anus and part of the hide on its belly, which was cut in a circular pattern. Veterinarian Jose Torres, who was on site and examined the horse, stated that "what drew my attention was the testicular incision, since there wasn't a drop of blood to be found, and veins the size of a pencil run through that part of the body." He also estimated that "the incisions were made with a very sharp knife or scalpel and by someone having considerable knowledge and skill. Contrary to other cases, the incisions were not cauterized." Torres is investigating the animal's death through a necropsy. Regarding the location where the horse mutilation occurred, he remarked that "there were no signs of agony, toxic grass or human tracks." The Physician was also puzzled by the fact that "carrion birds kept their distance."

According to the testimony of Cesar Oser, who was breaking the horse, the animal was fine, and the only unusual thing to occur that night was that the dogs were heard barking. On the following day, the horse turned up dead. The event was reported to the police by the horse's owner, Ruben Escartin, and the police combed the area to see if there were any other cases, but this is the only one at the moment.

••Ufologist Radios In••

Ufologist Fabio Zerpa opined that these events suggest that the animals are abducted by a ship equipped with a

laboratory where organs are extracted for study. In an interview with FM Colorado, Zerpa noted that a complex technology that goes beyond the ordinary is at work here. He later added that "the animals appear as though deliberately placed, and this has startled professionals working these cases. There are incisions which seem to be burned, which suggests the use of a luminous or energy source that cannot be found in a scalpel. A technology far superior to our own." Regarding the missing water in three water tanks of the field, Zerpa said that water has extraordinary power capabilities and along with high-tension wires "is employed for electrolysis, in other words, the breakdown of water, hydrogen and oxygen, whose capabilities are well known to the people at NASA."

••Also at Pringles and Dorrego••

The concern which affected cattlemen of La Pampa is gradually reaching producers in the Province of Buenos Aires. In recent hours four cows were found dead under the same similar conditions at Coronel Pringles and Coronel Dorrego. As in the Pampan and Rionegran cases, the animals presented perfect incisions and the absence of blood stains. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 20, 2002 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — Rural Population is Under Alert, Fear of Cattle Mutilations Grows — There is no scientific explanation. Were they sacrificed? New questions arise with new cases in the country. We are a country without a personality. Anything that arrives from abroad, particularly the unsightly and extravagant, we embrace with unaccustomed devotion. The phenomenon is not new. Since the beginning of the last century, our land has been visited by the most extravagant and sinister sects, and many have joined them without the least bit of reflection. Today, the fashion gyrates around UFO sects and there is a legion of gurus who claim that an imminent planetary catastrophe is on the way and that only the chosen—those who follow their teachings—shall be saved, since a fleet of alien spacecraft will come to collect them. But this enigma has reached our folklore due to the mysterious spate of animal deaths in Argentina. Dead bovines, mutilated and without a trace of blood, have created a strange wave that has generated uncertainty among scientists, fear among the population, and conjectures on extraterrestrial activity. The foreman of an agricultural and livestock concern near the town of Adela, some 680 kilometers southwest of Buenos Aires, found eleven dead cows and bulls whose tongues, eyes, mammary glands and genitalia had been removed. The find, which was added to another nine dead and mutilated animals in nearby communities, spread fear among the rural population of the region, which is one of the richest cattle production areas of the country. The bovine corpses were scattered in a radius of 300 meters, arranged in a circle, should they be seen from above. The incisions were made with an electronic scalpel—an element which cauterizes as it cuts. No traces of bleeding were found. Moreover, Fabio Zerpa, a former supporting actor who has investigated UFOs for over four decades, told Radio Mitre that he "has no doubt" that it is "one of the customary laboratory surveys of flora and fauna performed by extraterrestrials. Similar cases have been reported in Spain, the U.S., Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador. The first one occurred in Santa Fe in 1964 and in all cases, the pattern was the same: Death without any apparent cause and mutilations without any trace of blood whatsoever," he explained. — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas

June 21, 2002 — *El Diario de Parana*, Entre Rios, Argentina — UFO SEEN OVER TOURIST COMPLEX — • • A unidentified flying object (UFO) was seen over the tourist complex known as Las Lenas by dozens of visitors, tourists and operators of the Mendoza resort. The object was a short distance away and multiple eyewitness reports coincide— Visual contact with the strange object occurred twice, around 8:00 and 20:30 hours yesterday over Cerro Los Fosiles, a natural graveyard of extinguished marine creatures which forms part of the exclusive Las Lenas ski resort.

"Several people claim having seen a strange luminous effect. This is the overall remark circulating in Las Lenas," explained one of the workers of the Track Service to the Noticias Argentinas agency, requesting anonymity. "The phenomenon occurred near the part of the hill known as La Antena to the locals, since the internal radio communications transmitter for the complex is located there."

"It's a luminous phenomenon, not an object. It's a light that runs down the sides," explained another worker of the Mendoza resort."

One of the privileged witnesses of the curious incident was a machine operator who, in the early hours of the evening, was working one of the snow rollers that press the ski trails for skiers. The man was carrying out his duties near the base of the chairlift of the Vulcano trail when he noticed to his amazement that "an intense multicolored light" was moving some 600 meters away, causing mechanical trouble aboard the snow roller. Frightened and amazed, the machinist got down from his vehicle and ran toward the Las Lenas lodge, where he informed his superiors of the phenomenon, which he did not hesitate to qualify as a UFO.

