

UFO

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REGISTER, Des Moines, IA - Aug. 10, 2002 CR: B. Trout

Circles crop up in Iowa



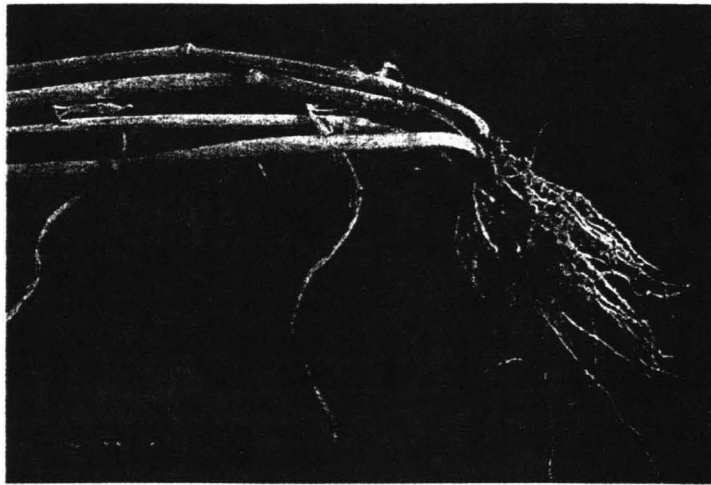
PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Last year: Ed Williams of Iowa City discovered a design in his wheat field. He says the straw within the circle was woven into an intricate herringbone pattern.



Movie fodder

"Signs," a movie about the appearance of crop circles, is currently playing at the Cobblestone, Copper Creek, Merle Hay Mall, Southridge and Wynnsong theaters.



A closer look: A plant taken from an inner, flattened crop circle is pictured. The stalks were bent, not broken.

Connections

DISCUSSION: Beverly Trout, state director for Mufon, the Mutual UFO Network, will discuss several books at 7:30 tonight at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4550 University Ave., West Des Moines. The books: "The Deepening Complexity of Crop Circles: Scientific Research & Urban Legends," by Eltjo Haselhoff; "Unearthly Disclosure," by Timothy Good; and "Project Delta," by Richard Haines.

VIDEO: William C. Gazecki's "Crop Circles: Quest for Truth" (Open Edge Media), a two-hour documentary about the phenomenon, is scheduled to open in Los Angeles on Aug. 23. The movie is not yet scheduled for theaters in Iowa, but the DVD (\$19.98) or video (\$14.98) can be preordered by calling, toll-free, (866) 869-2767 or visiting www.cropcirclesmovie.com. Shipping costs \$4.95.

CONTACT: To report a crop circle, call Mufon at (515) 957-8164. The organization prefers to be notified immediately when crop circles are discovered. The organization guards the anonymity of farmers and specific locations, unless Mufon is notified otherwise.

Researchers look for signs of hoaxes

By JOANNE BOECKMAN
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Close encounters of the crop kind — they're out there.

Crop circles, the shapes within a farm crop created by flattened plants, have been reported in Iowa, one as recently as last year near Iowa City.

Interest in the phenomenon has been heightened by the newly released movie, "Signs," starring Mel Gibson as a farmer who finds an elaborate design in his field.

The movie puts its own spin on alien forces creating crop circles, but real-life theories are just as

intriguing.

Plasma forces, vandals stepping on boards or some other unidentified natural phenomenon — and yes, even aliens — are ideas batted around by cerealists, or those who study crop circles.

"The bottom-line explanation is, they are an anomaly," said Beverly Trout of Mitchellville. She is the Iowa director of the Mutual UFO Network, a worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers who investigate suspected crop circles.

Mufon members — 3,000 worldwide, 32 in Iowa — also look into UFO sightings, animal

mutilations and suspected landing traces.

Trout does believe in aliens, but she stops just short of saying aliens create crop circles.

"We need to look at crop formations for what they are, rather than what we'd like them to be," she emphasizes.

Trout prefers to approach formations as scientifically as possible.

She and other Mufon members look for obvious signs of a hoax by examining the area for footprints or tire marks and checking for broken plant stalks or stems.

They take measurements, record observations and gather several plant and soil samples within and outside the formation. The samples are sent to a lab for analysis.

Trout said Mufon members are meticulous about checking crop circles because the last thing they want is to be scammed.

It's the scams that have received the most publicity, especially in England, where two men first claimed to be creators of crop designs.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1 - REGISTER, Des Moines, IA - Aug. 10, 2002)

A few years ago, they showed the media how they attached a rope handle to a wide board to make the circles. Holding onto the rope and putting their feet alternately on the board, they flattened stalks as they walked in a spiral.

This also was the method for making the crop circles for "Signs."

Trout speculates that authentic crop circles have been around for hundreds of years all over the world, but only in the last few years have people begun to report them — perhaps because of the attention generated by hoaxes.

One source said about 200 crop circles are reported annually around the world. Colin Andrews, a scientific consultant for the current movie, claims 80 percent of circles are hoaxes.

"He has absolutely no way of knowing that," said Nancy Talbott, president of BLT Research Team Inc., which tests the plants and soil from crop circles.

"You'd have to sample them all to know that," she said, "and it's never happened."

Talbott, who lives in Cambridge, Mass., has a grant from Laurance Rockefeller for work on crop circles. She said she has stopped sampling in England because of the large number of hoaxes there.

"We're interested in phenomena, not hoaxes," she explained.

Her network of scientists —

which until recently included Michigan biophysicist William C. Levengood, the "L" in BLT — has analyzed crop circles in Holland, Germany, Israel, Australia, Canada and the United States, as well as England, for the last decade.

While the majority of formations appear in cereal crops such as rye, oats, barley and wheat, they also have been discovered in vegetables, soybeans, carrots, rape (canola), corn, reeds, grass and others.

The crop circles reported in Iowa tend to be simpler than the elaborate designs seen abroad.

In August 1996, a teardrop-shaped formation was found in a cornfield near Arlington, Ia. It measured about 11 feet in diameter and was unusual because the corn stalks were all pressed into the ground toward the center. None were broken.

In 1996, farmer Brett Anderson was harvesting a soybean field southwest of Nevada when he encountered an area of flattened beans. Two weeks later, he found another formation in a cornfield.

Last year, Ed Williams was combining his wheat near Iowa City when he discovered a circle there.

The formation in Anderson's soybean field was slightly ovoid, about 30 feet in diameter and surrounded by a 3 1/2-foot-wide ring. The beans were flattened in a counterclockwise swirl, tightly twisted in the center. The seeds were intact within the pods.

Anderson, now 44, said he was impressed that the plant stems were not broken.

"Normally when they're ready for harvest, they're dry and they break," he said. "They don't bend."

A scientist observed the roots were bent in the opposite direction from the plant stem, Anderson said.

Two weeks later, a teardrop-shaped formation was discovered in Anderson's cornfield. It was 35 feet at the widest point. Stalks were swirled counterclockwise.

Two more teardrop-shaped formations were found in hayfields on adjoining land.

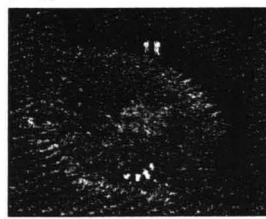
The following year, Anderson was baffled by something else that happened during the harvest.

Soybeans planted where the corn had been the year before were green where the crop circle had been, and the seedpods were not mature. The rest of the crop was brown.

"What was amazing is that the stems had twice the nodules. They should have taken more nitrogen — nutrients — from the soil, but these plants were stunted," Anderson said.

In Iowa City, Williams thought at first that a weather phenomenon caused his wheat to lie clockwise in a circle within a ring about 60 feet in diameter.

He called his brother, an airline



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Teardrop in the crops: Investigators examine a crop circle in Arlington discovered in 1996.

pilot, and they talked about microbursts, or strong winds that occasionally down planes.

A climatologist told Williams the configuration was too large for that.

Two agronomists from Iowa State University drove over to look at the formation. One of them, Dr. Stan Henning, dismissed it as man-made.

No tracks showed up, he said, because it was dry. Someone could have walked in the tracks — called tramlines — made by Williams' tractor when he sprayed the field a few weeks earlier.

"It looked more like something more mechanical than the wind," Henning said. He also found weeds in the circle that looked to him as if

a board had scraped over them.

Williams, now 54, wasn't convinced. He was puzzled by the intricate herringbone weaving of the straw within the circle. Besides, he said, "it wasn't a perfect circle. It was flattened at one point. If someone had done that with a rope, I would have thought it would be better than that."

Trout said by the time Williams called Mufon, the Iowa City field was too degraded for her to determine whether it was a hoax.

Crop circles that are not confirmed hoaxes demonstrate similar characteristics after testing, Talbott said.

If plants are young at the time an unexplained crop circle forms, there is interference with the reproduction qualities of the plant, she said. If they are mature, the seeds weigh less but grow larger, even up to seven days without light or water.

There is evidence that the plants have been exposed to a complex energy system, similar to a microwave, because only the moisture inside the plants was affected, and the plants were not burned. Also, in the unexplained crop circles, nodes on plant stems closer to the center of the circle are longer than those toward the outside of the circle, another indication of microwave energy.

Biophysicist Levengood also has discovered the presence of tiny, nearly pure spheres of iron in the soil where crop circles occur. He theorized a magnetic field draws particles in, heats them to a molten state and disperses them in a rotating fashion in the formation.

"We've done studies after flattening the crops ourselves, and none of the plant aberrations and magnetic material stuff occurs," Talbott said. "The pranks-with-planks bit is not what's going on."

What BLT scientists have found points to some sort of plasma, or energy system, Talbott said.

"The real question is: Is it spontaneously generated, or is it man-made?" she asked.

Her theory of a plasma hitting earth — something similar to a lightning strike — might explain why some lowans claimed they witnessed bright white lights in tubular shapes over the farm fields where the crop circles were later found.

Anderson, the Nevada farmer, has his own notion of unexplained crop circles.

"My theory is that either there's a lot of science yet to be discovered or we do have visitors from outer space."

Reporter Joanne Boeckman can be reached at (515) 284-8049 or boeckmanj@news.dmrreg.com

Md. man says early-morning jet scramble was after UFO

By The Washington Post

For Renny Rogers, it was strange enough that military jets were flying low over his home in Waldorf, Md., in the middle of the night. But it was what he says he saw when he headed outside to look early Friday that floored him.

"It was this object, this light-blue object, traveling at a phenomenal rate of speed," Rogers said. "This Air Force jet was right behind it, chasing it, but the object was just leaving him in the dust. I told my neighbor, 'I think those jets are chasing a UFO.'"

Military officials confirm that two F-16 jets from Andrews Air Force Base were scrambled early yesterday after radar detected an unknown aircraft in Washington area airspace. But they scoff at the idea that the jets were chasing a strange and speedy blue, unidentified flying object.

"We had a track of interest, so we sent up some aircraft," said Maj. Douglas Martin, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado, which has responsibility for defending U.S. airspace. "Everything was fine in the sky, so they returned home."

At the same time, military officials say they do not know just what the jets were chasing, because whatever it was disappeared. "There are any number of scenarios, but we don't know what it was," said Maj. Barry Venable, another spokesman for NORAD.

"It looked like a shooting star with no trailing mist. ... I've never seen anything like it."

— Renny Rogers

SAW JETS FOLLOWING APPARENT UFO

Radar detected a low, slow-flying aircraft about 1 a.m. yesterday, according to a military official. Controllers were unable to establish radio communications with the unidentified aircraft, and NORAD was notified.

When the F-16s carrying air-to-air missiles were launched from Andrews, the unidentified aircraft's track faded from the radar, the military official said, speaking on condition that he not be identified.

Pilots with the D.C. Air National Guard's 113th Air Wing, which flew the F-16s from Andrews, reported nothing out of the ordinary, NORAD officials said.

"It was a routine launch," said Lt. Col. Steve Chase, a senior officer with the wing, which keeps pilots and armed jets on 24-hour alert at Andrews to respond to incidents as part of an air defense system protecting Washington after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Rogers remains convinced that what he saw was not routine. "It looked like a shooting star with no trailing mist," he said. "I've never seen anything like it."

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - July 24, 2002 CR: R. Suttner

Westmoreland County has had its share of mysterious sightings

By Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

At 10 p.m. July 24, three people in a parking lot in North Huntingdon Township witnessed a shiny sphere the size of a tennis ball hovering six feet above the pavement.

It moved slowly and "straight as an arrow," they told Stan Gordon of Greensburg, and it "zoomed on past us as if being driven by something unseen."

The witnesses might have been surprised at the incident, but Gordon wasn't.

As an investigator into the unexplained for the past 43 years, he's heard about everything from bigfoot creatures and UFOs to reports of supposedly extinct animals and huge birds with giant wingspans.

Information about those recent local sightings and some of the area's classic mysteries such as the nationally famous UFO landing in Kecksburg in 1965 will be on display Saturday at Westmoreland Mall. The annual event coincides with National UFO Information Week that's promoted by the Mutual UFO Network in Colorado.

"There's a lot going on around the world, around the country and locally, but except for the rare occasions, you don't read about them," Gordon says.

"There's a lot going on around the world, around the country and locally. ... People have been seeing (UFOs) for years."

— Stan Gordon
investigator into the unexplained

In other words, although strange things are still happening, they're not getting the attention the media gave to "flying saucers" in the 1950s and 1960s, and the numerous bigfoot sightings 10 and 20 years later in the Laurel Highlands and near Greengate Mall.

The glowing sphere in the parking lot was only one unusual recent report.

The big birds are another, and witnesses all over the country describe them as having dark feathers and wingspans of 15 or more feet. In the world of cryptozoology — the study of hidden or unknown animals — they are being referred to as thunderbirds. "People have been seeing them for years," Gordon says.

"Back in the 1970s, I interviewed a

policeman in one of the northern counties who said that one came down over his antenna."

There were two thunderbird sightings near Pittsburgh on June 14 and 15 last year.

Another witness reported seeing one at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25 near Route 119 in South Greensburg. He first heard a sound "like flags flapping in a thunderstorm," then saw a huge dark bird swoop down, land on a dead tree and spread wings that spanned nearly 20 feet.

This year, on June 7, a witness in a rural area near Greensburg reported hearing a "swoosh, like a huge bird passing over." Then, on June 26, two birds with 6-foot bodies and 12-foot wingspans were allegedly seen in Wyoming County.

Bigfoot creatures were reported being seen April 25 in Towanda; in June near Pleasant Unity; and a year earlier near Greensburg and Jeannette.

There were unexplained crop circles reported in May 2000 near Delmont.

UFOs make up the majority of incidents. So far this year, witnesses in Whitehall reported seeing two mysterious objects on Jan. 2. On April 10, an experienced pilot saw a "white diamond shape" hovering low in Peters Township, Allegheny County, before disappearing. Five days later in Clarksburg, Indiana County, two witnesses on Route 286

saw a hovering object the size of a bus. On May 14, someone reported seeing a hovering object near the turnpike in Harrison City.

There were three reports from Saltsburg. On Oct. 15, 2001, someone spotted a "bright green sphere" moving across the sky. This year, on Feb. 13, a witness saw "white lights hovering low," and eight days later, another person reported seeing a 100-foot triangle rise up into the sky, then disappear.

"The first thing we do in any of these reports is to try to explain them as natural phenomena," Gordon says. "Sometimes people don't realize that they are seeing meteors, the northern lights, or planets and stars." Gordon says space junk re-entering the atmosphere can look startling, too, and so can aircraft viewed from odd angles.

Gordon and his team of investigators rule out those things first and even post photos and examples on Gordon's UFO Anomalies Zone Web site (www.westol.com/~paufo).

The other incidents remain unexplained, and that's what intrigues many, including Gordon, who has never seen a UFO or bigfoot. To make a report, contact Gordon at paufo@westol.com or the 24-hour hot line, (724) 838-7769. For information on mysterious animals, visit www.cryptozoology.com.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA
Aug. 23, 2002 CR: S. Gordon

"I have to get the word out. People have to know the truth."

— Pendleton author Roy Timm

A believer amongst a world of skeptics

One strange experience led to another, and then to others, until an unusually determined Pendleton rancher decided to tell all and enter a subculture of specialized "non-fiction" UFO writers.

These writers tell of supposed unknown species, strange flying objects, and "energy balls" that use unknown properties to lay down artistic-looking patterns involving circles in wheat fields. There is also a darker side, allegedly involving cattle mutilations and abductions of human beings.

"I was only 8 years old, I was lying in my bed, and there he was hovering in the doorway, kind of shimmering." Thus the 67-year-old Pendleton author, Roy Timm, describes his earliest experience with a range of strange phenomena that he kept private until March 2001. The object in the doorway appeared to have a shape roughly similar to a human being, he says.

Timm made public his beliefs about space ships, extraterrestrial beings, abductions and more, on March 9, 2001, when he appeared on the local radio show The Coffee Hour.

He also published a book last year titled "Northwest History of Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More."

Timm overcame unusually difficult circumstances to publish his book: He is blind. But Timm is accustomed to hardship. He built the homestead's hay barn, which is still in use, when Timm was 18 years old. He put in seven miles of telephone lines, hauling in poles on a logging truck. His fingers have little feeling left, because of nerve damage suffered while feeding cattle in sub-zero weather.

He recently drove to his beloved former home and ranch to reminisce. Milky clouds lolled on limitless, pastel-blue skies, and rolling hills of sun-dried wheatlands and mountains were visible stretching from Heppner to Tollgate. Cattle and



Timm shows photos which purport to show the work of alien beings. The top photo is of a crop circle in Forest Grove. The bottom photo is said to be one taken while "energy balls" lay down crop circles.

horses grazed about in the 100-degree heat. In those same pastures, Timm, his brother, and his mother had once seen strange signs in the sky: silent, speeding objects that Timm firmly believes were flying saucers.

"I was 12 years old at the time, but you don't forget something like that," he said.

Back at his house, where Timm has memorized the location of every item, he gropes for the remote control of the television, which he can hear, but not see. His hand closes around a video cassette about flying saucers, which he pops into the television for visitors.

The tables and bookcases are filled with books and magazines, about UFOs, flying saucers, and other extraordinary events. Timm "reads" using special equipment. A button

pushed on the scanner starts a computerized voice simulator, reading in a monotone the materials Timm loves best: those which tell of space vehicles, UFO sightings, saucers, football-shaped space craft. "I read a lot of good books," Timm says. In similar fashion, Timm operates a fax/printer and other electronic equipment. He also hosts Internet radio presentations. "I'm just a bit stubborn about doing these things," he says.

Timm gets reports from around the world with a special network of friends and enthusiasts, and now, with his book, he has added about 50 UFO or alien-experience accounts of his own, many of them from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho residents who claim to have had experiences with extra-terrestrial beings, space ships, UFOs and so-on. More reports are coming in all the time, he says. Many people were encouraged to share their experiences when they heard Timm's radio testimony, he says.

Timm's book includes chapters on crop circles, abductions, saucers, and (of particular interest to cattle ranchers) cattle mutilations which are attributed to alien beings. More than 100 species of alien beings have been reported, according to Timm.

Timm says the alien creatures are only trying to help us out. We are polluting the world, contaminating the stream rivers, and lakes, destroying the environment. They want to warn us to stop doing that, according to Timm.

Timm says the government is covering up what is known about UFOs. Conspiracy theories abound among the UFO watchers. For example, a link on Timm's web site takes one to "The Disclosure Project," a group calling upon Congress for open hearings and "a comprehensive plan for cooperative, peaceful space development."

The link features interviews with highly-placed ex-military, government and other "witnesses" who are adamant to one degree or another in interpreting what they have seen as stemming from space aliens. Timm, in support of the movement, wrote, "I am sticking my neck out for the first time in my life to open the

door ... (along with others) to try to get Congress to give open door hearings."

Another group thinks in terms of government coverups, quasi-government organizations, and conspiracies. One of the prevalent ideas is that the government will try to foist some kind of fake attack on the world, then attribute the attack to aliens, in order to unite the world behind a leader.

For Timm's part, with almost religious overtones, he calls for a kind of environmental repentance, and encourages other people to demand that Congress open the books on what they allegedly "know" about UFOs, aliens and the rest. As he put it in the introduction to his book, "It is becoming critical, very critical, folks, extremely critical. We need to do something now!"

Once Timm announced his intent to write a book, he found an abundance of local people willing to contribute their accounts. The stories, many of

which are only a page or two in length, tell about alleged special encounters with creatures from distant worlds or other realms.

• Vivian Lightfoot, 78, is cited as having seen a flying saucer 30 miles south of Pendleton on West Birch Creek, in 1947.

• Patricia Templeton Grandys is cited as saying she saw seven saucers in 1952, in the Tri-Cities area. She works in Hermiston at a packing plant.

• Mike Knight provides an account of having reported seeing what looked like a UFO over the Columbia River in 1972 or 1973, at The Dalles while looking out a hospital window.

• Ivan Gilliam is said to have told Timm of a 1958 experience in Sumpter, in which he and two other loggers saw a saucer, 60 feet in diameter.

• Gilliam also reported having been visited in his bedroom as a child, by two big, skinny, bug-eyed creatures. In fact, several sightings of creatures reportedly happened in bedrooms. The creature is one UFO watchers have dubbed the "praying manthis." Another is named "prune face" because its face is wrinkled.

• Gloria Blessing of Hermiston is given as an example of a person who saw space creatures, and who was abducted. It was 1969. Her



Because he cannot see, author Roy Timm "reads" these UFO magazines and abooks with the help of a scanner and special, voice-simulating software.

radio went out and her car stalled (Many of the stories involve stalled cars and interrupted radio transmissions.). She supposedly noticed a football-shaped machine with lights all around it, and then gray-green creatures with bright silver suits left the machine, reminding her of the Tin Man of Wizard of Oz.

• Cattle reportedly have been slaughtered, operated on with microwave beams, in order for aliens to learn more about what effects human activity is having on their systems. Some of those mutilations allegedly happened in Umatilla County and were reported to the sheriff. Others have been reported as far away as Argentina.

Not everyone is pleased to go chasing after flying saucers and space aliens with Timm. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, for instance, is reluctant to pursue Timm's claims, and the media, Timm says, just will not print what he calls the truth.

Religious people have also rejected his message, to the point he says he is ready to part company with some of them. "I won't buy into your ignorance or stupidity," he directed toward spiritual leaders who scoffed at the idea of life elsewhere in the universe. "As far as I am concerned, you are living a lie and I don't want anything to do with liars. Count me out folks. Just count me out." God created more than this earth, Timm says; "God created the entire universe," and there is a lot out there that we are just starting to learn about.

"I get so frustrated when people still don't believe these things are possible when these sightings have been going on for so many years," he says. According to Timm, there was a rash of UFO sightings in 1947 and during the years corresponding to the siting of the Hanford nuclear reactors. The reported sightings continue to happen every year, he says. Aliens are trying

business.

"I have to get the word out," he says. "People need to know the truth."

Timm's web page address is www.nwhistoryofsaucers.com. E-mail may be sent to timt@nwhistoryofsaucers.com. The telephone/fax number is (541) 276-2756.

Story and photos by Frank Lockwood

(continued on page 4)



Roy Timm stands on land his family used to farm at McKay Acres in Pendleton. It was on this property that Tim, the age of 12, first saw what he claims to be flying saucers.



Timm, who is blind, operates office equipment by sense of touch, and memorizes where he left each object or piece of equipment.



Northwest History of Saucers, Et's, Abductions and More

Roy Timm

Timm wrote this book, published in 2001, telling of beings from other planets.

REVIEW, Marlow, OK - July 25, 2002

Strange red light baffles residents

Red ball drifts across night sky

A mysterious bright red light drifted through the night skies northwest of Marlow late Tuesday. The strange light was reported by several local residents as it made its way across the heavens.

Marlow police chief Bob Hill said he watched the light for approximately 45 minutes. He said he first saw the bright red ball northwest of Marlow around 11 p.m. It slowly drifted to the east, darting in and out of the high clouds.

"We had several people call the station," Hill said. "The nurses at West Wind were the first to call around 11 p.m., but several other called us, wanting to know what it was."

Hill said several individuals reported seeing a yellow tail appear at the back of the light, indicating possibly a meteorite entering the earth's atmosphere.

A check with the National Weather Service in Norman early Wednesday morning failed to produce any information to verify or substantiate any reason for the mysterious light.

"We didn't have any reports of meteors or weather balloons in the area last night," said weather service public affairs officer Keli Trap. "I really don't know what it might have been."

Hill said the light was similar to a warning light atop a radio tower, but said it moved.

"I do know it was way up there," Hill said. "When we got the first report, we went outside the station and saw it northwest of town. We watched it for about 15 minutes, then lost it. It came back about 15 minutes later and kept moving east."

"The last time we saw the thing, it was almost straight north of town along (U.S. Highway) 81. After that, it just disappeared," Hill said.

TIMES [National Weekly Edition], Washington, DC - Aug. 12, 2002 CR: J. Edmiston

UFO returns to area, 50 years later?

By Stephanie Casler
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Many Maryland residents say they were disturbed about 1 a.m. on July 26 by loud aircraft rumblings — and some insisted they saw a UFO.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) scrambled two D.C. Air National Guard F-16 jets out of Andrews Air Force Base to investigate an unknown aircraft picked up by radar.

Phone lines at radio stations lit up as puzzled callers wondered what exactly was going on. Renny Rogers, a Waldorf, Md., resident, said he saw a jet pursue a blue light in and out of the clouds.

NORAD explained the July 26

sighting: "The F-16s investigated, found nothing out of the ordinary, and returned to base. At no point in the mission did the fighters chase or intercept another aircraft," said Army Maj. Barry Venable, spokesman for NORAD. "Those are the facts from our perspective."

The NORAD spokesman didn't hesitate to use the phrase "UFO," but said that it merely refers to an unexplained sighting.

"Any unknown air activity is potentially threatening," said Maj. Venable. "Yes, there was a UFO — an unidentified flying object — momentarily spotted by radar. Does that mean it's an

alien spaceship? No."

The July 26 sighting occurred 50 years after a UFO sighting over Washington that made nationwide headlines.

One hot night in July 1952, Washington National Airport radar picked up unidentified blips and there were reports of bright shapes hovering outside control-tower windows.

Air Force radar screens also detected unidentified objects, and two F-94 fighters flashed over Washington in hot pursuit, but found nothing.

A week later, on July 26, there was another UFO scare. National's air-controller radar tracked a

dozen unexplained objects, as did radar at Andrews Air Force Base.

F-94s were dispatched at 11 p.m. from New Castle Air Force Base in Delaware to scour the sky. When they arrived over Washington, however, the blips had disappeared — but reappeared as soon as the jets returned to base. At 1:30 a.m., the Air Force jets were back above Washington. This time the pilots reported seeing strange lights, but were unable to catch up with the UFOs.

Kevin D. Randle, whose book "Investigation Washington: UFOs Over the Capitol" deals

with the 1952 sightings, says it is "an amazing coincidence" that this year's reported UFO sightings occurred on the 50th anniversary of the earlier event. He noted that the two incidents involved radar contacts, jet fighter pursuits and civilian witnesses on the ground.

Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies, thinks that UFOs are still "an unexplained phenomena that deserves serious attention by both the scientific community and the government."

Mr. Rogers, who said he saw a jet chasing a UFO over Waldorf, believes the government doesn't want to learn more.

"Their policy is that if they don't know something, keep quiet," he said.



Martha Rial/Post-Gazette photos

Stan Gordon of Greensburg, a paranormal researcher, in his basement workroom. He will display his collection of UFO paraphernalia at Westmoreland Mall on Saturday. Below, footprints from the scene of a Bigfoot sighting in Westmoreland County in the early 1970s and a mountain lion print found in Armstrong County in 1984. Mountain lions were thought to have vanished from Pennsylvania in the 1890s.

Even police call him about the paranormal

Greensburg's Gordon has spent 40 years on 'close encounters'

By Ginny Kopas
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Stan Gordon has a personal relationship with Bigfoot.

He'll show you a paw print. And, Gordon also doesn't mind being called an alien groupie. He'll show you a videotape.

But mostly, after more than 40 years of studying things that go bump in the night, Gordon, 52, of Greensburg, is a respected and some say workaholic researcher on the subject of the paranormal.

He'll show you photos, plaster casts, an award-winning video on what is arguably a close encounter with either aliens or the government, and more on Saturday when Westmoreland Mall in Greensburg hosts Gordon's collection of what he says is proof of the unprovable.

The display during mall business hours is being held in conjunction with the National UFO Information Week, a week originated by the Mutual UFO Network in Colorado to encourage the reporting of strange sightings.

"The truth is out there," Gordon deadpans, mimicking the voice-over for the recently popular television series "The X-Files."

The truth being Gordon's research that he says shows we are not necessarily alone.

He should know. Gordon's is the hot line — 724-838-7768 — even law enforcement officers call when things go bump in the night.

"Yep, he's the guy we call for these kinds of calls," Trooper Jeanne Martin of the Pennsylvania

"I get lots of good natured ribbing. And loads of people hum 'woo-oo-oo-oo' when they see me. But, hey, someone has to investigate this stuff."

— Stan Gordon

State Police Greensburg barracks concedes, but won't be specific.

The case that pushed the adolescent Gordon into the world of the unknown is still one of his most compelling: The much-discussed and still controversial reported landing of *something* in rural Kecksburg, Westmoreland County, on Dec. 9 1965.

Gordon produced a video "Kecksburg: The Untold Story," a couple of years ago that outlines what happened there.

There are many theories. Eyewitnesses said they saw a fireball cruise at low speeds and altitudes across the southwestern sky and then put down about seven miles southwest of Greensburg.

They described what landed there as an acorn-shaped spacecraft about 12 feet long, 6 feet in diameter.

Locals also said military personnel, who quickly cordoned off the area, unearthed a VW Beetle-size

craft that had crash landed in a gully and put it on the back of a military flatbed truck, then hauled it to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Many speculated that what had landed there was debris from the Cold War, the more knowledgeable identifying it as a Soviet Venus probe known as Kosmos 96.

The U.S. government, however, says that it was meteorite that was never recovered.

The persistent Gordon continues to petition Congress to set hearings to collect testimony and solve the mystery.

"I was mesmerized by the news reports, so I started researching extraterrestrial in the library."

"I haven't stopped."

The Kecksburg incident has been the subject for a couple of episodes of "Unsolved Mysteries" and "Sightings" on television. In fact, the mock spacecraft built for "Mysteries" still sits on top of the Kecksburg Fire Hall.

Seated these days at what amounts to a command center of computers and scanners in his suburban home, Gordon, with his trademark oversized glasses and shock of steely hair, looks more professorial than spooky, more Chevy Chase than Christopher Walken.

Nowadays he answers most calls about the phenomenon known as Bigfoot. A check of the last four years in Gordon's meticulous log book shows that, while sightings come from all over — the last in June 2000 on Route 30 near Jeanette — the description is the same: Witnesses keep running into a furtive, furry creature, hunched but walking upright, arms hanging down to knees who disappears into a wooded area.

Gordon hasn't become a rich man despite decades in which 14-hour days are the norm. His W-2 lists him as an electronics salesman at a store he prefers not to publicize. "The boss doesn't like it when folks come in to talk to me about spaceships."



Gordon, who was born on Halloween, concedes that it was hard to find a soul mate when you are apt to get a phone call about a spaceman sighting at 2 a.m.

"She's one supportive woman," he says of wife Deborah, a native of Louisiana, whom he met and married eight years ago.

"She doesn't mind the early-morning calls, the weekends I spend hiking in the woods, or the fact that my 'hobby' has cost me thousands of dollars in equipment."

Still, Gordon insists most calls about "unusual" activity turn out to be just "usual."

Meteoroid showers last week — an annual August event — prompted even more than the average 200 e-mails that Gordon gets a day.

Of course, Gordon's passion for the paranormal has attracted smirks as well as supporters.

"I get lots of good-natured ribbing," he concedes. "And loads of people hum woo-oo-oo-oo when they see me."

"But, hey, someone has to investigate this stuff."

A supporter, Eric Altman, 32, of Jeannette, said Gordon is the reason he has founded the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, which is also hosting a local conference Sept. 24, at Pitzer's Town House in Jeannette.

Altman will also be on hand Saturday to show plastic casts of what he says are unusual animal — or human? — prints found in February in Waynesboro, Franklin County. Police and dozens of paranormal researchers are still trying to determine what actually made some 300 8-inch-wide, 17-inch-long prints with four toes pointing up and one splayed to the right.

Altman doesn't know what the prints are, but he is sure of his mentor, Gordon, who helped with his investigation on the scene.

"He's gracious, patient, open-minded, and never laughs at questions," Altman said. "He's the best spokesman for people who think out of the box."

Despite the thousands of calls he has taken, all the volumes of research he has done, all the national talk shows, these days Gordon says he is still searching.

"I've yet to see a UFO or Bigfoot myself."

Westmoreland Mall is on Route 30 east of Greensburg and is open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. To obtain a copy of the Kecksburg video (\$29.95) call 1-888-UFO-VIEW. The Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society hot line is 724-374-5555.

Ginny Kopas can be reached at kgopas@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1183.

POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - Aug. 5, 2002 ALMANAC

Today is Monday, Aug. 5, 2002

ON THIS DATE

One year ago (Sunday, Aug. 5, 2001)

□ Afghanistan's ruling Taliban jailed eight foreign aid workers, including two Americans, for allegedly preaching Christianity. The workers were rescued the following November as the Taliban regime began collapsing during U.S. military operations.

Five years ago (Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1997)

□ A two-man Russian crew blasted off for Mir in a smooth launch that was upstaged by another breakdown aboard the aging space station, this time involving the oxygen generators.

Ten years ago (Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1992)

□ Federal civil rights charges were filed against four Los Angeles police officers acquitted of California state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King; two were later convicted.

Twenty-five years ago (Friday, Aug. 5, 1977)

□ The threat of an auto industry shutdown because of a congressional delay on air pollution legislation ended with the Senate voting the day before on final approval to a bill that included the easing of 1977 auto emission standards in a move expected to make it easier for car manufacturers to meet federal auto efficiency guidelines.

Fifty years ago (Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1952)

□ Dr. Edward C. Creutz, director of the Carnegie Tech Nuclear Research Center said "flying saucers were secret man-made weapons." But most other scientists here disagreed, insisting the saucers were neither weapons nor man-made.



1953 photo

Dr. Edward C. Creutz

One hundred years ago (Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1902)

□ Chief of Police Samuel Davis, of McKees Rocks, reported he planned to clean the borough of everything disreputable. Speakeasies, gambling joints, disreputable houses and every thing against the law was to be severely dealt with.

— Compiled by Alice Demetrius Stock

CR: R. Suttner

Going in circles over credibility of crop signs

CROP CIRCLES lost much of their mystery when a band of pranksters revealed that they were responsible for the patterns of flattened grain.

Now Mel Gibson and a multi-million dollar movie are resurrecting the crop circle myth. Crop circles began to appear in England in the mid-1970s. The first circle was produced by two chaps from Wiltshire after a few pints of ale.

The sun rose on what would burgeon into a highly successful UFO/ET hoax. About 10,000 circles — some of them beautiful — have popped up, or down, since then.

Believers argued that the shapes had to be extraterrestrial. They were too large and intricate to be fashioned by humans in one night. (But they were).

The fields in which they were found showed no evidence of footprints. (They did).

People saw mysterious craft producing them with energy beams. (They didn't, and they weren't).

No matter. Those who want to believe that crop circles are created by aliens cannot be dissuaded.