Over the next several hours, the ski resort's management received similar accounts from drivers who were not at the base of the tourist resort at the time, but driving along adjacent roads. An intense colorful light was seen over Cerro Los Fosiles. (DyN) — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 21, 2002 — CONCERN IN LA PAMPA : UFOs Reported; Investigation into their relationship with cattle mutilations — Santa Rosa, June 21 (NA) — A group of police officers claimed to have witnessed an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) in the Pampan community of "25 de Mayo" and are looking into the possibility that the episode may have something to do with the dozens of mutilated animals found in the provinces of La Pampa, Rio Negro and Buenos Aires.

The incident can be added to a similar event which occurred last Wednesday in the Las Lenas tourist complex of the province of Mendoza, where dozens of witnesses saw a UFO fly over an extinct marine creature burial ground. — CREDIT: Sociedad de Investigaciones Biofisicas- Betelgeuse

June 21, 2002 — *La Capital On Line*, Santa Fe, Argentina — DEAD COW FOUND IN MOISES VILLE — A mutilated bovine was found in the Santa Fe community of Moises Ville, 170 kilometers from the provincial seat. The incisions were similar to those reported in cases in Buenos Aires, Rio Negro and La Pampa. The animal, a cross-breed known as Red Overo, was found missing an ear, an eye, tongue, genitals and the muscular mass of its jawbone, according to spokespersons for the Renata Kulemeyer firm on whose pasture field the mutilation occurred. As in earlier cases, the cuts were performed with surgical accuracy, without any trace of blood on the animal's hide nor any tracks in the vicinity. Moreover, reports were received for the first case involving a dead bovine with strange incisions in the town of Nicolas Levalle in southern Buenos Aires province, according to a cattleman's claim, stating that the cow was "somewhat dizzy. It stood still and stopped walking. While we didn't stop to look, since we had to take the rest of the herd to the watering hole, there's no doubt something happened," said Enrique Kampmeier, the field's owner, located some 65 km west of Bahia Blanca in the Villarino district. The cow broke away from the group and when it was found an hour later, it was missing several organs. Oscar Bellido, the municipal delegate of Goyena, 140 km north of Bahia Blanca,

confirmed the discovery of a cow in a pasture field belonging to the Murguia family. The animal was missing such organs as its tongue and part of its throat. Its extremities were hard. "Last Monday, in the vicinity of La Himalaya, going toward Azopardo, resident Ricardo Rodriguez saw a flying saucer over a nearby hill, beaming a strong white light and with a red bottom (sic). His brother was able to see something similar in another field on Tuesday night: he was plowing and saw a UFO in a different location, but in the same region," added Bellido. (Telam News Agency) — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 21, 2002 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — (Breaking News) — GUANACO FOUND MUTILATED; CASES SPREAD TO VALDES PENINSULA — The carcass of an adult guanaco, showing signs of mutilation on its jaw, anus, ear and one eye, was found this afternoon on the beach at Punta Pardelas, Valdes Peninsula, on the shores of Golfo Nuevo, 200 km north of Rawson.

Another dead bovine was found, this time in Maria Grande. In a new cattle mutilation case, the remains of a cow showing signs of mutilation were found in the community of Maria Grande. The animal had had its tail sliced off, along with its genitalia, masticatory muscles and tongue. It was further reported that the animal had been dead for 2 or 3 days.

Furthermore, the location where this animal was discovered immediately caused the cattle rustling hypothesis to be discarded, since such cases are linked to events in which theft for food is involved. The series of mutilated bovines in the province had written its first chapter this morning, since an animal showing the same signs as cases which have turned up in other provinces of the nation was found today in a pasture of the Diamante region.

As with other animals, bovines from Diamante and Maria Grande displayed injuries made with surgical precision, missing their tongues and muscular mass along the jawbone. The Diamantine bovine was found in a field located near Costa Grande and belongs to Adriana Trossero, as reported by local veterinarians to the police, who immediately ordered that analyses be performed on the animal. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 22, 2002 — *Diario Rio Negro Online*, Argentina — SENASA UNABLE TO FIND EXPLANATION FOR MUTES • Specialists believe that the incisions "were not casual". Results for necropsies performed in La Pampa are awaited • Several technical professional groups of SENASA and INTA are currently in the pastures of Buenos Aires and La Pampa. The phenomenon of cattle mutilations led to the formation of groups aimed at finding a rational explanation that will bring an end to the mystery and the fear which pervades country dwellers.

"For the time being, work is being conducted in the fields in which mutilated animals appeared. Sites are being analyzed and necropsies have yet to be performed. In any event, when a conclusion is reached, the media and the cattle sector will be informed," said a SENASA spokesperson in a telephone interview from the Federal Capital. It turned out, however, that technicians did not find an explanation to the lesions presented by the animals. But from the get-go, all supernatural phenomena were discarded. "These are deliberate, rather than casual incisions. But there is no explanation up to now," were the words spoken by specialists who visited the cattle farms. Meanwhile, analyses are being performed on the animals found in the General Pico area. But as of last night, the expert research being conducted in the School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of La Pampa had not been completed. Moreover, technicians for the Atomic Energy Regulating Committee who performed a survey of various fields of La Pampa in which mutilated cows were discovered, discarded the presence of abnormal radiation levels as the causes of the deaths, as a response to the version which alludes to the presence of UFOs in the region. The specialists joined the investigation initiated by a team from the School of Veterinary Sciences and the Office of Provincial Livestock, who tried to determine the cause of death of the bovine, equine and ovine animals. In the tour of the various rural establishments in which dead cows were found--missing different organs--technicians performed measurements with a Geiger counter that measures beta-gamma radiation. Technicians reported that the "the levels encountered are normal", and thus discarded the possibility that the animals died from "high levels of radiation."

In the meantime, these strange cases are taking place in an increasing number of provinces. In Chaco, a dead bovine presenting signs of anal and ocular mutilation was found in a field close to General San Martin, some 120 km north of the capital. The story was confirmed by the head of Region V of the Chaco Police, Raul Maldonado, who witnessed the phenomenon alongside a veterinarian on the force. According to Maldonado, the field's foreman found the animal on Sunday, but waited for the arrival of the field's owner, Alfredo Pegoraro, to inform the authorities. Both men went to see the bovine and were able to see that in spite of the days elapsed since its death, the natural decay process had not occurred in this case, and furthermore, no carrion birds had approached the animal. A similar episode has occurred in various Buenos Aires locations where carrion animals approached the mutilated calves but left them untouched, according to physicians who looked into the cases and who said that there is hitherto no answer to this mystery and to a hundred similar cases in the area. "I spoke to the School of Veterinary Medicine of La Pampa and I was informed that all the material was forwarded to Balcarce and the University of La Pampa, but there's been no information in this regard," explained veterinarian Alfredo Notti.

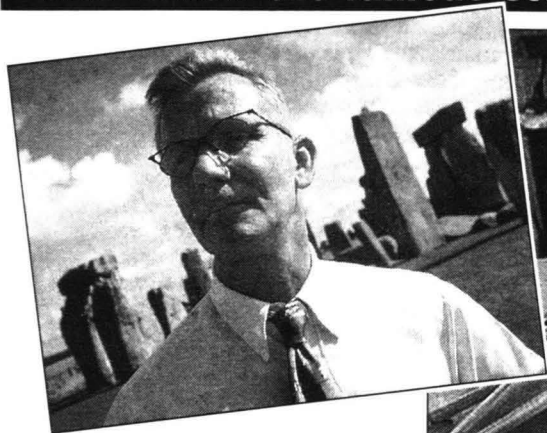
"The mutilations do not seem to be the handiwork of humans or animals," opined Eduardo Sensi, a veterinarian who examined a bovine found days ago 85 kilometers from Coronel Pringles in a field belonging to Indalecio Fritz. In Bolivar, a livestock producer reported that one of his animals had been mutilated and "different parts of its anatomy were missing the bovine is missing both ears, the tongue, a piece of hide from its forehead and flesh from its jawbone."

Strange Lights in Catriel, La Pampa and Buenos Aires

A UFO was seen Wednesday night in the vicinity of Puente Dique over the Rio Colorado in Catriel, some 25 km from the province of Neuquen. The alleged UFO was seen by truckers and people working in the provincial traffic control of the La Pampa/Rio Negro Route. Most witnesses concur that the UFO was seen around 21:00 hours and was over the area of Penas Blancas, giving off a powerful red light that increased and diminished in intensity. Jorge Hernandez, an operator in the Puente Dique, stated that "the light was suspended for more or less 20 minutes and we lost it from sight...the light became very strong and then appeared to dim. It moved in bursts and then remained immobile...it couldn't be a plane or helicopter because of the way it remained still. I wasn't the only witness--many other folks around here saw it. Some say the lights are related to the dead animals," he concluded. In General San Martin and other localities of the Province of La Pampa, several residents remarked having seen 'strange lights' in recent days. Sheriff Gustavo Martinez, in charge of the Bemasoni section, says he ascertained the existence of a strange light in the sky after having been alerted by the neighbors. "It changed color and size constantly, sometimes reddish and then blue. It was significantly larger than a star, more like the size of a tennis ball," stressed the police chief. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi.



This is how the famous stone circle once looked, claims engineering expert



By **Luisa Metcalfe**

AN ENGINEERING expert claims he has solved the 4,000-year-old mystery that has beaten the greatest archeological minds in history – the ancient riddle of Stonehenge.

Bruce Bedlam says after 18 years of painstaking research he has uncovered the secrets of the enigmatic stone circle and how it was built.

According to the former Army engineer, the Wiltshire monument was a huge covered building, which would have looked much like the Millennium Dome on The Thames. After extensive research and using thousands of pounds of his savings, Mr Bedlam, came to the conclusion that the building was a meeting place, government centre and place of worship designed to stun visitors with its gravity defying structure.

He said: "I had to ask myself: Why was it so big? Why is it in a circle? Why are the lintels locked together and why is there a circle of holes around Stonehenge?"

"I think it was a building. I think it was a place made to impress any foreign dignitaries."

Mr Bedlam, from Plymouth, Devon, is the inventor of the Bedlam Cube – similar to the Rubik Cube – and has been a member of Mensa for 20 years.

He said: "I'm a puzzle expert as far back as I remember and I came up with my own and started to invent puzzles – Stonehenge was the ultimate 3D puzzle."

He believes the tent-like shape was also designed to line up exactly with the movements of the sun at key dates throughout the year.