Yet, who really knows? Maybe those two Brits are really the aliens. Or, for the sake of argument, perhaps one man-made circle was followed by thousands from outer space.

Assuming the circles are made by life not of this Earth, what could they mean? Advanced beings traveled here from the stars to squash wheat in the English countryside?

That doesn't make sense. None of it does if you are convinced that the aliens are little humanoids with big heads.

If you let that go, the answer is obvious. Crop circles are made by/for intelligent extraterrestrial plants.

Just as humans would seek animals on other planets, plants look for other plants. After all, Earth's diversity could look like the world of any tunnel-visioned observer.

Smart plankton would see vast oceans and conclude Earth is planktonic; insects would see that they hold a vast majority; and humanoids would see billions of people.

Landing on the English countryside is the plant equivalent of parachuting into Beijing or Mexico City.

Crop circles are the aliens' vegetative mode of communication. A leafy cuneiform of extended self.

Some of the collapsed stalks could be "our" end of the conversation.

Plants would probably have a truly alien view of life. Our intelligent greens might not grasp the concept of "death."

A field of wheat might perceive itself as a single entity. Stalks speaking for the whole group could lie in a circle releasing millions of chemical messages into the wind.

Barley a farm over gets the message and makes its own circle. Plants all over the world spread the news.

Plants can't think, operate spacecraft or communicate? Why not? We give plants little credit. They turn to follow the sun. Seeds know which way is up. Plants know when to sleep and wake up.

Plants defend themselves with chemicals, colonize fields and do other amazing tricks. It's all chemical signals, we say. Besides, plants don't have brains, so how could they cogitate?

Ultimately, whatever's happening in our brains is chemical signaling, too, and no one knows how a brain "thinks."

You can't see a thought. Moreover, humans and plants share a surprising percentage of genes, and we're all DNA at the core.

All sorts of complicated and mysterious chemistry goes on in leaves. Maybe chlorophyll molecules double as digital processors or some such sci-fi surprise.

A true skeptic believes that knowing is impossible. More down-to-earth skepticism describes people who question the established and doubt the proven.

Arguing with a skeptic is pointless. Thus, people who are skeptical of things scientific insist that crop circles are genuine and otherworldly. (Many of the same people doubt that NASA ever landed people on the moon).

At some point skepticism turns inside out to credulity. Doubt casts doubt on doubt. Which leaves you at the center of a crop circle scratching your head.



ABRAM KATZ
GRAY MATTERS

LABOR NEWS, Rockford, IL - July 11, 2002

In Rockford And Elsewhere

WHAT REALLY GOES ON DURING UFO MEETINGS

By Harriett Ford

Okay, we'll be the first to admit it. The Labor NEWS has had a lot of fun over the years reporting on UFO-related stories, because, let's face it, if nothing else, these people are interesting.

So we wanted to attend a meeting in Dixon, Illinois, which featured a guest speaker, a clinical psychologist who specialized in helping people who believed they had been abducted by aliens. It was a most interesting event. Frankly, the psychologist was not at all what we expected.

She began her lecture with the words, "I'm Dr. (we'll call her Smith) and I am an abductee." At this point, my partner and I exchanged glances.

Dr. Smith described how she had seen her first UFO when she was a small child. She was traveling in a vehicle with her grandmother when an object the size of a football field literally covered the horizon from her vantage point. Smith said her grandmother's reaction was one of "ho-

hum, it's them again." It seems granny had also been abducted and was not at all surprised. (Could this be a generational thing?)

From that time on, Dr. Smith said she believes she was periodically abducted. She explained that her most recent visitation (at that time) was from a lizard-man-like creature who walked past her bedroom doorway one night as she was reading in bed. Lizard-man stopped and remarked casually, "You see me don't you?" Smith answered, "Yes I see you, and you get out of her at once!"

People in the room applauded her bravery in confronting the alien. (Here my partner and I once again exchanged glances.) Perhaps, this was her therapeutic approach—instruct her abductee patients to simply order aliens to get out of their lives. No self-respecting lizard-man would hang around after a command like that.

The psychologist went on to describe alien races: Grays, Monks,

lizards and sub-species from various galaxies. She talked of clinical hypnotic regressions in which young women remembered being abducted, impregnated and their fetuses "harvested" from the womb before they could give birth.

One of these mothers is allowed to visit her "alien child" aboard a space ship from time to time and even has photographs of the blonde-haired little girl. Smith could furnish dates, locations and other specifics.

Smith also spoke of patients who had discovered surgical implants in various parts of their anatomy (some parts more private than others).

Belief seeped through the room and was apparent on the faces of the intense group (eleven or twelve) each of whom could probably describe their own abductions after listening to the Chicago expert.

About an hour into the lecture, Dr. Smith took a break for refreshments. I asked her about her own abduc-

tions, which she said were wiped from her memory until more recent years.

What is the purpose of these impregnations? Obviously these aliens are dying races seeking to repopulate their own planets or galaxies. Unfortunately, the hybrids do not reproduce.

So does that mean Earth is not actually a seeded planet as so many UFO scholars believe? Dr. Smith did not have an answer to that question, but she clearly adheres to the belief that Earth was colonized by aliens who will one day intervene on our behalf in order to prevent mass destruction.

Smith did not wish to have her photo taken or be quoted directly for most of the lecture.

Back to surgical implants. For what purpose? Control? Tiny little televiewers which allow the aliens to observe our world through its citizens' daily lives? Smith had theories. She described one implant removed from a man's body in a most sensitive area, which looked like a tiny transmitter.

What happens to these objects when they are removed? No answer.

When the talk turned back to sensitive areas and breeding experiments, my partner and I exchanged glances once again—this time we quickly looked away because it was becoming difficult to repress laughter and we didn't wish to be disrespectful in any way to the gathering.

We politely excused ourselves and left. (And yes, we laughed, and laughed on the way home—not at these sincere people, but at ourselves and our reactions.)

Curiously, these types of meetings are happening at places throughout the U.S. In Roswell, New Mexico and even Eureka Springs, Arkansas where a UFO Conference was featured as an article in the *Oxford American* late last year.

Reporter Matthew Teague said he first heard Melanie Young from Texas

describe how a lizard-man had stolen her away through a wormhole in her bedroom wall, impregnated her, and "harvested" her unborn lizard-son before she could caress his scaly body. (Must be a familiar theme.)

He listened to Dr. Roberta Gennig inform the gathering that Young was not the crazy one—nonbelievers were. Gennig's topic was "A Psychiatrist's View of Alien Abduction." (Get the experts to verify it, and anybody will believe anything.)

The speaker from Collinsville, Illinois, Forest Crawford, spoke on "Ufology: Coming of Age in the New Millennium" and unveiled myths spread by the establishment.

One of these myths—he informed the enthusiastic audience is that—"We've been tricked... we don't have to die!" The crowd broke into cheering, applauding and even trembling.

Wow. That's the message? No wonder it's so attractive to some people who want desperately to believe in something.

Teague observed the believers for a good part of the Arkansas conference. He described them as a lot of excessive partiers, a cross-section of aging hippies, unexpectedly middle class people, with polo shirts and cell phones clipped to belts. And then he found a common denominator. Most of these people had been close to death from catastrophic illness, surgical procedures or other trauma. He wrote:

"Maybe they were scared.

"Or maybe they were just bored. Or, for heaven's sake, maybe they were onto something, a promise of something beyond, more than what they've seen here. Maybe they went to Eureka Springs to find healing in the water, or at least a good time dying."

Whatever the reason, it's curious to think they have so much in common with Illinois people who gather to discuss the identical topics, complete with a fertile lizard-man. (If you see him in your bedroom, just tell him to get out in no uncertain terms.)

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE,
Rochester, NY - Aug. 7, 2002

CR: W. Sherwood

Human intelligence tested by crop circles

The recent movie *Signs* has raised the public's consciousness of a worldwide phenomenon, the overnight appearance of beautiful symmetric patterns in fields of grain. Some are made by man. Many are not, as can be proved by tests in the laboratory.

Predictably, Hollywood sees them in a sinister light. But that is not warranted by the facts. There is a growing body of scientific literature on the subject. Study it and you will find harmony, not horror.

Whatever the source of these mysterious formations, they can be seen seen as a wake-up call at a grass-roots level to a civilization sadly out of balance and stunningly clever in technical knowledge, yet lacking the wisdom to apply that knowledge in ways that would promote planetary stewardship and human welfare.

The crop circle mystery is an undeniable global reality crying out for attention. Like all truth, it will continue to knock gently but persistently at the door of our consciousness until it is recognized for what it is. The best insights of science and religion will be needed to provide the answer.

WILLIAM T. SHERWOOD
HENRIETTA

POST, New York, NY - Sept. 1, 2002 CR: M. Luckman

Flying saucers follow Mick

IS **Mick Jagger** an alien magnet? UFO specialist **Mike Luckman** thinks so. "UFOs seem to follow Mick," Luckman tells **PAGE SIX**. "Not only did he and his friend **Marianne Faithfull** see a rare, cigar-shaped mother ship while camping at Glastonbury Tor in England in 1968, but during that period, Mick kept setting off a UFO alarm whenever he left one of his estates in England," the author of "Close Encounters of a Musical Kind," (Pocket Books) said. At the Rolling Stones' notorious 1969 concert in Altamont, Calif., one UFO was even caught on tape. "You can see the crowd turning away from the stage and looking up at the sky... and I have quite a few reports of UFOs showing up at other concerts. The music seems to attract them," Luckman adds. Luckman is trying to cash in on music and aliens by producing a "Signal to Space: Countdown to Contact" concert next year at a yet-to-be-named outdoor amphitheater. "It is not inconceivable that we may get a message that will prove once and for all that we are not alone in the universe," he said. No word yet on whether the Stones will play at the extraterrestrial bash.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Cross roads for the galaxy

Bulkley Valley hotbed of interstellar activity

By Timothy Schäfer
The Interior News

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

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

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

increased as it neared the car, the image of some sort of craft also began to take shape, startling the driver, causing her to step harder on the gas and propel the car forward.

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

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



Submitted photo

Recent sightings in the Bulkley Valley:

- Houston (July, 2001): A fellow walks into the Houston Food Mart telling of an object hovering approximately 500 feet above a transmitting tower on Mount Harry Davis. The object was emitting sparks off its bottom side, shooting down towards the tower.
 - Houston (Jan., 1999): Several snowmobilers on the Telkwa Mountain Range watched a silver/black disc-shaped object hover in the distance.
 - Houston to Smithers (Sept., 2001): A man driving west to Smithers from Houston saw a white light streak low over the valley below him, near Grouse Mountain.
 - Houston to Smithers (Aug., 2001): Husband and wife watched a large white light (object) east of Telkwa. It was reported to be very large and glowed brightly before disappearing rapidly to the north.
- Contact Vike by mail at Box 1091, Houston, B.C., V0J 1Z0, by phone or fax at 1-250-845-2189, and by e-mail at yogibear@bulkley.net

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

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

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

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

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

month since the Bulkley Valley became the crossroads of interstellar traffic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Credibility is something which Vike has struggled with since he dedicated

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough,
England - July 9, 2002

'Dolphin' UFO plea

HAS anyone seen a mysterious dolphin-shaped object in the sky above Scarborough?

Russ Kellett saw it on Saturday at 12.50pm and again two hours later while he was doing a UFO sky watch with friends in Crescent Gardens, Filey.

The grey object with a blue tint was described as bigger than a helicopter with two flashing lights.

Mr Kellett, a UFO investigator

who videoed it, said: "It looked remarkably like a dolphin and was visible for a number of minutes before disappearing into a cloud vertically at some speed."

He said it was too big for a child's balloon, and if it was a hot-air balloon they could not see the basket.

Anyone who saw the object or thinks they know what it was can contact Mr Kellett on (07901) 597743.

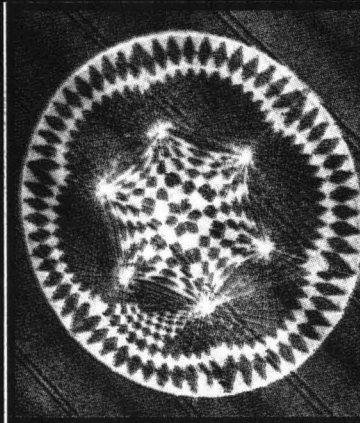
CREAM OF THE CROP

THEIR origins are a mystery, but every summer more and more delicate and intricate crop circles are appearing in our fields.

Debate rages as to whether they are hoaxes or really created by aliens — and a new Hollywood film about the phenomenon, Signs starring Mel Gibson, has made £120million in its first three weeks in the U.S..

Many believe that crop circles are the work of professional fakers — who use planks and bits of rope in order to create the geometric patterns. However, other complex circles are less easily explained.

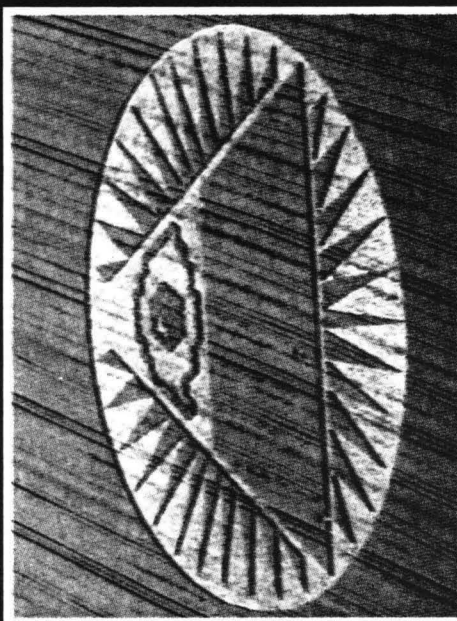
Whether real or elaborate practical jokes, here GLENDA COOPER presents some of the most interesting — and intriguing — from the summer of 2002.



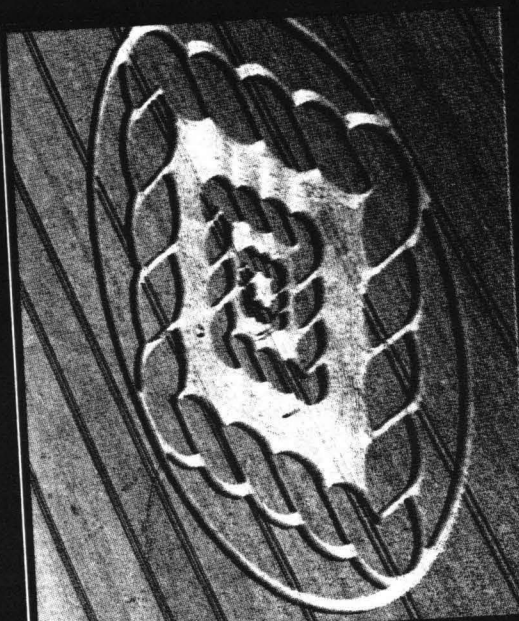
Sparkling: This elaborate circle, made up of a series of diamonds, was found at Windmill Hill, Wiltshire, on July 18



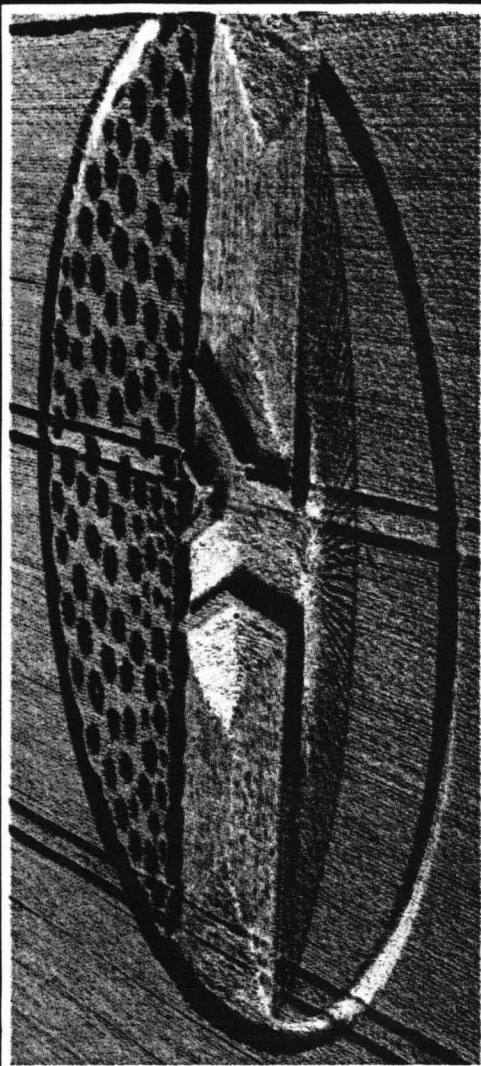
Flying in: This circle, found at Rogate in West Sussex, and created on July 21, has a three-sided 'propeller' design



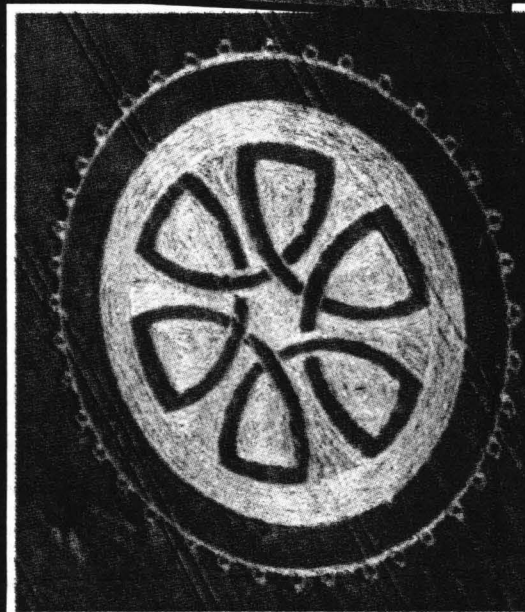
Eye-opener: A circle in Highclere, Hampshire, formed in a wheat field on July 21. It has a triangular design with sun rays on each edge. In some ways, it resembles the 'all-seeing eye' symbol