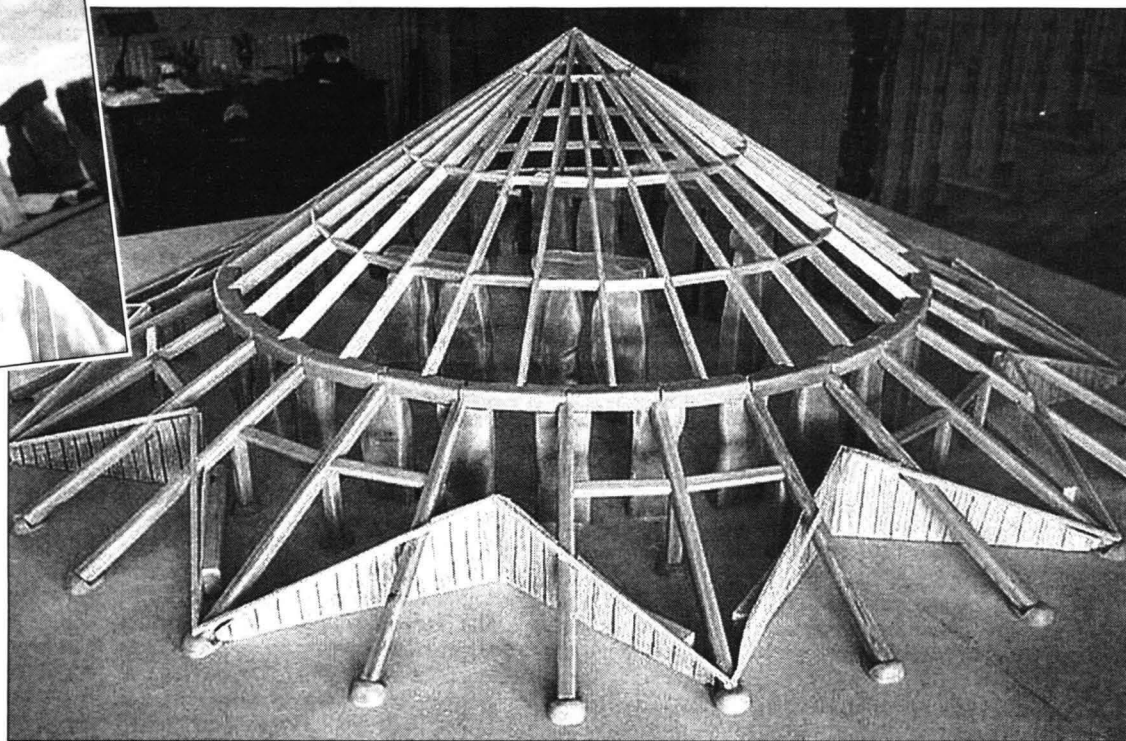
At the summer and winter solstices and autumn and spring equinoxes, sunlight would flood through the wood-covered structure's open apex and fill the windowless building with light.

The outer ring of monolithic stones, the Sarcen Circle, supported wooden beams that splayed out from the apex high above the centre of the Bronze Age monument to form a 10-point star on the ground.

They were fixed in holes around the structure's base to form the skeleton.

Mr Bedlam, who does not use his real name for his work, said: "Everything was locked into place by gravity, there was no need for cement, nails, screws or pegs –

PUZZLE: Bruce Bedlam, above, has built a model of Stonehenge which he says was covered with slatted beams, giving it an appearance similar to London's Millennium Dome



Stonehenge: Was it really built as the first Dome?

wooden joints and twine were the only fastenings needed."

On top of this wooden skeleton was overlaid a shell made of diamond-shaped wooden tiles and Mr Bedlam believes the inside of the roof was whitewashed.

He said: "I looked at the way the sun comes in on the equinox."

"The light came in and the whole roof was a blaze of pure white light, the whole room was illuminated, it would have been wonderful to see."

He added: "If they could move these stones, I can't imagine the people who built Stonehenge standing in the rain, it doesn't make any sense at all."

The stone circle's inner ring sits in a horse-shoe shape with the two ends facing the building's main entrance.

Mr Bedlam also believes that Bronze Age builders would have transported the huge blocks encased in a wooden barrel which he has christened the Stone-mover.

On Friday Mr Bedlam will unveil his model Stonehenge and Stone-

mover for the first time on Channel 4's Richard and Judy show for the summer solstice.

Last year 14,000 revellers waited for the sun to rise over the stones and druids and pagans performed religious ceremonies. Drummers and circus-style performers also gathered to celebrate the longest day of the year.

Mr Bedlam has written a screenplay based around Stonehenge and plans to produce a technical guide to building the construction.

But Dr Christopher Chippindale, who studies archaeology at Cambridge University, said the blocks have such shallow foundations that they were never designed to support a building.

He said: "I think it's great but it's not the first time that Stonehenge has been reconstructed as having the roof with a wooden support."

"It doesn't make much sense to me because there is no trace of how these enormous timbers would have connected to the stone lintels to make a composite structure."

RECORD, Hackensack, NJ - April 28, 2002 CR: R. Horan

Guessing about extraterrestrials

Are they too advanced to signal to us?

By **BOB GROVES**
STAFF WRITER

Somewhere out there in other worlds, beings may have evolved into forms of artificial intelligence or even living machines too advanced to communicate with mortals on Earth, a government astrophysicist told radio astronomers at the College of New Jersey.

"We may, in fact, live in a post-biological universe, one that has evolved beyond flesh-and-blood intelligence to artificial intelligence, a product of cultural rather than biological evolution," said Steven J. Dick, an astronomer and science historian since 1979 at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington.

Dick was the keynote speaker Friday for the second annual technical symposium sponsored by the SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) League, a worldwide group of amateur radio astronomers based in Little Ferry. About 35 SETI League members and speakers from the United States, Britain, and Canada are attending the three-day event, which concludes today at the college in Trenton, said H. Paul Shuch, executive director of the group.

After billions of years of evolution, life on other planets in other galaxies "would have produced something far beyond biology" as we know it, said Dick. "If that is the case, the chances of success for standard SETI programs may be greatly reduced, and our place in the universe may be quite different from anything envisioned except in science fiction."