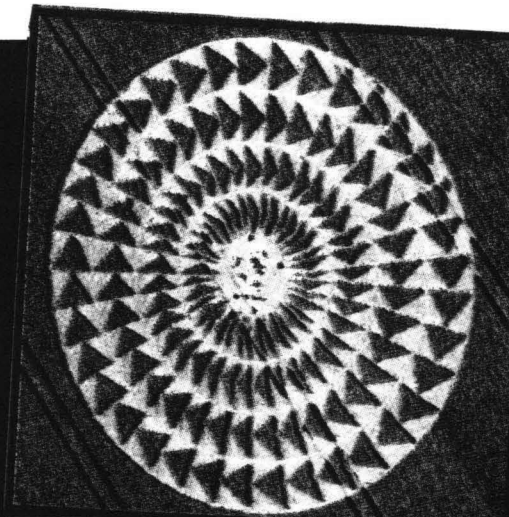
Not so ropey? A large design, which resembles rope within a circle, found in Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, on July 22



Branching out: This crop circle found at Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, on July 15 could be a tree design



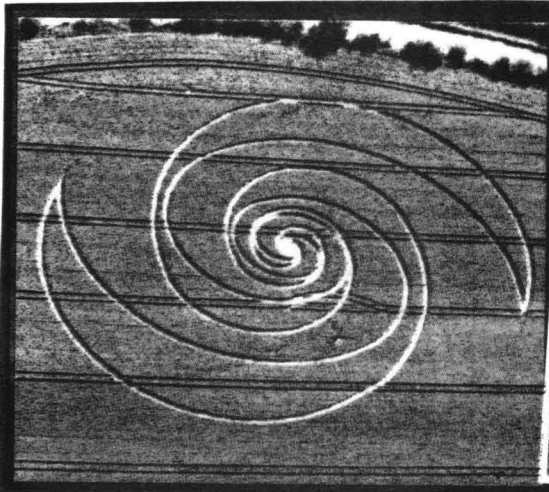
Knotty problem: A crop circle at Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire, which appears to incorporate a knot design, ringed by a looped second circle. It was formed on June 2



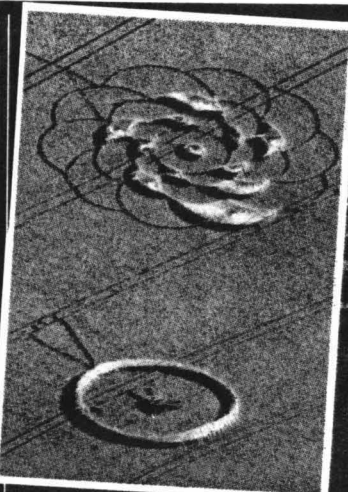
What's the point? A design — formed on August 6 in Windmill Hill, Wiltshire — with four rows of chevron arrows

Pictures: LUCY PRINGLE

(continued on page 9)



Give us a twirl: This design found in a wheat field in Honey Street, Wiltshire, on July 26, consists of a circle and two crescents coming from it

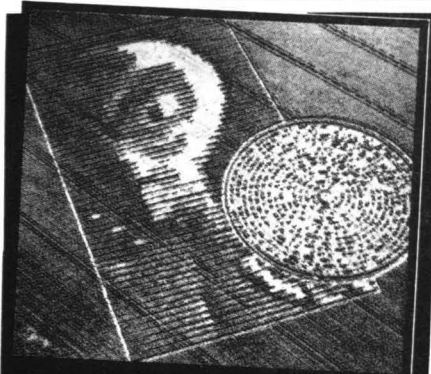


Double take: These circles were formed between July 28 and August 3 at Cherhill, Wiltshire

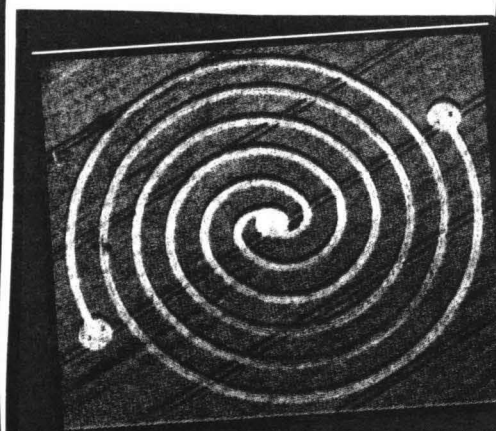
P.S. Here's one that IS a fake



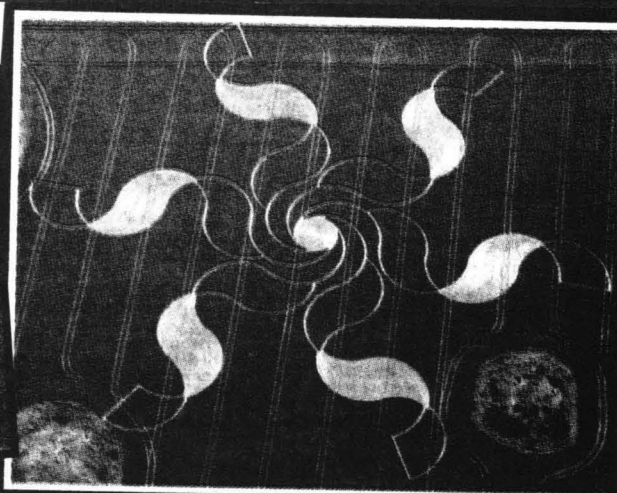
Suspicious minds: This 'crop circle' of Elvis is definitely made by man. Artist Roger Baker created it at an airfield in Ellenville, New York, on August 15, to mark the 25th anniversary of the King's death



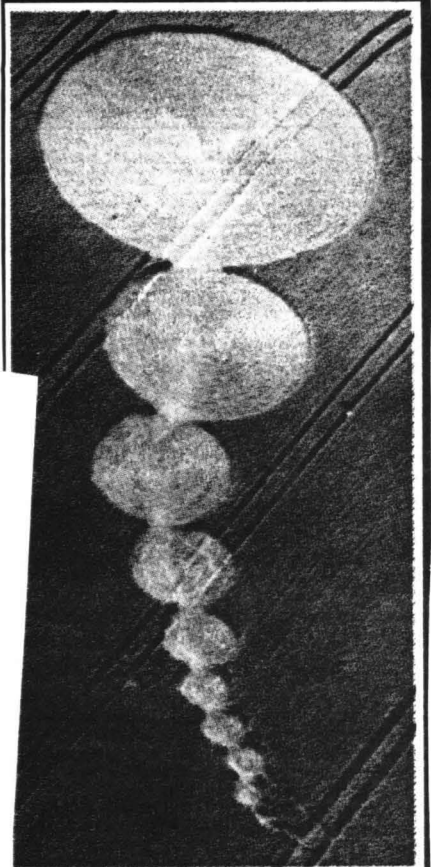
Close encounter? This circle at Sparsholt, Hampshire, shows an alien holding a 'compact disc' — perhaps containing mysterious messages



Is it all spin? Found near the A4 in West Overton, Wiltshire, a double spiral formed in a barley field on June 22



Ancient links: Found at Stonehenge on July 4, one of the largest circles ever discovered, measuring 750ft in diameter. Enthusiasts say it links three Bronze Age burial grounds



Ever increasing circles: A 'thought bubble' design found on the North Downs, Wiltshire, on July 18

HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - June 24, 2002

UFO phenomenon set to take Scots tourism into whole new dimension

ROB CRILLY

FORGET Brigadoon, shortcake and golf. The saviour of Scotland's tourist industry could turn out to be little green men from Mars.

The country of icy lochs, leaping salmon and majestic mountains is the favoured destination of flying saucers, according to research published today which found that Scotland has the highest concentration of UFO sightings of any country in the world.

Tourism officials are now planning to widen marketing strategies to appeal to UFO hunters.

John MacNeil, a spokesman for VisitScotland, which commissioned the research, said it confirmed Scotland as the nearest thing to a Costa del Sol for aliens.

"It will allow us to tap into a new market," he said. "We

already have golf, walking and fishing enthusiasts coming here and this will enable us to attract a different sort of enthusiast and the economy will benefit as a result."

'There are 300 reported UFO sightings in Scotland a year'

A tour operator is planning to launch UFO day-trips taking in the alien hotspots of Bonnybridge, in Stirlingshire, the Bathgate Hills and Dechmont Law, near Livingston, site of a famous alleged landing in the 1970s.

Gordon Stuart, of Mercat Tours, said: "We are often approached to do tours on a paranormal theme. The UFO thing is something that we have done in

the past and it is something that people are very interested in."

He said a UFO tour would be an extension of Scotland's rich history of legends and myths.

"Things like balls of light in the sky have been reported for centuries," he said. "What might have been interpreted a couple of centuries ago as a ghost or something to do with the fairies is now automatically associated with UFOs."

The results of the survey, published to coincide with International UFO Day, show that there are 300 reported UFO sightings in Scotland a year — four times as many per square kilometre than France and Italy, which came joint second in the rankings.

Scotland also records the highest number of UFO sightings per head of population.

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

dozens of sightings in and around the village of Bonnybridge. The area quickly became known as the Falkirk triangle.

The idea of using the country's elusive visitors as a marketing tool is not new. Billy Buchanan, a Bonnybridge councillor, has called for a UFO visitor centre to be built in the village to cash in on the phenomenon.

Ron Halliday, a Stirling-based UFO expert, said: "When you think of the number of sightings in Scotland compared to the size of its population, it is phenomenal."

He added that the area around Bonnybridge might act as a "window into another dimension" accounting for the frequency of sightings. Other experts believe that aliens tend to head for remote parts of the country or that sightings tend to be most common near military air bases.

NORTHWICH CHRONICLE, Chester, England - July 10, 2002

UFO meeting could be a case for Mulder and Scully

UFO hunters from Mid Cheshire will be joining their counterparts from across the UK to investigate everything extra terrestrial this weekend.

Members of the British UFO Studies Centre (BUFOSC) will gather at the Waterloo Community Centre in Run-corn on Saturday for the BUFOSC

Conference, where three of the most respected UFO experts in the UK will be speaking.

Tim Matthews will be revealing the 'Government conspiracy' regarding cattle mutilations caused by UFOs, Phil Mantle will be discussing Project Hessdalen, while BUFOSC founder

Eric Morris, who lives in Northwich, will be revealing secretive actions in Gibraltar.

Eric said: 'BUFOSC is making excellent progress this year. 'As well as this weekend's conference, we also have a month-long study in Wiltshire starting this month

when crop circles and UFOs will be filmed by military night-vision aids.'

Money raised on the day will be donated to Cat's Protection, supported by BUFOSC former member Dave Kelly.

For more details, call Eric on 01606 330567.

Sightings: What is fact and what is fiction?

ACCORDING to UFO experts, they believe the following to be true:
IT IS A FACT: The media is highly censored (manipulated and controlled).

IT IS A FACT: Our government is taking risky, yet necessary, steps to prepare us for the impending UFO landings.

Human abductions and animal mutilations have been reported for nearly half a century.

According to the extra-terrestrial experts, they believe that the government knows that they are taking place, yet it does everything in its power to hide the truth from us. But what is the reason for alien abduction?

Some believe that aliens are eager to find solutions for survival on our planet to continue their species.

Apparently, Zetas from the star system Zeta Reticuli, commonly referred to as the "greys", traded technology for "permission" to experiment on the human race.

As a result, our nation has experienced kidnapping of thousands, if not millions of adults, very possibly children and most definitely animals.

According to the experts, the abduction process is usually an invasive examination, followed by one or more surgeries where, alarmingly, it is commonplace to take human foetuses and collect sperm and eggs.

The reason for this is to create hybrid test tube babies where human and animal cross-breeding (genetic manipulation) and human cloning takes place.

According to UFO International, a man living in California is reported to have seen a dozen clones of himself in holding tanks aboard a starship.

He says: "When you are abducted, you usually get another implant."

"Shapes, sizes and locations of implants vary. The most common is a computer chip, surgically implanted just under the skin or anywhere on the body, frequently in the nasal septum, causing nosebleeds."

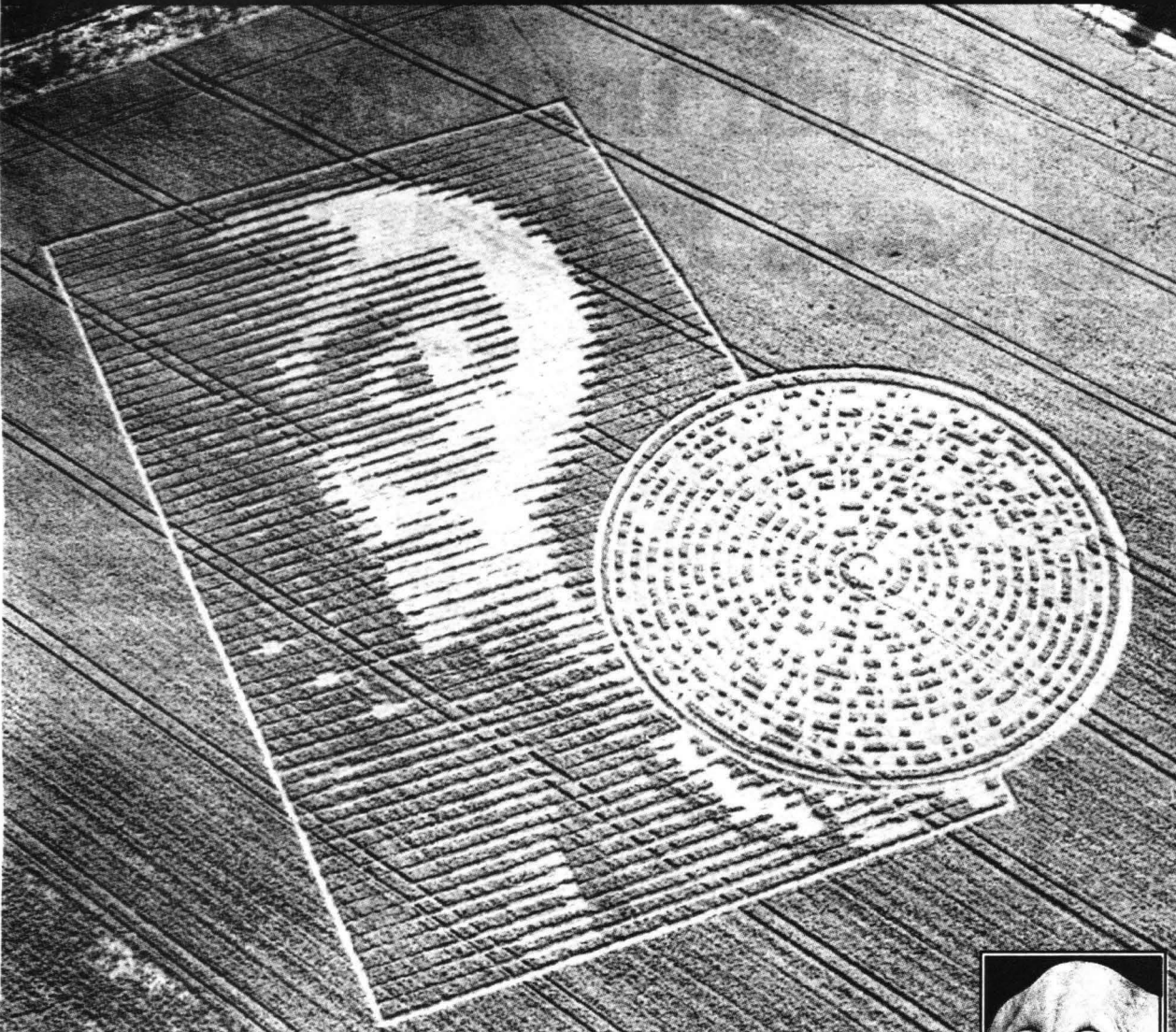
So what is the truth? All the above facts have been provided by so-called experts. Have you any proof of your own? If you have and you'd like to share it with me, please get in touch.

● For now though, you can always ease your curiosity by enjoying a wide range of great movies.

Who knows maybe there's even a flicker of truth in each of them.

- 1) The Matrix
- 2) Alien
- 3) X-men
- 4) ET
- 5) Star Wars
- 6) The Fifth Element.

ET crops up – holding a CD



AMONG crop circle believers, this creation is being hailed as out of this world.

And even sceptics would have to agree it's well worth a close encounter. Best viewed by squinting, the complex pattern depicts an extra-terrestrial figure holding a disc containing a mys-

terious set of messages. The alien, more than 100 yards long, has appeared in a wheat field at Vale Farm in Sparsholt, Hampshire.

'It's amazing,' said Steve Alexander, a crop circle expert. 'It shows what they call in UFO culture as a grey figure. It seems to have a sort of compact disc

which holds data. A lot of people think there's a message in there, whether it be musical or the spoken word.'

No one has worked out what the message is. But trying to puzzle it out should help enthusiasts fill in time before the British release of the Mel Gibson movie, Signs, a thriller about crop circles.



Sci-fi view of an alien

UFOs SPY ON AIR BASES

UFOs have been spying on British air bases for 60 years, according to an astonishing new report.

Researcher Dr David Clarke claims a Secret Service cover-up kept the evidence hidden

by ADAM KENNET

from wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his many successors.

Churchill heard of flying saucer sightings during air battles and queried them, recently-released Government papers reveal.

He was told that tales of sightings over the UK were "a myth" but, then and since, security service agents interviewed RAF pilots who reported sightings.

Retired Wing Commander Ron Hubbard twice saw disc-shaped craft flying over the RAF base at Farnborough in 1950.

The former flyer, then an RAF test pilot, told Dr Clarke: "The spinning and hovering were incredible. There is no technology on earth even now which could make such things."

SPY LIE:
Winston
Churchill was
told sightings
were untrue

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London,
England - May 14, 2002

CR: S. Gerrard

Seeing the UFO light

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

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

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

Denis Plunkett
Winterbourne, Avon

Close encounters of the crop-eating kind

Helena Smith in Athens

UFOs are destroying the plains of fertile central Greece, according to farmers who claim to have spotted alien aircraft landing in their fields.

After a visit by a "strange flying saucer" this week, one angry farmer in the Koziakas area said he had lost several dozen hectares of wheat.

"This huge circular flying object just floated down from the skies on to my field," said Athanasios Tsioukas from the village of Prini. "Its surface was full of small holes."

The farmer found the close encounter so unnerving that he rushed to the local coffee shop to alert his friends.

"When we got back to the field the aliens had gone," he sighed. "But their machine had left all these holes in the soil, some as deep as 20cm, which had cut into my crops."

Mr Tsioukas is not alone. Numerous farmers in the region have complained of unidentified flying objects leaving strange markings across their fields, although there is no suggestion that the unex-

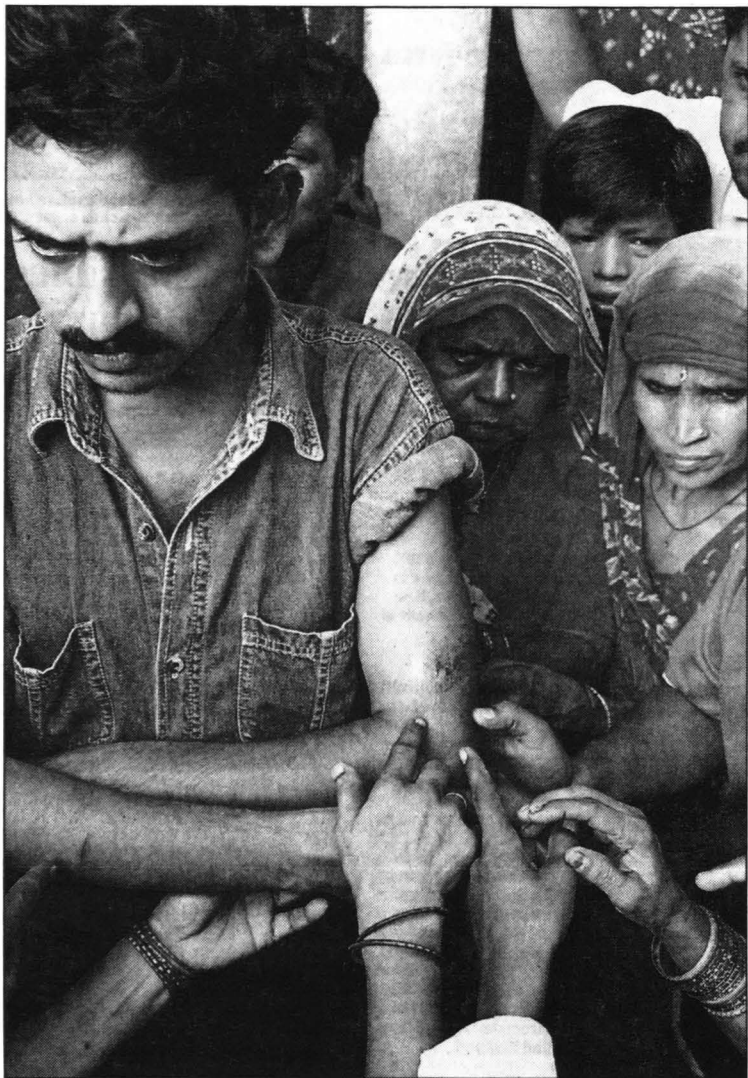
plained designs are crop circles of the kind seen in Britain.

Some farmers have even demanded compensation. So far, the pleas have fallen on deaf ears as claimants have been unable to name or pinpoint the mysterious crop-eaters.

A fellow farmer, Apostolos Patramanis, who was in the next field at the time of the latest sighting, said he looked up to see "bright flashes light up the skies - and then this huge object appeared and landed on Tsioukas's crops".

In recent years, growing numbers of UFOs have also been reported in Cyprus. Last March, a Swiss photographer who had just retired to Paphos, on the south of the island, said he spotted a silver, saucer-shaped object "emerge from the clouds" as he walked along the beach.

The UFO apparently hovered before "floating down" and disappearing behind some rocks. Two years ago another flying object was also spotted in the skies of Cyprus from the Troodos mountain range, not far from the British base at Akrotiri.



Villagers flock to see 26-year-old Sunil Sahu's wound, allegedly caused by an unidentified flying object they call Moohnochwa. Sahu said he suffered the wound while he slept outdoors in Allahabad, India, on Saturday.

Indian villagers say UFO is cause of deaths, injuries

Police blame insects for mystery that has killed at least 7 people

By PRAJNAN BHATTACHARYA
Associated Press

SHANWA, India — It comes in the night, a flying sphere emitting red and blue lights that attacks villagers in this poor region, extensively burning those victims it does not kill.

That's what panic-stricken villagers say, anyway.

At least seven people have died of unexplained injuries in the past week in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

"A mysterious flying object attacked him in the night," Raghuraj Pal said of his neighbor, Ramji Pal, who died recently in Shanwa. "His stomach was ripped open. He died two days later."

Many others have suffered scratches and surface wounds, which they say were inflicted while they slept. In the village of Darra, 53-year-old Kalawati said she was attacked last week and displayed blisters on her blackened forearms.

"It was like a big soccer ball with sparkling lights," said Kalawati, who uses only one name. "It burned my skin."

"I can't sleep because of pain," she said. Doctors dismiss the stories as hysteria.

"More often than not the victims have unconsciously inflicted the symptoms themselves," said Narrotam Lal, a doctor at King George's Medical College in Lucknow, the state capital.

The police have another explanation: bugs. "It is a 3 1/2-inch-long winged insect" that leaves rashes and superficial wounds, Kavindra Singh, a superintendent of police, told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Police drew this conclusion after residents of one village found insects they had never seen before.

Villagers are unconvinced. In the most affected area, the Mirzapur district, 440 miles southeast of New Delhi, people have stopped sleeping outdoors despite the sweltering heat and frequent power outages.

Some villagers accuse district officials of inaction and failing to capture the aliens. One person died Thursday in nearby Sitapur when police fired shots to disperse a 10,000-strong crowd demanding that authorities capture the mysterious attackers.

"People just block the roads and attack the police for inaction each time there's a death or injury," said Amrit Abhijat, Mirzapur's district magistrate, who claims he has captured the UFO on film.

FREE PRESS, Rosendale, England - July 5, 2002

Peep through window into 'UFO Alley'

Valley investigator produces another 'chapter' on the weird and wonderful

ROSSENDALE is one of the world's most paranormal places. Hundreds of reports of UFOs, haunted houses and ghostly strange happenings add up to ... lots of claims in the latest book from professional paranormal investigator, Jenny Randles.

The Stacksteads-born writer says in Supernatural Pennines that the area is the country's most prolific 'window' for tales of boggarts and demons, ghosts and UFOs.

Her interest in mysterious phenomena began at childhood, when strange lights appeared in the sky above a Blackpool boarding house she was sharing with her grandparents.

As strict Methodists, they tried to dissuade her from taking an interest but clearly have failed — Jenny has written more than 50 books on the paranormal.

Her latest investigation recounts just some of the thousands of events that occur in the Pennines every year.

"Science's attitude is that it's not possible or your mind's playing tricks on you," she said. "But I became aware that something was happening to thousands of people but those who were able to investigate it wouldn't."

"That charged me more than anything to build a bridge between people who have these experiences and scientists."

Rosendale's reputation as a hotspot of paranormal activity is well known among those living here. For instance ...

Bank House — built in 1886 — in Haslingden has long been associated with spectral activity which peaked in the 1970s. There were reports of strange noises, objects disappearing and reappearing, odd coal smells and apparitions.

In the following decade there were 'stories' of stray 'mountain lions' attacking livestock on the moors and frequent sightings of strange crafts, unexplained balls of light and mysterious apparitions.

The area between the Rosendale and Calder valleys has even earned the label of 'UFO Alley' because of the massive number of sightings.

On an August night in 1980, two men were fishing at Ogden Reservoir in the Milnrow area in the pouring rain.

Suddenly, a circle of glowing red lights appeared on the water. Assuming it was a

reflection of an aircraft above them, the men looked up but the sky was empty.

Now pulsing, the lights began to rise from beneath the water and the fishermen dropped their expensive fishing equipment and fled in terror.

They refused to return to the reservoir, and to add truth to their story, the lights were also spotted by a woman whose house was on nearby hills.

Jenny often draws on her own personal experiences of the paranormal when investigating.

"It gives me the opportunity to empathise with people because they worry about being ridiculed," she said. "I always try to be objective so I'm perfectly willing to accept there are things we don't understand."

Her field of interest is not exclusive; she is happy to investigate any apparent paranormal claim, be it a UFO sighting, haunted house, ball lightning or a pterodactyl over Bradford.

"Because of the different ages, what would once be described as demons or fairies would now be called UFOs," she says.

"After 25 years there are things that don't fit with our knowledge of how the universe works and are worth investigating."

"Yet the vast majority of paranormal events have a simple explanation."

She says one explanation of the Pennines hotspot is the high concentrations of crystal-bearing rock formations, which are common in 'window' areas.

"It could be some kind of energy leaking from the Earth itself and creating these phenomena. But whether this is capable of doing other things as well I don't know."

"The area has a track-record over hundreds of years and I'm totally convinced it is a genuine hotspot and not just somewhere that has got a lot of media attention."

She says that paranormal investigators often have the tacit support of scientists, they are afraid to offer it publicly for fear of ridicule.

And some people have unrealistic expectations, often thinking they'll uncover conspiracies or mysterious powers.

"The X-Files has a lot to answer for because it's nothing like the reality, it's more about just looking at evidence."

"Solving a case and finding that simple explanation is more satisfying than leaving a mystery unsolved, which can be very frustrating."

● Supernatural Pennines is now available at £18.99 with a paperback edition out soon.



Circles: Colin Andrews with a device that measures the earth's magnetic field.

Crop circles remain mystery

COLIN Andrews, acknowledged as a world expert on the phenomenon of corn circles, confesses to being a bemused man.

After years of research, which started in Andover and has led him to a new life across the Atlantic, the mystery is no nearer to being solved while layers and layers of additional experiences have been added to fudge the research.

On one of his annual trips to family members in Andover and to link up with fellow researcher, Busty Taylor, Colin Andrews admits he would now use the word paranormal about some of his experiences, although he wonders whether it would be universally accepted.

As investigations progressed, he was forced to acknowledge the existence of

hoaxers and now, with Hollywood producing the first of several films, featuring corn circles and UFOs, he is torn between conflicting emotions.

Will the world-wide coverage, Mel Gibson is involved, be good for future research or is the subject in danger of being romanticised?

"God knows where it will lead," is his comment. "I fear everything will be tarnished and the gems, the diamonds of the research will be hidden in the glass dross." Colin has to admit that he now feels the 'ordinary' corn circles are 'simply a natural phenomenon' although their manufacture still eludes a total explanation, but says his book to be published next year will be the definitive statement.

ADVERTISER, Andover, England
July 19, 2002



Passing UFOs make beeline for Scotland

by Stephen Khan
Scotland Editor

THE COUNTRY is usually associated with spectacular mountains, tumbling rivers and deep-fried Mars bars. But Scotland has a proud new boast: it has become the landing strip of choice for flying saucers and other mysterious, metallic, hovering craft.

More odd incoming craft have been tracked over the hills and glens than anywhere else on Earth, and UFO enthusiasts are flocking north to experience close encounters of the Caledonian kind.

A survey published tomorrow will reveal that 300 UFOs are seen in Scotland each year - four times as many as in France and Italy, which appear to be aliens' next favourite destinations. Even New Mexico, home of the Roswell air base and Area 51, where UFO believers insist that alien corpses were kept and studied by the American government, has seen less activity over the past decade.

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, has tried to

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

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

Yet it is not remote Highland or Borders areas that play host to the visitors. The Nineties saw a sudden surge of sightings in the central Scottish areas of West Lothian and Stirlingshire, particularly around the small town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk.

'The area has become known as the Falkirk triangle,' said Halliday. 'There have been various suggestions as to why it is such a magnet for UFOs.'

'One theory is that the area

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

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

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

Craig Malcolm has sought a slice of real-life X-Files action by taking video footage for six years outside the Forge restaurant in Bonnybridge. While three airports and a gas-flaring oil terminal all lie within a 30-mile radius and offer some explanation for

what he shot, footage of a ball of light dog-logging back and forth across a clear sky is nevertheless eerie.

Malcolm spends hours in favourite spotting sites such as the one next to electrical pylons, where a circular ball of light is said to have bounced along the tree tops, and a field where a plane-like object with no wings sent 'black reek belching out the back of it as it soared off.'

Bonnybridge's status as a UFO capital prompted one councillor to call for it to be twinned with Roswell and ambitious plans have been

'One theory is Bonnybridge is a window into another dimension. That would explain why certain people see a UFO and others don't - because it is some kind of paranormal phenomenon'

Bonnybridge's status as a UFO capital has led to calls for it to be twinned with Roswell, New Mexico, the alleged crash site of an alien craft.

The Herald and Reuters

mooted to build a multi-million-pound UFO theme park. But it is not alone. 'There have also been a substantial number of sightings in the Glasgow area,' added Halliday.

VisitScotland, the tourist board that commissioned the latest survey, sees it as a growth market. 'Our survey confirms that Scotland is the nearest thing there is to the Costa del Sol for aliens,' said Karen Gray of VisitScotland. Whatever the truth about UFOs, the Falkirk triangle has already attracted hundreds of visitors from the United States, Japan and England.

Cop 'n saucer

■ by JONATHAN CORKE
A POLICEMAN has revealed how more than 100 of his fellow officers claim to have spotted UFOs while pounding the beat.

DC Gary Heseltine, of the British Transport Police, has researched every reported police sighting since 1955.

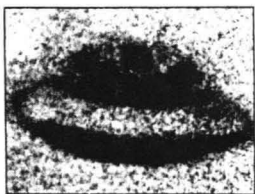
He reports 42 separate UFO "incidents", involving 110 officers.

He said: "As trained observers, police, like pilots, make for excellent witnesses."

But he reckons hundreds of officers never report their sightings "for fear of ridicule".

DAILY STAR, London, England
Aug. 30, 2002 CR: N. Oliver

POST, Birmingham, England - July 23, 2002



Town bid to disclose the alien X-files

The truth is out there - in

Stourbridge to be precise, where an open forum will tonight discuss the extra-terrestrial agenda with specialists on alien activity.

Jilaen Sherwood, a US researcher and specialist on alien abductions, will be guest speaker at the event at The Bell Hotel.

She will answer questions on cattle mutilations, alien abductions and reported sightings across the Midlands at the forum, which has been organised by UFO Research Midlands (UFORM).

Anyone interested in the event, or other UFORM activities, should call 07941 833842.

SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY, Edinburgh
Scotland - July 28, 2002

UFO hunters touch down

CHRISTOPHER CLAIRE

ALIEN enthusiasts last night descended on a small town in Scotland dubbed 'the UFO capital of the world'.

Members of Strange Phenomena Investigations were holding a 'skywatch' in Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, where residents have reported dozens of UFO sightings over the past decade.

The event was taking place just weeks after a survey revealed that Scotland has the highest concentration of UFO sightings of any country in the world.

SPI representatives travelled to the town yesterday from across the UK and were due to hold a public meeting in Bonnybridge's Royal Hotel.

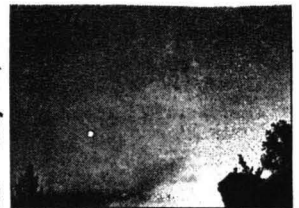
They were then set to spend

the night in the hills above Bonnybridge in the hope of catching a glimpse of an alien craft.

Local councillor Billy Buchanan, who has mounted a campaign for a special visitors' centre to be built to enable the village to cash in on the UFO phenomenon, said he was delighted the skywatch was taking place. "It shows that Bonnybridge is the Mecca now for people interested in UFOs," he said.

Research commissioned by VisitScotland, the national tourist body, last month showed the nation was top of a league of the world's UFO hotspots. The results showed that there were 300 reported sightings in Scotland a year - four times as many per square kilometre as France and Italy.

2002
England - July 17, 2002
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO, Lincoln



SIGHTING: The image captured on a digital camera by Echo reader Marcus Edwards.

Two possibles in UFO puzzle

I WILL try to solve the mystery of the object reported by Marcus Edwards (July 15).

On first viewing the UFO looks as though it could be a processing fault.

But he actually saw this object descend at a fast speed, and change direction.

I doubt if it was a weather balloon. What it could be is one of two things.

The first is a phenomenon known as ball lightning, which is rarely caught on camera.

The other alternative is that, as the earth moves through the sun's upper atmosphere where clots of plasma float freely, this could indeed be a clot of plasma.

There have been several of these photographed, which are very bright.

I very much doubt if this was a real nuts and bolts UFO because there are certain characteristics consistent with these sightings that were not reported on.

I hope the writer can sleep easy now. Keep taking the photos of unusual objects - who knows, one day you might snap the real thing!

MR A. HELGESEN
UFO researcher,
Stow Road, Willingham-by-Stow.

Life, but not as we know it, above the Central Belt

UFO-SPOTTERS from all over the country were keeping a close eye on the skies at Bonnybridge over the weekend to glimpse some paranormal activity.

Around 60 people took part in the Skywatch event on Saturday at the Stirlingshire town.

Bonnybridge has been the focus of worldwide media interest since VisitScotland researchers found the town boasts the highest concentration of UFO sightings in the world.

The Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) society hosted the event, which included a presentation by founder Malcolm Robinson. He said that the Skywatch had been worthwhile, despite poor weather conditions on the night.

"It was well attended, with upwards of 60 people from various parts of the UK including several members of the media."

"We went out on to the moors, but sadly the weather was heavily overcast and we really didn't see an awful lot. It was disappointing, but it was good to get a group of like-minded people together socially - talking shop if you like. The whole point is to educate people, to try and teach people not to keep a closed mind."

"There is something very unusual flying in the skies over Central Scotland, and indeed in other parts of the country."

Mr Robinson said that the group intends to stage further Skywatch events in the future. Anyone interested in finding out more about SPI can contact him on 020 8998 4936 or by e-mail on spi-spi@hotmail.com.

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 22, 2002 — *El Chubut*, Argentina — STRANGE PHENOMENON REACHES CHUBUT: TWO GUANACOS MUTILATED — One of the animals was found 5 km north of Puerto Piramide—with mutilated ears, missing an eye and with no signs of any tracks around it. The other case was reported today. The following news items are provided by TeleNoticias (Coronel Pringles, Argentina):

20.06.02-11:43 - Dead animals -- Mutilated sheep found in a field belonging to Mr. Ibarguren of our district.

18.06.02-22:07 - Another mutilated animal -- This one was found in Lartigau: a cow presenting incisions on its udders, rectum, missing part of its large intestine and genitals. It is further missing an eye.

18.06.02-16:50 - Local SENASA office -- In the next hours, the officer in charge of the local SENASA office, Dr. Alfredo Casan, shall meet with veterinarians who found the mutilated animals in the respective livestock farms in Coronel Pringles.

17.06.02-22:28 - Noteworthy -- Another item of information that is added to the appearance of dead bovines is the place in which the last four animals were found. The field is practically inaccessible; it was only possible to reach it on a tractor and it is necessary to cross a flooded area. Another characteristic that repeats itself in most of the cases encountered.

17.06.02-22:23 - More mutilated animals in a field near Laprida: they were examined by veterinarian Juan Mudrovcic and their injuries correspond to the type seen in other animals. This case involves four cows that were also mutilated, missing eyes, udders and showing incisions on their jawbones. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, Proyecto CONDOR

June 22, 2002 — *La Manana*, Argentina — ****The Mystery Continues**** — CATTLE MUTILATIONS EXTEND TO ROQUE PEREZ — The day before yesterday it was in Gobernador Ugarte, 25 de Mayo district and in Bolivar. Today it was Roque Perez's turn. In a field 10 km away from this city toward the south along the Camino Real, Pedro Conserva, 79, a cattleman who has lived in the vicinity for 51 years with his son Abel and the family group, continues raising Aberdeen Angus cattle. Once we entered the field, we traveled 1000 meters to reach the farm house, where an unprecedented event was confirmed: the mutilation of 3 cows which appeared dead in one of the pasture fields. The owners told *La Manana's* reporters that they weren't startled at first, considering that a storm front had gone past and "they thought that a bolt of lightning may have killed them." But later they realized that "there is a suggestion of the inexplicable, since we noticed the absence of udders, tongue, eyes and ears in all three cases. Furthermore, it seems as though the animals did not go through any agony, since there is no sign of kicking. It is also curious that the incisions appear to have been made with a sharp, hot object," they added. Members of the Conserva family are as surprised as the public at large, since they never saw anything like it only 1000 meters from the farm house, on a pasture field holding 340 cows. Only a few meters away, there is an immense expanse that makes up the La Chilca lagoon and other gullies impossible to cross, thus discarding the presence of human beings in vehicles throughout the area. — CREDIT: Proyecto CATENT

June 22, 2002 — *Telam News Agency*, Argentina — MUTILATED COWS — Experts Believe Carcass Count Exceeds 200 — Bahia Blanca, June 22 (Telam) — Professionals from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tandil who are looking into animal mutilations in the pastures of La Pampa and Buenos Aires reported that cases involving dead bovines with strange extirpations would reach 200 today. The veterinarians who investigated some 130 cases indicated in their report that the mutilations were carried out by an "intelligent being" and discarded "predator damage" [as an explanation]. Cattle ranchers and experts from this university met at Olavarria, and SENASA director Bernardo Cane took advantage of the opportunity to state that "animal deaths are common this time of year" and speculated that the deaths could have been caused by an "enigmatic cult" engaged in "esoteric practices". The official's theory was greeted skeptically by those present, who cautioned the functionary about "the perfection of the incisions and the wide area in which mutilated animals are being found in Buenos Aires and La Pampa, but also in Santa Fe and Entre Rios." Cane recalled that a while ago in the U.S.A. some 15,000 cases were reported and that investigations in this regard did not "shed any light whatsoever." Moreover, Eduardo Quintana, a technician for the Atomic Energy Regulatory Commission, said that there is nothing abnormal regarding mutilated animals, while admitting that his agency has yet to carry out any investigations. It was only recently that the Commission received grass and dirt samples to be analyzed by the Ezeiza Nuclear Center in Buenos Aires in order to measure the gamma radiation present at the cattle mutilation sites. The carcass count increased in southern Buenos Aires province with the discovery of a 9 month old, 200 kg Aberdeen Angus calf showing signs of mutilation. At Pigue, to the north of Bahia Blanca, the toll has risen to nine dead and mutilated bovines. At La Pampa, 10 km southeast of Abramo, a Shorthorn cow was found with its jaw, tongue and udders mutilated, according to Edgar Suarez, the officer-in-charge at the local constabulary. Cattle rancher Oscar Alvarez, the animal's owner, also reported the deaths of an Aberdeen Angus and a Hereford mutilated in a similar fashion. A dead cow also turned up in Jacinto Arauz, while in the department of Lihuel Cahuel, on the border with Rio Negro, a 4-year old Aberdeen Angus cow was found mutilated on the San Laureano pasture field, belonging to Ricardo Lavandera. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 23, 2002 — *La Arena*, Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina — EIGHT MORE CASES IN PUELCHES — 25 DE MAYO (C) — Eight more mutilated animals were found on Friday at Lots 2 and 22 of the Department of Curaco, 50 km south of Puelches. This was confirmed by Deputy Sheriff Omar Martinez in a statement to this correspondent. The finds are thus added to the over 100 animals which have appeared in the provinces of Rio Negro, Buenos Aires and La Pampa. Two of the carcasses were found on Lot 22 in a field owned by Augusto Valdome, and are those of two cows missing genitals, an ear, an eye and part of their jawbones. Furthermore, two additional cows and a calf were found in a field, also on Lot 22, owned by Julio Rogge. The first two were missing the same organs as in the foregoing case, but the calf was missing its lungs, heart, liver and entrails. In a third field, police officers discovered three cows in a pasture on Lot 2, owned by Sara Aguerre. The carcasses were also missing their genitals, udders, ears, eyes and showed deep cuts on their jawbones. Martinez noted that the remains of the calf's head found on Rogge's field will be sent to the

National University of La Pampa's School of Veterinary Medicine. The police took the initiative due to the strange bluish discoloration shown on [the animal's head]. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 23, 2002 — *Telam News Agency*, Argentina — GUANACO MUTILATION NEAR RAWSON, COMODORO RIVADAVIA — As the spate of animal mutilations continues throughout the country, an adult male guanaco showing signs of mutilation on its jaw, anus, ear and one eye, was found on the beach at Punta Pardelas on the Valdes Peninsula, 200 km north of Rawson. The report came from a rural foreman and was made to the sheriff's office at Puerto Piramide, which in turn advised the authorities of [the province of] Chubut, who sent a team of experts from the Provincial Conservation Agency, which has jurisdiction on this natural reserve.

The agency's director, Nestor Garcia, who headed the delegation, stated that this case is identical to the cow and sheep mutilations in Rio Negro, La Pampa and the province of Buenos Aires. Garcia noted that "what is strange is that there are no tracks to be found in the vicinity, except for the animal's own tracks on the fields during its last few minutes of life. I can't determine how long the animal has been like this, but it could be that it has been longer than 3 days. This will depend on the autopsy performed by the specialists from the Centro Nacional Patagonico, headquartered at Puerto Madryn, where we took the carcass," he explained.

The official finds it strange that the "animal was alone and didn't try to escape, which would be considered logical in the species, which is generally very shy and avoids human presence. Nor were carrion animals such as "chimangos" or "caranchos" reported in the area. — CREDIT: Proyecto CATENT

June 23, 2002 — *El Liberal*, Santiago del Estero, Argentina — UFOs AND MUTILATIONS AT SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO — A judge and police officers set off in search of the strange. The police precinct of Garza confirmed yesterday the discovery of a heifer with parts sectioned off. The event occurred under unknown circumstances and the incisions resemble those now seen on a daily basis in the fields of the provinces of La Pampa and Buenos Aires.

The animal was found yesterday in a hilly region of a place known as Quimilij in the department of San Martin by a local resident, Joaquin Lemos: "The cow apparently died two days ago and it was learned that some of its body parts were missing, apparently its eyes and udders," reported police and judicial sources to *El Liberal*.

These spokesmen maintained that the event deserves the attention of officialdom since the initial inspections suggest that the animal's death has been surrounded by "confusing circumstances".

"There appears to be no putrefaction and while carrion birds presumably approached the animal, they did not touch it," added the sources.

Meanwhile police from Precinct 38 of Garza maintained in its report to authorities in the capital that no tire tracks or footsteps were found near the animal, nor anything that could suggest the presence of cattle rustlers.

At the close of this edition, sources said that "taking these developments into consideration, and in order to make the corresponding technical verifications."

Fifth Circuit Criminal Court Justice Dr. Jose Antonio Unates will head out to the site in question. He will be accompanied by the chief of police, Sheriff Jose Tomas Lescano, and the veterinarian from the K-9 division, Eduardo Betbeder, chemical specialist of the Narcotics Unit, Roberto Adamo and personnel from the Institute of Bromatology of the province. Judge Unates also requested the attendance of the president of the School of Veterinary Medicine of Santiago del Estero and Dr. Andres Miotti, a local UFO researcher.

Residents of the Santa Rosa de Lima neighborhood in the city's northern end contacted *El Liberal* yesterday to inform that they have been witnessing for the past several nights--in concatenation with the sightings at Fernandez and Ojo de Agua--objects with strange lights in the direction of La Venacha, to the northeast of Santiago. The wave of rumors and UFO sightings are directly related to the appearance of mutilated animals and there are already specialists who point to the presence of "extraterrestrials" as the parties responsible for these acts.

In spite of the proximity of the city's airport, residents of the western sector of the city do not relate the strange lights with planes or helicopters which may be coming in for a landing, because "they remain motionless for several minutes in the air, or go up and down in a straight line before vanishing unexpectedly."

El Liberal combed the neighborhood to collect accounts and although residents did not wish to make their names known, they ratified the presence of these lights "over several evenings." Jose Villalva, the owner of a local supermarket, stated that his customers are remarking on the presence of these lights in the sky while doing their groceries, while stating that he himself has not seen them.

A young man disclosed that a few weeks ago, at night, a group of police officers went into the wilderness behind the neighborhood to capture criminals and that the locals, whose curiosity had driven them to enter the area, saw several lights over the treetops that ascended and descended. They thought at first that the lights came from the policemen's flashlights, but they discarded the possibility immediately upon realizing the officers had gone and they were alone in the area. Since then, many people have returned to the site in the hopes of seeing what they call "UFOs".

A UFO Costs Residents of Fernandez Robles their Sleep

Fernandez Robles (C)-- *El Liberal* 's exclusive related to the appearance of a UFO in this city between June 11-14 at different nocturnal hours regained strength yesterday due to a new sighting last Thursday around 21:00 hours. Numerous residents of the following neighborhoods: Norte, 12 de Octubre, Juan Domingo Peron, Camping, Roca and 102 Viviendas, among others "the Capital of Agriculture", claim having seen the luminous object. On said occasion, Marcelo Coronel, a professional mechanic living on Balcarce Street in Barrio Norte, witnessed--along with the light of the moon and stars--something similar to a "headlight surrounded by a red halo which increased and diminished in hue, and moved slowly from north to south without making any sound." Coronel adds that since he was on his way to the Sportivo Club, he followed [the object] in his car "along old Route 34." Once he reached the stadium, he continued to witness it along with the Gallardo family "for over 20 minutes, until it became lost behind the treeline." He further added that the event took place after 9:00 pm last Thursday. "On that day--he said--the wind was blowing northward, and for that reason I know the object wasn't a balloon. It moved opposite to the prevailing wind. Very slowly, as round as the size of a car wheel. It was possible to make out its colors clearly: intense white at its core (like a headlight) with a red aura around it, changing shades of red." Numerous residents of Fernandez claim having seen the phenomenon. A considerable number of rumors link this fact with the wave of unexplained bovine deaths and the emptying of numerous farm water tanks all over the country. "It is noteworthy that these lights should move over areas in which the wells and tanks of the new potable water system are located," adds Coronel. Neighbors agree, pointing out that when they are seen, TV signals are interrupted or television sets shut themselves off without any interruption to the flow of electricity, or the sets change channels without the remote control having been touched, while dogs bark desperately without any apparent reason. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 24, 2002 — *La Nacion*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — SENASA TO MAKE INITIAL REPORTS KNOWN — **The sanitary agency conducted investigations in the Pampan regions where the dead animals turned up** — The National Health and Agroalimentary Service (SENASA) shall release initial reports on its survey of the investigations conducted over the weekend in regard to mutilated bovine cases in various Pampan provinces. This comes from qualified spokespersons of the agency's director, Bernardo Cane, who personally toured the areas reported as epicenters for mutilated animals.

From the start, when these strange mutilations first appeared, the province of Buenos Aires was the hardest hit, at locations so remote that it was necessary to cover long distances on all-terrain pickup trucks and some stretches on horseback.

Subsequently, the phenomenon, which is still unexplained, took place in Rio Negro, Cordoba, Rosario and La Pampa, according to reports that reached Senasa. As a result of consultations with veterinarians and technicians in areas adjacent to the mutilation sites, the possibility that the events were related to predators or carrion animals was discarded, since the affected areas did not betray the presence of such carrion birds.

Surveys in hand, Bernardo Cane and a team of scientists—including three from the National Atomic Energy Commission—toured the regions and SENASA reported that this afternoon it will have an initial evaluation on the subject, although the official's collaborators said they had "no information" in this regard. It was only said that it was possible that it may be SENASA's own director who makes the serious situation known—a situation which has caused considerable losses to cattlemen and has given rise to fear among them and national authorities due to the mysterious way in which the events have developed. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 24, 2002 — *Rio Negro Online*, Argentina — **Another horse found dead in Choele Choel rustic farm Area** — The discovery of a dead horse in the Choele Choel rustic farm area has fed the mystery in the Valle Medio region and other parts of the province. This time a horse was found a short distance away from the community. In order to reach the site, one must cross a rural road and pass by at least a dozen rustic farmsteads. The victim presents the same characteristics as other animals found so far. Moreover, cattle ranchers are complaining about the indifference of the provincial agencies which have shown little interest in finding out what has happened. Meanwhile, fear is enveloping the residents of the area's rural regions.

The horse found in Choele Choel showed the same incisions and characteristics as the others. It was missing an eye, tongue, testicles, anus and part of its rectum. All had been removed with surgical accuracy. And the wounds were cauterized. This case, unlike others, occurred a scant 2000 meters from the causeway linking Choele Choel with the island. It is mentioned that from the initial find to date, no officials have reported to the community to get details on the cases. (AVM/AR and DyN) — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 24, 2002 — *TN Noticias*, Argentina — URUGUAY: First Report of Cattle Mutilations — The discovery of a dead cow whose tongue, eyes and genitals were extracted in a livestock region of the Uruguayan interior has raised concern in the country. Officials have begun an investigation into the case.

The first case was reported today in the Department (province) of Durazno, some 300 km from Montevideo and resembles cases which have occurred in some Argentinean provinces. Indentent (mayor) Carmelo Vidallin tried to cool down rumors by saying that "we must await the expert's verdict," referring to the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture, which is working at the site.

"It is remarkable that an animal was slain for purposes other than eating it," said the mayor, adding that "there are many hypotheses, because matters are always worse in a small town." No signs of blood or a struggle between the animal and its victim were found—a situation that adds mystery and feeds speculation among local residents.

For the time being, the possibility that obscure esoteric practices could be at work has not been rejected, since they are common throughout the country. However, the animals sacrificed in these rites have been chickens and hens. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 25, 2002 — *Telam News Agency*, Argentina — MYSTERY — Mutilated Sheep Discovered; Strange Lights Reported. SENASA Blames Rogue Surgeons — Bahia Blanca, Parana, Cordoba, Santiago del Estero y Santa Fe, June 24 (Telam) — A pregnant sheep was found dead and "hollowed out" in Coronel Pringles, 120 km north of Bahia Blanca, while new animal mutilation cases were reported in Cordoba and Entre Rios.

Meanwhile, two girls were hospitalized at Santiago del Estero due to the impact caused by their sighting of "multicolored lights" which were also reported by rural residents of the province of Buenos Aires. However, Bernardo Cane, the director of the Agroalimentary Health and Quality Service (SENASA) attributed the discovery of mutilated cows, sheep, deer and horses to the actions of "rogue surgeons" and dismissed the possibility that extraterrestrials or paranormal phenomena could be involved.

The animal found dead at Coronel Pringles was a "new pregnant sheep with cuts in the jawbone and missing its tongue and an eye," according to veterinarian Alberto Sensi, who inspected it on the property of Juan Carlos Ibarguren, some 85 km from the provincial seat. There was no sign of rigor mortis. "We found no tracks or footprints and the rest of the herd was very far from the hill on which we found the dead animal."

In Darregueria, Guillermo Garcia, foreman of a pasture field in Susana Torres, Puan district, found the head of a calf protruding from its mother's abdomen. Both cow and calf had been mutilated and were missing tongues, eyes and ears: "It's as if she was giving birth and died in the effort," said a bewildered Garcia.