Dick served on former Vice President Al Gore's panel that studied the so-called "Mars rock," a meteorite thought to contain traces of bacteria from Mars. Dick also helped create NASA's program in astrobiology, which studies possible life forms in space.

The private, non-profit SETI League was formed in 1994, a year

after Congress stopped funding NASA's \$12.5 million SETI program. The league has about 1,200 members in more than 60 countries, and all of the 50 United States. About 100 members are searching the heavens with radio telescopes in search of microwave signals that might be a message from sentient beings.

Three years ago, the SETI League purchased part of an ostrich farm in Warren County, where the group plans to set up an array of 32 TV antenna dishes that will form a huge radio telescope for tracking signals from the stars.

For the past 40 years, SETI enthusiasts worldwide have liked to think that extraterrestrials, however far evolved, are using the same radio technology as Earthlings to communicate with other worlds.

Propelled by the "cultural evolution" of genetic engineering and biotechnology, humans one day in the future may join themselves to artificial intelligence as a kind of man-and-machine cyborg, Dick said. "Willing humans will have their brains scanned and uploaded into a computer, and live their lives as software running on machines," he predicted.

Other civilizations on distant planets may have evolved to being nearly immortal, "unfettered mind children," Dick said. "They could very well have surpassed the [radio] electromagnetic stage," and become so different from humans that communication "between our minds and theirs... is impossible."

The idea that space aliens might be too smart to send or receive radio signals, "calls for a sweeping reconsideration of SETI assumptions and strategies," Dick said.

Shuch agreed that "in searching for intelligent life, we should not restrict ourselves to life alone."

Staff Writer Bob Groves' e-mail address is groves@northjersey.com

Connected minds

If your house pet knows when you are heading home, or you've ever felt someone staring at you or known who was calling when your phone rang, you are not alone, and you'll likely appreciate the recent groundbreaking research of Cambridge University Professor Rupert Sheldrake.

Sheldrake, who has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and a celebrated career in biological research, gained an international reputation among scientists with his revolutionary 1981 theory that living systems emerge from preexisting morphic energy fields that shape them into their finished product. In other words, one morphic field exists for an oak tree, another for a fish and yet another for a human being.

His latest book, honored by the British Scientific and Medical Network, is called "Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home." In it, he lays out the findings of five years of controlled research with house pets, particularly dogs, and their owners.

During the 4th International Conference on Science and Consciousness last week in Albuquerque, N.M., Sheldrake showed a video of one dog that through its actions clearly recognized the exact moment its master, who was miles away, "intended" to come home. He cited hundreds of examples of this phenomenon, which he says is more normal in our lives than paranormal.

Sheldrake, who has been called a modern-day Darwin, said dogs are pack animals and thus share a telepathic connection with other members. When they are domesticated, the human master and family become their pack. An extrasensory connection then connects the pet's mind with its master's, even over dis-



Mike Masterson

tances. The same can hold true for house cats, he explained. He told of one cat that would answer the telephone only when the husband was calling, then meow into the phone. Similar natural connections exist in birds and fish and other animals that move instinctually as a group as if sharing one mind.

In somewhat related research, Sheldrake and his assistants studied 600 subjects who could tell instinctively when they were being stared at. He said the results of these controlled studies showed convincingly that humans have this natural ability. He described one experiment in which the bodies of humans hooked to skin response equipment reacted measurably even when others were randomly looking at them through a closed-circuit camera. Even the subjects' bodies appeared to know when someone was staring at them from afar.

The Harvard-educated professor, who belongs to a group of cutting-edge Cambridge scientists calling themselves the Epiphany Philosophers, said this experiment is being replicated in public schools across England today.

"It costs nothing and is simple to record the results, which are always very close to the same over time," he said. "You can actually do this with students in chairs with their backs to each other, the ones being looked at simply recording when they have the sensation that eyes are upon them."

Another easily replicated experiment is Sheldrake's telephone study. He explained how he asked subjects to provide researchers with a list of four people close to them who were likely to telephone regularly. Researchers then videotaped those subjects at home in a chair at the same time each day when one of the four chosen at random called them. The subject answering had no advance knowledge which of the four it would be.

The subject was asked to simply answer the phone by naming who he felt was calling. Sheldrake said this research also demonstrated very high accuracy rates, especially when the caller was closely connected emotionally to the person answering. Mothers and daughters scored the most true hits, he said. The telepathic link appears strongest between mothers and babies.

Such experiments have convinced Sheldrake of a natural yet largely unexplored connection between both people and animals. The signal is strongest when deep emotion is involved.

"Our minds are interconnected in space and time," he said. "They are interacting through extended minds. Our minds are not confined to the inside of our heads. Whether we like it or not, we are interconnected."

"We stand on the threshold of a new era of science," Sheldrake continued before the hushed audience of 700 who attended the five-day global conference held each spring in Albuquerque. "This is the way things are going, including the nature of research."

Mike Masterson is an award-winning Arkansas journalist.

Sasquatch sighting investigated

Police: No sign of Bigfoot in Sappho

BY EMELINE COKELET
PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

SAPPHO — A man told police last week that he has seen the elusive sasquatch, but an investigation of his property left officials empty-handed.

"We were unable to locate, identify or capture the sasquatch," Forks Police Chief Mike Powell said Friday.

Police received a report from a man living on Burnt Mountain Road in Sappho that he spotted the mythical, human-

like creature last Monday near his residence.

An animal control officer checked the area for Bigfoot but found no signs of it, easing questions over how authorities would deal with the being if it was encountered, Powell said.

"I don't know why we would impound him or where we would keep him," he said.