Raul, a rural laborer in a pasture field of Carmen de Patagones—owned by Miguel Angel Cordoba, where two mutilated animals were found—claimed having seen "a powerful violet light". Claudia Scheffer, another local, was inside her house when she witnessed "an intense light outside while the lights in my house dimmed. The dogs were barking and I went out. I saw a light in the sky, as did my family and other neighbors." Young Gabriela, 7, and Miriam del Valle Salto, 13, will remain under observation at the La Banda Children's Hospital after the curious sighting. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 25, 2002 - 15:52 hrs. — *Terra.com/Radio El Espectador*, Uruguay — ANOTHER DEAD BOVINE DISCOVERED — **Possibility of Health Problem Dismissed** — As occurred in Durazno and the Argentinean Pampa cases, another bovine has been found dead with perfect cauterized incisions on its head and hide. Its tongue and salivary glands had been removed along with its mammarys, rectum and part of its large intestine and genitalia. This time it occurred in Cardona, Department of Soriano, according to the Director of Livestock Health of the Ministry of Livestock,

Hipolito Tapie. The bureaucrat reported that specialists from the Secretary of State had already drawn samples from the two animals found dead in Uruguay. "Our own specialists went to extract samples in order to submit them to lab analysis in the hopes of diagnosing something," stated Tapie, admitting that the specialists do not have much else to do. "We haven't done much more because only a single animal was found in Durazno. The same is happening at Cardona. [We only have] a single animal." The Livestock official dismissed the possibility that a health problem could be the cause. The ministry has also manifested its astonishment. "It should be qualified as a curious situation, not a health one, since the extraction of organs is not caused by any disease." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 25, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Argentina — CATTLE MUTILATION CASES REACH 160 — These only include reported events. Veterinarians insist that due to different reasons, about 50% of the cases have been reported. In the meantime, reports of strange lights, colors and circles continue to appear. At General Campos, a grower claims having been able to film the phenomenon. Bernardo Cane, SENASA's director, claims that these cases are the work of "rogue surgeons" and dismissed the possibility that extraterrestrials could be at work here.

Far from decreasing, the number of cases recorded now extends over eight provinces of the country and even Uruguay. In the region close to Bahia Blanca, the events recorded up to yesterday afternoon totaled 160, with 13 cases highlighted in the Pampan locality of La Adela and Coronel Pringles.

The incisions performed on bovines are characterized by their meticulousness and precision. (Agencia Carhue). The provinces involved are: Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Cordoba, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, Santiago del Estero, Rio Negro and Chubut.

To the south of Puelches, 8 animals were found mutilated in lots 2 and 22 of the Department of Curaco. Two of the cases were recorded in a field of Augusto Bartolome and involved two cows missing their genitals, an ear, an eye and part of their jawbone. [...] As regards the strange sightings, police officers of the community of Lonquimay alerted their colleagues in [the town of] Miguel Riglos of a light moving through the skies in a southward direction, headed toward Macachin, Rolon and Alpachiri. Police sources, who withheld their identities, said that at least two objects were reported, and local residents agreed with this. "We saw a light similar to that of a headlight, crossing the skies from the vicinity of Rolon toward Alpachiri, where it became lost. Its position was at 20 degrees and it only took 3 seconds to cross the distance," said a witness. What is curious about this case is that the sighting was made by several police stations, who informed each other of the news over a radio receiver. These versions agree with the recording made by Nestor Pelayo on May 19th--at night-- at General Campos, also agreeing with statements made by local residents and hunters. There can be no doubt that these phenomena, together with the cattle mutilations, are whetting the interest and even fear of residents of the Pampas.

Another Dwarf Reported

While the strange lights continue appearing and crossing the airspace over Macachin, sightings of a "green dwarf" were made known in several locations of the south of the Pampan province. Police officials of this locality, based on the reports of a rural worker, found --on the edge of Provincial Rt. 1-- an individual lying on the southern access ramp to the route in question and who claimed to be "sunbathing", according to the response given by the man to the law enforcement agents. According to the police, the man is Jose Artigas, 59, a native of Buenos Aires with no fixed abode, who is touring the country after having lived in Brazil for 2 years. The physical characteristics of this person are the following: 1.5 meters tall, longish greying hair, pale complexion, dark eyes and dressed in black trousers and a green sport coat, aside from being barefoot.

Cane Speaks out Again

Bernardo Cane, SENASA's director, spoke out yet again against the theories circulating in regard to cattle mutilations as being something out of the ordinary, citing a book published in France dealing with the subject of "rogue surgeons." "There is a very important bibliographical work which reports that this type of 'rogue surgery' has been seen sporadically in the US and Europe. There is even a book entitled *The Rogue Surgeons*, written by a French author," he pointed out. [Translator's note: Cane refers to *Le Grand Carnage* by Michel Granger]. "The subject is neither new, nor Argentinean, nor a green dwarf, nor the 'petiso orejudo,' nor the phantom lights, nor the Goatsucker. It would be better to say that it's the Gin Sucker, if anything..." he joked. Cane's new theory is appended to the one he expressed last Friday, when he pointed out that cow deaths are normal this time of year and believed that the theft of their organs could be attributed to "isolated cases of esoteric activity." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 30, 2002 — *Vox Populi*, Misiones, Argentina — FIRST CASE INVOLVING A MUTILATED COW IN CORRIENTES — The cattle mutilations phenomenon has reached Corrientes. The town of Bella Vista was shaken by the news that a mutilated bovine had been found in a field, showing marks similar to those found on mutilated animals elsewhere in the country—in other words, the animal was missing "organs and muscular mass."

Lisandro Buzzo, owner of the "Los Azahares" ranch, located in the Juan Diaz section, made the corresponding report to the Sheriff's office on Thursday, prompting officials to visit the locations immediately, together with personnel from SENASA and the National Institute of Livestock Technology (INTA) to investigate the event.

According to the report issued by the Provincial Police Relations Office, the personnel reporting to the site attested to the absence of "both ocular spheres, an orifice in the part (sic) with total absence of the genital apparatus (vagina) and rectum, total absence of large and small intestine, absence of both kidneys, lack of muscular mass in the hindquarters up to the elevation of the tibia (without tearing the hide), and a rib cage orifice that does not quite reach the thoracic cavity." The official report adds that no traces of blood or any other signs that violence took place were found on the site.

The claimant and the researchers estimate that the event took place between Wednesday night and early morning Thursday. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

CORRECTION: The article, "Guanaco Found Mutilated; Cases Spread to Valdes Peninsula" [*El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina] in the August 2002 UFONS issue (#397), page 16, was erroneously dated as "July 21, 2002." The correct date is June 21, 2002. — L.F.



Time Travelin'

$$\bar{D}_{(3)} = \int_0^a dx' \left[(x - x')^2 + (y - a)^2 + z^2 \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -x + a + \left[(x - a)^2 + (y - a)^2 + z^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ -x + \left[x^2 + (y - a)^2 + z^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right\} \quad (22)$$

Will UConn physicist Ronald Mallett build the first time machine?

By Alistair Highet

Boyd Mallett, in the words of his son, "was the best." After a stint in the Army, Boyd became a television technician at a time when TV was the technology of the future.

He was "the repairman to the stars," his son Dr. Ronald Mallett laughs. Then he gets out of his broad desk chair to gather some photographs. One is of his handsome father in the Army, smiling under a helmet. Others are autographed photographs from movie and Broadway stars of the 1950s—including a young Walter Matthau with his hair slicked back—thanking their friend Boyd for coming to fix their TV at a moment's notice.

But Boyd Mallett lived and played hard. A heavy smoker, he died of a heart attack at the age of 33 when his son, now a distinguished professor of physics at the University of Connecticut, was only 10.

"I really loved my father, and he was *fun*," says Mallett. "That was a terrible period for me."

For solace, like a lot of smart kids, Ronald Mallett turned to books, particularly the H.G. Wells landmark 1895 novel *The Time Machine*, where a young scientist, overcome with grief at the death of his fiancé, builds a carriage out of brass and crystal that allows him to hurtle back and forth in time. Long before Albert Einstein worked out the math, Wells, in his novel, theorized that time was a fourth dimension that could be moved through.

"That became a kind of fascination for me," Mallett continues. "I had this idea that if I could go back in time and see my father, I could talk to him and help keep him alive."

Nearly 50 years later, Mallett may be on the verge of building the world's first operative "time machine," though it will bear little relation to that of Wells, or to the DeLorean sports car of the movie *Back to the Future*, or the Tardis of Dr. Who or any of the other hundreds of time traveling mechanisms that have been imagined since Wells first took a crack at it.

Mallett's machine, as laid out in his May 2000 paper in *Physics Letters* entitled "Weak gravitational field of the electromagnetic radiation in a ring laser," is based on Einstein's formulation that light and matter are both forms of energy.

We know that matter can bend space-time and according to Einstein's theory, matter and light are both forms of energy. So why can't light bend space-time?

This fall, with UConn colleague Dr. Chandra Raychoudri, Mallett will begin work on building a "ring laser"—basically, a device that will create a circulating light beam, perhaps within a photonic crystal that will bend the light's trajectory and slow it down.

Then, a neutron particle will be sent into the space in the center of the beam. In short, the beam—perhaps two beams in one model, with the light traveling in opposite directions—is expected to twist the space-time inside the circle into a loop.

Think of a spoon stirring thick gravy in a pot and creating a vortex, only the vortex in this case is the fabric of space-time twisting, with past, present and future, circling one another so that the future precedes the past.

Then—and while this might not seem very exciting—a neutron, a small particle of matter—will be sent into the center of the beam. If its spin is affected, then it is being affected by warped space-time.

In a further experiment that Mallett has considered, two identical samples of a radioactive substance could be put into the center of the ring, one going in the direction of the beam. The other in the opposite direction. Since radioactivity decays at a measurable rate, it would be possible to measure, in effect, the time that both particles had experienced within the beam. If the time proves to be different, then time will have been measurably altered.

Eventually, says Mallett, "what would be neat is if you saw another neutron in there that you hadn't introduced yet." In essence, the same neutron "visiting itself from the future."

So you've moved a neutron. So what?

What Mallett will have shown—if it works—is that the fabric of time itself can be altered by light, and a *thing* can be moved into the past. If it works for a neutron, in theory, it would work for you and me.

Imagine then—and put aside the engineering problems for a moment—a machine big enough to walk into. As you would walk forward within the confines of the light beam,

Ronald Mallett with a toy model of a time machine. Mallett's interest in time travel began when he was a boy, after he read H.G. Wells novel *The Time Machine*.

(see diagram on following page) you'd have the impression of moving forward, but because of the space-time vortex, you'd actually be moving backward. You could walk back through time—maybe even passing yourself as you entered the ring.

Mallett's proposition has generated considerable popularity; *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Village Voice* and *Boston Globe* have all taken note. There are also a lot of skeptics. Mallett invites them. This is academia after all, and in serious science, you want to have your ideas doubted and tested.

"My problem with Ron Mallett's ideas is that I don't know how it is going to be possible to warp the space-time with his laser," says Robert Ehrlich, author of *Nine Crazy Ideas in Science* and a professor at George Mason University.

It is true that space time is not empty, but is a kind of fabric, and that "matter tells space how to curve, and the curved space tells light how to move," says Ehrlich, citing a popular short explanation of how the universe works, but he adds: "I don't know that light can distort gravity in this way. I would be very skeptical about his plan."

Allegheny College physicist Shafiqur Rahman is also skeptical. He says that what is missing at this point is a "quantum theory" for how gravity works. In other words, we don't have a sufficient grasp of the specific relation between mass and the experience of gravity to predict how light would affect time. But he adds, "But we could have an experiment that shows it, that's true. We could have an experiment that shows travel into the past without a theory."

What is not really controversial in the world of contemporary physics is that time travel is theoretically possible. Indeed, travel into the future has already been proven. The respectability of such theorizing is relatively new.

In fact, Mallett kept his private fascination with time travel "a secret," through most of his career, he confides. "I wanted to be taken seriously as a physicist, and not a crackpot."

Mallett is a big, open kind of man. His home office—in a tasteful Victorian not far from the

university—with its comfortable padded chair parked before an impressive computer, is the perfect meditative chamber for a man concerned with the nature of time. It has a remarkable stillness to it, with books, software and busts of classical composers on the bookshelves. Mallett plays the piano.

There is also a small photograph of Marilyn Monroe on the wall. Einstein, once asked to explain relativity, said: "When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, it seems like two minutes; when you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it seems like two hours—that's relativity."

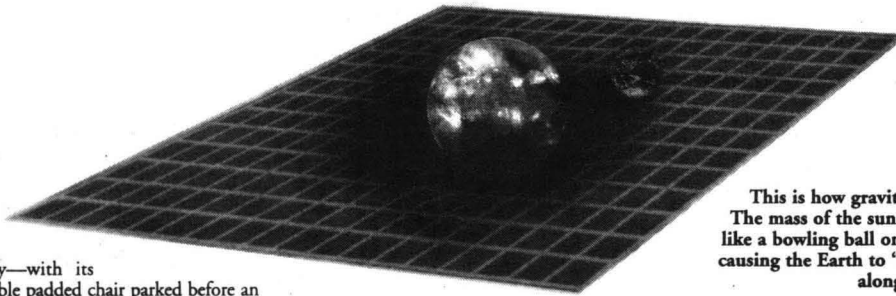
After his Ph.D. in physics from Penn State in 1973, Mallett then spent a few years making lasers for United Technologies before joining the UConn faculty. It wasn't until 1998 that he thought about writing a popular book about time travel, and discovered that "there was a ton of serious work being done on this stuff."

All of that serious work is based on the work of Einstein, and to understand it—if you don't grasp the math (and few of us do)—means throwing out most of the operating assumptions that we have about how the universe we move around in really works.

Travel to the Future Already Possible

Most of us live comfortably in the world of Isaac Newton. Apples falls from trees because they are attracted by "gravity," the pull of the Earth on things. This works pretty well for most of what we do.

So, too, do we believe that time is a kind of constant. It moves at the same rate for all things at the same time, or in Newton's words, time is "flowing equally without relation to anything external."



This is how gravity really works. The mass of the sun distorts space, like a bowling ball on a trampoline, causing the Earth to "roll" toward it along curved space.

But all of this was problematized at the turn of the 19th century by the discovery that the speed of light was a constant, 186,000 miles per second.

Since light speed is a constant, time and distance become suddenly things that stretch and contract in relation to light and motion.

Think of it this way. Say there are two cars on a highway with floodlights on the roof. One car is stationary, and the other is moving toward you at 100 miles an hour.

If the distance and the time are constants without relation to anything external then the light on the moving car should reach you at 186,000 miles per second, plus 100 miles an hour. It should reach you before the light from the stationary car. But it doesn't.

What that means is that the time and the space between you and the cars contract based on the speed of the car. In fact, mass, velocity and time are all relative to the speed of light, and they all change depending on the speed that an object is traveling. That's the essence of the theory of special relativity.

Not that this has much effect on us at the speeds we are dealing with in our daily life. Still, travel into the future has already been proven. In 1975, Professor Carrol Alley tested Einstein's theory by using two synchronized atomic clocks—one on an airplane and the other on the ground. At the end of the flight, the one on the plane was behind the one on the ground. Time had slowed for the clock on the plane—it had traveled forward in time.

Princeton professor J. Richard Gott notes in his book *Time Travel in Einstein's Universe* that the world's most accomplished time traveler is the cosmonaut Sergie Avdeyev, who was on board the MIR space station for 748 days. Gott calculated that Avdeyev, traveling

at 17,000 miles per hour for more than two years, traveled into the future by about 1/50th of a second.

Big deal. True, a minuscule amount of time. But what if it were possible to travel at light speed—put aside the technical problems, the massive amounts of energy required, and the tremendous friction that such a vessel would encounter as the universe around it got increasingly flat and heavy.

British physicist Steven Preston notes on his website that in a Newtonian Universe—where time flows equally with regard to everything—a trip to Andromeda, some 2.2 million light years away, would take about 2,065 years.

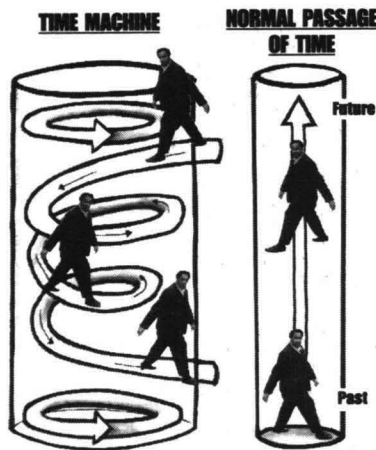
But because of special relativity, it might take a spaceship an entire year to accelerate to the speed of light, so 365 days. But after that period, it would take no time at all to reach Andromeda. The distance would have shrunk to zero.

So it would take a year for an astronaut to reach Andromeda and a year to get back. Two years.

But his twin brother on the ground would have been dead for just under 2.2 million years. That's travel into the future and it is consistent with the laws of nature.

The Grandfather Paradox

Travel into the past presents a host of other problems. A man decides that he wishes he had never been born. In fact, he wishes that his parents had never been born. He goes into a time machine and travels back to a time before his grandfather got married. He walks up to his grandfather on the street and shoots him dead.



How it works: A time traveler walks into the chamber in the same direction as the loop of light. Time is warped into a loop. So while it feels just like walking forward in time into the future (right diagram), the time traveler would step out of the chamber and find himself in the past.

Does he then pop out of existence himself? How could he have gone back to kill his grandfather in the past, if in effect, having killed his grandfather, he never existed?

This is the grandfather paradox and it is one of the philosophical sticking points when thinking about travel into the past. It's a paradox that has bedeviled all science fiction explorations of the issue, like in the film *Back to the Future* where the main character finds himself disappearing when his mother—just a high school student—starts to take a romantic interest in him instead of the boy that would turn out to be his father.

But theoretically, the idea that travel into the past is possible has been embraced by many respectable physicists.

The science of this again originates with Einstein and the general theory of relativity. What we think of as gravity is really the effect of mass on space-time.

Think of a bowling ball on a trampoline, says Mallett (see diagram on previous page). Space has elasticity, like the surface of the trampoline. If you put a smaller ball on the trampoline, it will roll toward the bowling ball.

Time slows down the closer one is to a large mass. A clock on earth moves slower than a clock running on an empty spaceship, floating between galaxies. So theoretically, a very great mass—if it could be made to spin in the right direction—could make time go backwards.

So where do you get this enormous mass?

Black holes, or "wormholes" are the answer that most physicists talk about, in large part due to the late Carl Sagan, a Cornell astronomer and the author of the 1985 novel *Contact*. Sagan wanted his characters to travel from a point near the Earth to a point near the star Vega, and theorized that the travel would take place through a black hole—a swirling, gravitational vortex of infinite density in space that is created by a star falling in on itself. Not even light escapes, and a black hole would certainly suck you in very, very fast.

Sagan wasn't sure about the science so he contacted CalTech physicist Kip Thorne to ask him how it might work. Thorne sat down to prove that it was nonsense, but was forced to concede that theoretically, it could happen—and that traveling through space this way could also mean traveling through time, particularly if you could go through a "wormhole," a sort of tube through space and time with black holes at either end.

Engineering such a thing is problematic to say the least, and the simple beauty of Mallett's idea is that since light and matter are both forms of energy, he can create a small vortex with light, without having to deal with enormous mass.

But if there is time travel, why aren't we inundated with visitors from the future? And how do we solve the grandfather paradox? If Mallett could go back

and save his father, he wouldn't become a physicist, and so wouldn't build a time machine, and wouldn't go back to save his father?

Allegheny College physicist Rahman says there are several ideas that physicists kick around to deal with these paradoxes.

First, we may be inundated with time travelers and not be aware of it. Maybe that's what UFOs are.

Another is one proposed by Cambridge's Stephen Hawking who has proposed a "chronology protection conjecture." In essence, that there is a law of nature that simply prevents people from tinkering with the past. You go back to shoot your grandfather and the gun jams, then you miss, then he gets on a bus ... and so on.

Another idea—one favored by Mallett among others, and based on quantum physics—is that there are limitless universes, where all probabilities are actualized. In other words, in one universe you go back in time and kill your grandfather, and in another you don't. In one Universe Hitler decided not to invade Russia in 1941, and so he won the war. And in another universe, Lee Harvey Oswald really did shoot Kennedy, and so on.

While this is a favored view, it is hard to accept on the

basis of common sense. Says Rahman: "That means that every second there has to be an infinite number of splits, you are talking about more universes than particles in the universe. More matter has to be created all the time. It sounds difficult."

Then there is another possibility, one that is more chilling perhaps, and more likely, and one attributed to Italian physicist Enrico Fermi.

"It may be that technological civilizations don't have the life span that they can develop time travel," Rahman says. "Civilizations burn fossil fuels, which leads to a greenhouse problem, and the end of the civilization for instance. There are mechanisms in place that mean civilizations don't last long enough."

So a society is on the verge of time travel when pollution destroys it. A new civilization scratches its way out of the rubble, and reaches a point where it is on the verge of time travel, when it collapses, and so on.

None of these paradoxes worry Mallett very much. He thinks the "many worlds theory" of splits in the universe is consistent with physics, and that just because we don't understand how the universe works, doesn't mean that time travel is out of the question.

In fact, Mallett is optimistic that a real time machine that could transport a person will one day be built.

"It would just be a problem of engineering," he says. "When the Wright brothers invented the airplane it only flew a few yards at first, and now look," says Mallett. "We make the effort to overcome the engineering obstacles."

So could Mallett possibly go back and see his father again? No, he says, it isn't possible. You couldn't go back in time to a time before a time machine was built. "So I don't think we can go back any further than when we have a time machine that works."

But if Mallett's design is successful, it will be a major scientific advance, always associated with the story of *Boyd Mallett*. In a sense, the hard-living and fun-loving Boyd Mallett will live forever in the story of the beginning of time travel, and his son will have saved the memory of his father from time's ravages.

"It comes full circle," Mallett nods and smiles as he reflects on the ironies. "It's quite a story."

Bigfoot backers treated much like flying saucer believers at Hillsboro event



Steve Fox/News-Register

The International Bigfoot Society's annual conference drew several hundred people and featured several attractions, including footprint castings. These casts were by far the largest at the conference held on the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro.

Hundreds attend confrence in Hillsboro, describing sightings and sharing artifacts

By **STEVE FOX**
Of the News-Register

HILLSBORO — Ray Crowe is still waiting for his big moment.

The Hillsboro resident, director of the International Bigfoot Society, attracted a few hundred fellow bigfoot believers to the Washington County Fairgrounds in early May.

The 10th annual conference, including speakers, films, artifacts and memorabilia, was tucked away in a small, dark building in the middle of the grounds. A dog show drew bigger crowds and the gem sale had top billing on the street signs.

But that didn't deter bigfoot enthusiasts — witnesses and wannabe witnesses alike.

Crowe is leader of the pack and an admitted wanna-be.

WHERE TO GO TO FIND BIGFOOT

Clackamas River

Drainage: Remote areas between Estacada and Molalla.

Coast Range: Especially the area around Alsea.

Rainier-St. Helens-

Adams: The triangle area between the three Washington peaks.

He was a self-described naturalist when he was invited on a bigfoot seeking adventure in 1991. He saw tracks and collected 8 1/2-inch red hairs — a major coup for his first time out.

But he wasn't sold on bigfoot from the start. He said it often takes people a while to overcome the grocery store tabloids that make bigfoot out to be a farce.

"It gives the ordinary person the impression we're all nuts," Crowe said. "There's nothing we can do. The only thing we could do is come up with a body."

That isn't so easy.

Finding a body or capturing a bigfoot has proved difficult. Some at the conference were even so bold to say the government doesn't want to see it happen.

Why would the government care? "It would put the spotted owl issue to shame," Crowe said.

Displays during the two-day conference described bigfoot as a creature up to 8 feet in height and 400 pounds in weight.

Yet, he's elusive. That's why the International Bigfoot Society has field researchers.

Roland A. Wolfe of Idaho, who wears an official field researcher badge from the Bigfoot Research Organization, said he concentrates his searches in Idaho, Eastern Washington and Eastern Oregon. He said the

WHERE TO GO TO FIND BIGFOOT

On the web: internationalbigfootsociety.com or bigfootinfo.org.

Books: North American's Great Ape: The Sasquatch" by John A. Bindernagel or "Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide" by Robert Michael Pyle.

Blue Mountains are a hot area

Looking at stacks of books lined up on a table during the conference, he recommended one: "North America's Great Ape: The Sasquatch," by John A. Bindernagel. Wolfe called it the bible of bigfoot books.

As North Bend's Gordon Strassenburgh drew the attention of about 150 to the famed Pat-

terson/Grimlin film from 1967, a few stragglers examined castings and other displays. The most definitive film known shows a hair-covered beast ambling across a dry, rocky river bed near Bluff Creek, Calif.

While it hasn't been officially disproved, most are still skeptical.

It's similar to the 1950 flying saucer photos in Yamhill County. They draw some serious backers, but most brush it off.

Several conference attendees used the opportunity to share stories of sightings. Others sought those lucky enough to have had sightings.

Crowe has not had a sighting. He's investigated several, however.

He remembered one in the early 1990s, soon after starting the International Bigfoot Society, from south of Forest Grove.

"Almost anywhere you go you'll find reports," Crowe said. "Anywhere you don't find reports, it's because there's no one there to report them."

The bonus, according to Crowe, is that bigfoot research is done outdoors. And, not just outdoors, but mostly in remote Northwest woodlands.

Even if he doesn't spot bigfoot, find tracks or discover long red hair samples, he can live by the common theme of all who seek the mysterious beast: Any day searching for bigfoot is better than a day at work.

The News-Register of Jan. 18, 1978, included a brief story on a reported bigfoot sighting near Newberg. Crowe said he doesn't know of any official bigfoot field researcher in Yamhill County, though.

The Molalla River area has been a recent hotbed for sightings in Oregon, along with sections of the Columbia River Gorge in Multnomah County and less-populated parts of Clackamas County.

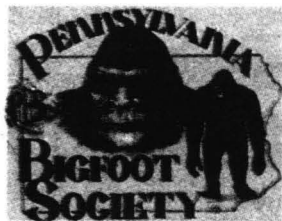
Middle school science teacher Thom Powell of Portland took his turn at the podium during the international conference. He lightened the mood, but got his point across: He's a believer.

He also wants some changes to the bigfoot culture, including no longer capitalizing the word. He said that's like capitalizing the word deer.

Even better, according to Powell, would be using the terms sasquatch or wildmen.

While the conference attracted its share of oddballs, there was a serious tone to many, even if Harry and the Hendersons posters were included in the displays.

Bigfoot enthusiasts to make tracks to Jeannette



By Craig Smith
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Eric Altman dreams of coming face to face with a hairy creature that can stand more than 8 feet tall, weigh nearly a ton and smell like rancid meat.

He came close, he thinks, about two years ago. That's why he's 98

percent sure the creature that's come to be known as Bigfoot is out there.

"I want to see one of these creatures up close," he said. "There's obviously something out there. We have a mystery to solve."

Altman will be among the speakers when the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society holds its fourth annual East Coast Bigfoot Conference and Expo

from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21 at Pitzer's Townhouse Restaurant in Jeannette.

He's hoping the public will attend the conference to share stories of Bigfoot sightings and to learn more about the creature.

Altman's own close encounter occurred in August 2000 in the woods of Bradford County. During a preliminary investigation into a

Bigfoot sighting, Altman and others heard something circling them. At first, they thought it was a bear.

"When we moved, it moved," he said. "That's not typical of a bear."

Then there was the mumbling. Altman said it sounded as if the creature was trying to talk. "We had goosebumps. Our hearts were

Hunt is on

Additional information is available from the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society at 724-374-5555. The group's Web site is:
www.pabigfootsociety.com

woman driving on Route 30 near Delallo's Italian Marketplace reported seeing a creature more than 7 feet tall, weighing about 400 to 500 pounds, cross a side road in three steps. Altman and other investigators scoured the area but found no hard evidence of Bigfoot.

By day, Eric Altman works full

time for a communications company; his wife, Kathy, works for a local retailer.

They spend the hours away from their jobs chasing Bigfoot and running the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, an organization formed in 1999 by Eric Altman, Steve Anderson and Henry Benson to receive and investigate Bigfoot sightings.

"We get sighting reports from all across the state," Kathy Altman said.

So far, the research has been hampered by circumstantial evidence. "Until someone is lucky enough to get actual photographic footage," she said.

Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin apparently did just that on Oct. 20, 1967. The 953 frames of 16 mm footage they filmed at Bluff Creek, Calif., is cited as the best evidence of Bigfoot to date.

But Eric Altman believes this will be the era that will prove — or disprove — the creature's existence.

"Twenty years ago we carried a camera and a pocket tape recorder," he said. "Now, we have infrared cameras, night scopes and thermal imaging."

One independent investigator, William Dranginis, of Virginia, travels the country in his high-tech Bigfoot Primate Research Lab, a

motor home that once served as a mobile veterinary clinic. Packed with all the latest in surveillance gear, from a 360-degree-perimeter night-vision camera to a thermal-imaging system, it's billed as one of the highlights of the Bigfoot Conference and Expo in Jeannette.

In addition to Eric Altman, the speaker's list includes UFO and Bigfoot researcher Stan Gordon, of Greensburg; Bigfoot researcher Ron Schaffner of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Rick Fisher, director of the Ghost Hunters Society.

Craig Smith can be reached at csmith@tribweb.com or 724-850-1217.

TRI-CITY HERALD, Kennewick, WA - June 17, 2002

Man reports Bigfoot sighting near Forks

■ Followup provides no answers

By The Associated Press

SAPPHO — Police followed up on a reported sighting of the legendary and elusive Sasquatch, also called Bigfoot, but came up empty-handed.

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

The report came from a man living on Burnt Mountain Road in Sappho, about 30 miles northeast of Forks. The man, whose name was not released, said he spotted the hairy, human-like creature near his house June 10.

An animal control officer checked the area but found no signs of the creature. That took the burden of figuring out how to deal with

such a discovery off local law enforcement officers, Powell said Friday.

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

Sightings of the creature, reputed to lurk in the shadowy Pacific Northwest forest, are rare, but last week's wasn't the first in this neck of the woods.

In June 2000 Gene Sampson found two sets of large footprints in the woods behind his home and that of a neighbor on the Hoh Indian reservation. Sampson also reported finding trampled trails in a densely forested area, with branches and bark broken off trees about 20 feet up. And he heard the sounds of the alleged creature above the wind, he told the Peninsula Daily News.

Sampson's report drew the attention of a Sasquatch advocate and expert Grover Krantz

of Port Angeles, who died Feb. 14. The retired Washington State University anthropology professor was an expert in cryptozoology, the study of secret animals.

Krantz, author of *Big Footprints*, thought the prints at the Hoh reservation could have been from an adult male and an adult female. He believed there could be as many as 2,000 Sasquatch roaming the western woods from California to British Columbia.

"Some people seem to think they're out here," said Powell, who added that he couldn't remember another sighting in the Forks area.

Clallam County Undersheriff Joe Martin said he hears reports of Sasquatch sightings 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."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - Aug. 13, 2002

Other days

100 years ago
Aug. 13, 1902

HEBER SPRINGS — Rumor has it that there is a wild man out on the road near Jim Allen's place. Several parties have seen him. Every time anyone sees him he is running through the woods.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - March 28, 2002 CR: D. Smith

BOB WELCH

Tall, tall tales equal Bigfoot

ONE OF THE more fascinating parts of being a journalist is finding yourself listening to a man tell you how he was parked with his fiancée on a suburban street late one night when a large, furry creature suddenly bounded from curb to curb in five steps.

"We both knew what we'd seen," the 20-year-old Kirkland, Wash., resident said in 1988. "A Sasquatch."

I thought of that incident recently after seeing the March/April issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer* — the cover story is on "Bigfoot at 50: Evaluating a Half-Century of Bigfoot Evidence."

Ever since writing a magazine article on Bigfoot back in the late '80s, I've had a certain fascination with the idea of its existence. To talk to people, face to face, who claim they've seen one ... to interview the so-called experts ... to read of the sightings — it begs you to believe.

Because so many of the hundreds of sightings have come in the Northwest, there's this touch of regional provincialism that suggests you should believe. And you're enough of a dreamer that you actually want to believe.

But you can't. Why not? Because the idea is so bizarre?

Nope. Bizarreness shouldn't preclude belief in something. People believe in all sorts of bizarre concepts, from God to gravity to Oregon's home football uniforms.

No, the real reason you can't believe is because most of the "water-tight" evidence leaks like your 25-year-old gutters. To wit:

• **Eyewitness accounts.** I've talked to a handful of people who say they've seen a Sasquatch, among them a woman who swore she saw one late at night in a Sears parking lot.

More Sasquatches have been sighted than "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books have been published. But as Benjamin Radford writes in *Skeptical Inquirer*, "the important criterion ... is not the quantity of the evidence but the quality of it. Lots of poor quality evidence does not add up to strong evidence, just as many cups of weak coffee cannot be combined into a strong cup of coffee."

I wonder why you never get reports of the same sighting from two individuals who don't know each other. And why, when you study the evidence, so many of the sightings are made by Bigfoot buffs who have a particular interest in seeing one. (Example: The famous 1967 "Patterson" film of an alleged Bigfoot in Northern California was taken by a guy who told people beforehand he was heading out to capture a Bigfoot on film. *Wow, what are the chances!?*)

Finally, given that Sasquatches have been sighted since at least 1830, isn't it a tad odd that not a single body has been found?

• **Footprints.** The main problem here is the inconsistency; such prints indicate everything from two toes to six. Some show toes that are aligned, others spread like a wide-open hand. Those who attempt these hoaxes — and dozens have admitted to such — should regulate their plaster casts, which, by the way, are now available on the Web.

• **Recordings.** When your marquee film, the Patterson footage, can't pass muster you're in trouble. John Napier, in his book "Bigfoot," says "there's little doubt that the scientific

evidence taken collectively points to a hoax of some kind" — this from an anatomist and anthropologist who served as the Smithsonian Institution's director of primate biology. In other words, a guy who can spot a guy in an ape suit.

And as for the CD called "The Bigfoot Recordings: The Edge of Discovery," which purports to be vocalizations among a Bigfoot family? The *Skeptical Inquirer* points out that the self-described credentials of the so-called "expert" who defends the CD's grunts, growls and howls as Sasquatchian "include playing the flute, speaking several languages and having a 'Russian friend who thinks I'm Russian.'"

Not surprising, then, that she also surmises that agitated grunts from the supposed creatures when a plane flies overhead are, most likely, "Sasquatch swear words." (The jaded assumption, of course, being that Bigfoot is a potty mouth!)

• **Hair and blood samples.** Unless Bigfoot has synthetic hair and bleeds transmission fluid, this evidence isn't doing much to help the pro-Bigfoot cause.

Bottom line. I believe there are honest, well-intentioned people who believe they've seen something they haven't. (Example: The Himalayan hiker who was convinced he'd seen a Yeti — Himalayan Bigfoot — until researchers proved he'd seen a rock.)

I believe there are Bigfoot enthusiasts who are so eager to believe in the creature that, in Shakespearean terms, "thinking makes it so."

Finally, I believe in Bigfoot — but do so in the spirit of Santa, the Tooth Fairy and no-wait trips to the men's bathroom at Mac Court: Because wishing's half the fun.

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