Though reports of the tall, hairy, human-like being — who is said to lurk in the shadowy Pacific Northwest woods — are rare, it's not the first time one has turned up on the West End.

In June 2000, Gene Sampson found two sets of large footprints in the woods behind his

and Steven Penn's homes on the Hoh Indian reservation.

He also found trampled trails in a densely forested area, branches and bark broken off trees about 20 feet high, and heard the sounds of the alleged creature above the wind, he told the *Peninsula Daily News*.

Sampson's discovery drew the attention of one of the biggest sasquatch advocates, Port Angeles resident Grover Krantz, who died Feb. 14.

The retired Washington State University anthropology professor and internationally known expert in cryptozoology — the study of hidden animals — believed there are maybe

2,000 sasquatch roaming the western woods between California and British Columbia.

Krantz in 2000 said the evidence on the Hoh Reservation sounded like an adult male and an adult female.

"Some people seem to think they're out here," said Powell, who can't remember another Bigfoot sighting in Forks.

Clallam County Undersheriff Joe Martin said he hears reports of the creature on the North Olympic Peninsula about once every five to 10 years.

"Out west, that's not an uncommon thing," he said. "But it's very few and far between."

FORUM-PENINSULA HERALD, Forks, WA - June 19, 2002

Sasquatch is reported

Early last week, a Sappho man reported seeing a Sasquatch crossing his yard.

An investigation by law enforcement officers failed to find any trace of the legendary Big Foot.

Other days

100 years ago
July 16, 1902
ARCADELPHIA — A report that a wild man is at large in Clark County is creating a great deal of interest. Numerous parties have been formed to hunt for him. Several people have given vivid descriptions of the strange creature. He is said to be tall, yellow, covered with long hair and entirely naked.

Our life force's search for fellow life forces

Something about life — something almost magnetic — moves it toward other life. That is, something in the nature of life seems lonely and, in response, seems drawn toward finding and being in relationship with others.

This goes beyond birds of a feather flocking together, beyond Kiwanis clubs, alumni associations and family reunions, beyond zoos and botanical gardens, where human life goes to observe other varieties. It even goes beyond explaining why guests always gather in the kitchen.

It goes, rather, to our relentless search for life elsewhere in the mysterious cosmos.

We have been engaged for more than 40 years now in what's called SETI — the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. One of the organizations leading that search, the Planetary Society of Pasadena, Calif., recently marked its own 20-year search anniversary, and its executive director, Louis Friedman, noted that the work "is just beginning."

SETI today is a global effort. Others engaged in it are the SETI Institute, the University of California at Berkeley and SETI Australia Centre. In addition, a screen-saver program called SETI@home now is installed on more than 3 million computers around the world.

The program automatically downloads raw data to be analyzed and returns the processed information to a team in Berkeley.

SETI researchers don't send signals into the vastness of space, hoping life out there will pick them up and respond. Rather, they simply listen for radio signals that may be coming from elsewhere.

The scope of the task is almost beyond imagining. There are, after all, tens of billions of suns just in our own galaxy. And, beyond that, tens of billions of galaxies in the cosmos. All of this is additionally complicated by the recent realization that not only is the universe expanding, it seems to be expanding at an accelerating rate.

If we're alone in the universe, of course, we'll never pick up any signals at all. If we're not alone, the chances of finding company in the cosmos seem dim — although not as dim as when this search began 42 years ago.

The roots of all this yearning for contact go back, no doubt, to the first human who looked at the night sky and wondered whether anyone else was out there. But it



BILL TAMMEUS

wasn't until 1960 that a combination of technology and interest allowed the SETI work to begin.

That year, Frank Drake at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia launched Project Ozma, the first SETI search. There have been dozens of other projects since then.

One was started by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1982, but Congress eliminated its funding in 1993. It used to be that humans could scan just one radio channel at a time for signals from extraterrestrial intelligence. Today, many millions of channels can be searched at once.

But still the question is why. What moves us to seek others in deep space? Why are we so restless, so uncomfortable thinking we may be unique? Or is it simply monstrous arrogance for us to imagine that in the unspeakably vast cosmos, sentient life exists only on Earth?

I think we seek other life in space for the same reason that we seek to be with others on Earth. We are built for relationship. Somehow

we are wired to function best only when we are in partnership with others.

If you isolate children, they turn sullen and unresponsive. But boys and girls in groups are lively (sometimes too much so) and energized. This need

for each other is why we stay together as families, why we organize into clubs and teams, why we date, why we marry.

It's not that we don't need occasional solitude. Indeed, without it we lose our perspective, our balance. But in the end we are not built for perpetual isolation. When playwright Philip Barry wrote that "most men lead lives of quiet desperation," he could have been describing the fierce and inextinguishable longing all of us feel when we have been cut off from contact with others for too long.

SETI, thus, is a monument to our recognition that we cannot — and will not — live alone, no matter how badly we do with the relationships in which we find ourselves. There's no reason to imagine we'll get along any better with extraterrestrials than we do now with each other, but our search for them is unavoidable.

Bill Tammeus is a member of The Star's Editorial Board. His essay column appears on Saturday. To reach him, call (816) 234-4437 or send e-mail to tammeus@kcstar.com.

Chemtrails over Columbus

Dear editor:

I have to respond to the letter about chemtrails from David F. Mayer [February 7]. My first question is, Do you work for a government agency or are you that ill-informed?

Do you remember when the Energy Secretary under Clinton revealed the experiments on children and others with radioactive materials to see how they would sicken and die? Do you actually believe they stopped such activities after the '50s? We don't know what's being done now because they have the ability to classify documents that can't be opened until decades after the people working on them have died or are no longer working in government.

As to the local connection to chemtrails, in 1999 I lived on Hamlet Street on the border of the Short North and campus area. Sometime in late January I arrived home from school to hear a jet roaring and, as I turned, I saw a tanker jet spewing a brownish-gray smoke out of the tail end and flying perhaps at 3,000 feet or a bit lower. I thought that in a few seconds I would hear a huge crash. But there was none. As I looked at the smoke trail I noticed that it seemed to unfurl like a scroll of paper into a flat line. I went to the edge of the porch and saw that about one mile north, perhaps at Lane Avenue, there was a parallel line to the one almost above my house. And there was another one running perpendicular, about where Cleveland Avenue would be. I had heard the term "chemtrail" but never saw any pictures or I would have known right away what I was seeing.

Does anyone else remember when it seemed like everyone at the same time was really sick in Columbus? I blew my nose off for a week and a half, and a friend's daughter went from a chest bug to bronchitis to nearly pneumonia. The news reported that hospitals were flooded with people suffering from "flu-like" symptoms. I even saw, over a two-day period, short advertisements on TV for people to call a number if they were having these symptoms.

That was the federal government's Black Operations group likely testing our city for patterns of illness that would mimic a biological weapon making a direct hit. My car was covered with a milky substance that was harder than hell to get off. I also remember going out at sundown to visit friends on the other side of town and noticing a Day-Glo orange color as the sun shined through the clouds that resulted from the spraying. It had been a cloudless day when I got up in the morning; when I was out again, the whole sky was a dirty-brown cloud.

Don't tell me we aren't subject to being tested without our permission simply because we are U.S. citizens. They do it all the time in the name of "national security."

Edmund Lynn Murray
Columbus

Land of sasquatch? Maybe so

No bigfoot you say?

First of all, I don't know if there is a sasquatch out there. But in the three years I've been here, I've heard stories from people you wouldn't think would make a thing like that up.

There was a story my friend's father recalled while camping on the north side of Mount Hood several years back. There's a story another friend's aunt told us while she was driving along the McKenzie River.

As for me, I find it hard to buy. And, like anything unknown, it's easy to laugh, call the people crazy and dismiss their stories as a ploy to get some attention.

I like playing devil's advocate, regardless of the situation, so a few weeks ago, I took my wife and several newspaper cronies to the Western Bigfoot Society Conference in



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Hillsboro.

As a transplanted Midwesterner, I thought it would be an interesting experience. Plaster casts, bigfoot accounts, hair samples, people dressed like bigfoot, the whole thing. My wife wasn't convinced.

So as we show up at the fairgrounds, we didn't see any signs for the conference. It was at that point I realized I'd have to ask someone if there was a bigfoot conference there.

"Say, do you know if there's a bigfoot conference this weekend?" I finally asked a security guard.

Remember when your teacher told you the only stupid questions are those not asked?

Try asking someone where the bigfoot conference is.

Anyhow, snickered and pointed at a small dark shed, which was strategically

placed between a gem convention and a dog show. Talk about a mixer.

We looked in the dimly lit pole barn and saw a film playing on the wall. You know, that famous film shot in California of a sasquatch walking along a river? Yep that one. As the film played, about 50 people gathered in chairs, intently watching and listening to a man prove that it is indisputable proof bigfoot exists.

Meanwhile, there are exhibits everywhere. Bigfoot prints, bigfoot hair, even bigfoot poop. No sasquatch anywhere to be seen however. Behind these exhibits were clippings from all the reputable papers found in the checkout aisles at supermarkets, each with a headline more amazing than the next.

"I had Bigfoot's baby!"

"Man arm wrestles Bigfoot!"

"Washington boy takes female Bigfoot to Prom!"

There was Bigfoot wine. Bigfoot hats

and t-shirts.

If you lingered in one place for too long, you would be approached and asked the question: "Have you had a sighting?"

My wife asked the question most nonbelievers would upon seeing the convention: "If this is real, why would you put up all this stuff? This is a joke."

So what did I come away with? About the same as when I entered. Little proof. Just a lot of hope.

So I go back to what I thought. It is likely there is no such thing? Absolutely.

But is there a chance? Even a slight one?

Sure, there is a chance.

For years, there was talk that a 50-foot long giant squid patrolling the depths of the Pacific Ocean. The response by many was hogwash. There was no proof of their existence. It was an old sailor's tale.

Several years ago, one of these fabled creatures washed up on an Australian beach.

A fish called the coelacanth, rumored to be extinct for 65 million years, was caught by a teenage boy off of the island of Madagascar in 1938.

Sure there's a chance.

Ask yourself this: Do you believe in ghosts, ESP, extraterrestrials, telekinesis, reincarnation or anything else mysterious?

If you answered yes, what makes you different from the Bigfoot believers?

Regardless of your thoughts, isn't it nice to believe in things that are sometimes beyond our explanation.

Not comparing bigfoot to religion, but don't many of us do that every weekend on at our respective Sunday services?

PA professor paid for his Bigfoot beliefs

Krantz stuck by his findings on elusive creature

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS
AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT ANGELES — Testimonials continued Monday for retired anthropology professor Grover S. Krantz, remembered as one of Bigfoot's most passionate believers.



Dr. Krantz

"Within the established academic community, Grover was the first one to stick his neck out," Loren Coleman, a University of Southern Maine cryptozoologist — a person studying creatures not yet officially identified — told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

Dr. Krantz had impressive credentials, so it was hard to dismiss his ideas, Coleman said.

"He's a world authority on human evolution," Donald Tyler, chairman of anthropology at the University of Idaho in Moscow and a former student, said.

Severely criticized

"I don't think Bigfoot exists. But Grover didn't deserve the kind of treatment he got for pursuing this question. . . . He was severely criticized for it."

Dr. Krantz — who advocated killing a Sasquatch to prove the creature exists — died of pancreatic cancer at his Port Angeles home Thursday. He was 70.

Dr. Krantz, a professor of anthropology at Washington State University for 30 years until his 1998 retirement, didn't shy from controversy as a Sasquatch expert.

Some say his stance on the creature — a sort of North-

"I sometimes think he was too smart for his own good."

DONALD TYLER
University of Idaho

west version of the "abominable snowman," or Yeti, of the Himalayas — hurt his career.

Dr. Krantz believed in Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, as the Salish Indians called this woodland "wild man."

He wrote several books on Sasquatch and appeared as an expert on the "In Search Of . . ." television series in the 1970s and the 1999 "Sasquatch Odyssey" documentary.

Early in his teaching career at Washington State, he was asked to examine some large footprints found near Colville.

Dr. Krantz, an expert on the bone structure of primates, made casts of the footprints and studied them, expecting them to be a hoax.

But he found evidence of compensation for broken bones and then turned up additional evidence in prints from the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla.

"He thought the evidence couldn't have been faked," Tyler said. "I sometimes think he was too smart for his own good."

Survivors listed

In addition to his wife, Diane, Dr. Krantz is survived by a stepson, Dural Horton, and a brother, Victor Krantz of Wheaton, Md.

A full death notice on Dr. Krantz appears in Sunday's editions of the *Peninsula Daily News*.

He wanted his body donated to the Smithsonian Institution for research, and asked that no memorial service be held. Donations can be made to Hospice of Clallam County, P.O. Box 2014, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Hum Haunts Indiana City; Its Source Is a Mystery

By JOHN W. FOUNTAIN

KOKOMO, Ind., June 17 — A mystery is simmering in this sleepy industrial city.

To Billy Kellems, it sounds like butter "crackling in a skillet." In the middle of the night, it is more like the buzz of a busy interstate, though there is no highway for miles, Mr. Kellems said. Others say it sounds like the deep growling of a train idling.

The phenomenon is called the Kokomo hum, and it is more than an annoyance. Many blame the hum, which began in 1999, for health problems, including headaches, nausea, diarrhea, fatigue and joint pain.

Residents say they hope that a study commissioned by the city will get to the root of their troubles. Meanwhile, they live with the hum.

"Life has to go on, the headaches, the nausea, the sleepless nights," Mr. Kellems, 36, said, sitting beside his wife, Maria McDaniel, also 36, in his backyard. No hum was audible, only the chirping of birds.

"The hardest part is dealing with everybody that doesn't know and doesn't want to know" about the hum, he said.

It does not help that many in Kokomo, a city of 47,000, say that they do not believe the hum exists.

In Ms. McDaniel's case, it has been suggested facetiously that she might be seeing "little green space men."

Diane Anton, 51, said that when she began complaining about the strange sound in 1999, some people suggested that she had "superhuman hearing."

"Some people have been very cruel," she said.

Ms. Anton, who is retired, was among the first to talk about the hum. "Some people have become very arrogant with their ignorance," she said. Others, she added, suggested "that I was crazy."

But the complaints are finally getting serious attention.

The city has appropriated \$100,000 to study the problem. This week it presented a formal request for proposals from a "qualified acoustical engineering consultant" for the study. The city hopes to hire a firm by late fall, officials said.

Many residents say they believe the hum is a low-frequency sound created unintentionally by industrial equipment, though its source has not been pinpointed. Ms. Anton hired engineering firms to conduct tests at her house, and they concluded that a nearby factory might be the source.

When residents in Taos, N.M., reported a similar hum about 10 years ago, researchers from the University of New Mexico could not find the source, said Dr. James P. Kelly, 57, who was on the research team.

"It seems that something is there, yet there is no physical signal that seems to be responsible for it," Dr.

Kelly said. Some say the hum in Kokomo is different.

Tom Thunder, an acoustical engineer in Palatine, Ill., conducted a test at the Kellem house. Mr. Thunder said he found a sound and concluded that the source could be a factory miles away, though more tests were needed to verify that.

"The thing about low-frequency sound is that it can go for miles," he said. "Sounds become more audible the quieter it is."

Many who hear the hum in Kokomo live in the northwest part of town. Factories are nearby, but that is true in sections of the city where the hum is not heard.

Kenneth Ferries, the Kokomo city attorney, said that nearly 100 complaints had been made since 1999.

"I think you have to keep an open mind," Mr. Ferries said. "We want to determine if there is such a sound and if it can be identified."

After ailments that included chronic diarrhea, headaches, tremors and vision problems, Ms. Anton moved from her \$200,000 "dream house" into an apartment. But her health did not improve until she moved to South Bend, Ind., last fall.

Her house is empty. Ms. Anton, who is still paying the mortgage, visits it occasionally to check on things. She has decided not to sell it.

"I cannot sell that house knowing somebody would get sick in there, knowing what's there, what's penetrating that house," she said.

Mr. Kellems and his family say they hope the city's study will solve the mystery and end the hum.

He and his wife have no plans to sell their house.

"We've never asked for a lawsuit," Mr. Kellems said. "We don't intend to ask for a lawsuit. We don't want any industries or facilities to go away. All we want is an abatement to stop whatever is coming at us. In order to do that, we've got to find the source."

The city's plan for a study is "a light of hope that something will be done," Mr. Kellems said.