

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

February 2003  
Number 403

NORTH SLOPE ARCTIC SOUNDER, Kotzebue/Barrow, AK - Jan. 9, 2003

## Noorvik sees strange lights

By James Mason  
Arctic Sounder

KOTZEBUE - Unidentified lights have visited the village of Noorvik for the past few weeks. The source of those lights is still a mystery.

"Everybody in town saw them," said Theresa Pungalik, a city bookkeeper and search and rescue coordinator.

"It would always be different, everytime," Pungalik said.

"The one time when I saw them really bright it was like a tower, like a pole, with three lights on top of each other in a straight row, and then there was another light strobing, going from place to place around the pole of three. There was another light on the left side of

it like a glow, like a fire or sparks or something."

"Every night it would different," she said. "We've seen them maybe every night since it first started on December 23. I remember it because somebody had a baby on that day. But when we first noticed them some people said they were on for a week before that. People finally noticed. They said 'oh yeah, they've been on for a while.'"

"The first call was like at two o'clock, somebody went riding up to the gravel pit, and they called me from up there. They said there was a strobe light down there. That's when I first found out," she said. A flashing strobe light can be a distress signal from a downed plane.

"I contacted the FAA and they didn't have anything on that area, which is right across from Noorvik. But he did tell me to send out searchers anyway, to go check it out, because he was getting numerous calls on those lights," Pungalik said.

"Trooper Leath in Kotzebue called me at four o'clock in the morning so we sent four snow machines out to go check on it. They went to Sivu and they said 'We're right above Sivu, on top of the hills. We can see the light, it's down that way.' They said they were going to go farther down, because they thought it was behind Sivu. We had contact with VHF. They went further down. They soon reported

that the lights had moved on ahead of them," Pungalik said. Sivu is about 20 miles from Noorvik by snow machine. "They looked like they were in Wolf Creek maybe. They finally told us 'the lights are moving, they're not staying in one spot.' So I said 'that doesn't sound good guys, just come back.'"

When the search and rescue men returned to Noorvik a chilling thing happened.

"A lot of people were up that night, watching the lights," Pungalik said. "They saw the first snow machine coming back to town, toward them, when all of a sudden there were more than four coming. The four guys on the snow machines said that the lights were following them back to town."

Two years ago a meteor fell between Kotzebue and Noorvik, launching a similar search for a distressed aircraft.

"The search and rescue looked for this where it dropped," said Elmer Armstrong of Kotzebue. Armstrong is active in local and borough search and rescue organizations.

"We thought it was a downed airplane, an airplane that exploded. We activated Noorvik. We told them to go in different directions, go find that thing, where it landed. It was a meteor, two years ago. We learned later that when it gets to real cold temperatures it explodes before it hits the ground. So it blew up to pieces and we couldn't find any trace of it."

The recent lights the people of Noorvik have seen were not from a meteor.

"We're sort of getting used to it so we didn't even check if they're there still, but I think they haven't seen them for the past couple of days, maybe," Pungalik said on Sunday.

Snow machines traveling from Kotzebue to Noorvik have seen the lights, as have those traveling to Noorvik from Selawik, according to Pungalik.

"I understand that somebody has a video tape of it, too," she said. The local people are calling it a UFO.

"We don't know what else to call it."

## UFO believers: The truth is out there

### Wood Co. has most sightings in Wisconsin

By AMY E. BOWEN  
Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers

Wisconsin isn't New Mexico, but it's close.

Wisconsin has the nation's second-highest number of Unidentified Flying Object sightings — second only to New Mexico.

That fact sparked the interest of a Sheboygan man.

On a clear, starry night some years ago, John Hoppe saw what he thinks was a UFO. The 33-year-old man noticed a light in Lake Michigan. He first thought it was a flashlight beam in the water, but the object — which

### If you go

- What: The 14th annual UFO Daze
- When: Noon July 20
- Where: Dundee
- For more information: Check out [www.ufowisconsin.com](http://www.ufowisconsin.com)

was the size of a basketball — kept moving. He can't explain it.

"They're here," Hoppe said.

"We live on our little planet here, and if UFOs exist, we'll know that life does exist outside of Earth. It's been an age-old question, 'Are we the only ones in the universe?'"

Hoppe is the director of UFOWisconsin.com, a Web site dedicated to the paranor-

mal in Wisconsin. And the truth might be closer than you think.

Wood and Dane counties lead the state in reported sightings.

There was an anonymous report of many small lights — red, yellow and green — in the sky between Marshfield and Pittsville on Jan. 9. A Brian O. said he saw a V-shaped, almost transparent craft over his Wisconsin Rapids home — "it was moving way too fast to be a flock of geese" — on May 3.

Then on July 4, someone known only as Brad said a 20-foot diameter craft with gold flashing lights all around came slowly up his driveway before disappearing. "It did not fly away," he

wrote. "It just disappeared! Amazing!"

"There are people out there who have some interesting stories out there," Hoppe said. "But they don't want to come forward because they don't want their lives destroyed and be called liars — and that's a shame."

One man claims to be an alien hybrid — half human, half alien. Hoppe is keeping an open mind. After all, he said, there's no way to know. No one has seen a hybrid, and even if he's an alien only in his own imagination, the man is content and not hurting any one, Hoppe said.

The Web site was launched last September, and so far it has received

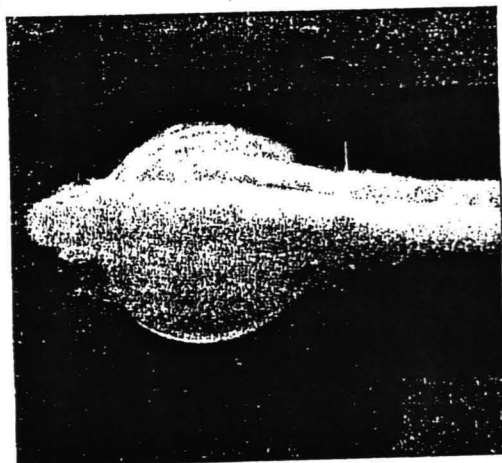


Photo illustration by Dan Young/Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers  
This image simulates a UFO rocketing through the night sky.

GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - Dec. 16, 2002

### Higher logic likely behind actions by visiting aliens

In defense of the position that UFOs must not exist, P.M. deLaubenfels (Letters, Dec. 9) continues to miss the point. The (genuine) UFO observations of the past 55 years have repeatedly shown that these craft do maneuver and function in ways that defy our present understanding of physics.

This does not mean they defy the complete laws of physics, only that beings who are thousands, or millions of years in advance of us in their evolution and technology, understand physics better than we do. In some cases, UFOs have been observed visually but not on radar, vice versa in others, and both visually and on radar in still others.

His main point, well summarized by "if UFOs were real, more people would see them," involves a big assumption. He expects that UFOs would behave like randomly appearing objects we are familiar with.

However, what if the aliens involved are smarter and more experienced than we are? What if they have a strategy of dealing with us that includes treating a young, adolescent society (Earth) delicately, as Carl Sagan once postulated in Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society 24, p.120 (1983), perhaps abiding by a Codex Galactica (Icarus 46, p.296 (1981)), which would be a generalization of Star Trek's "Prime Directive"?

In that case, which is quite plausible, they present themselves to whomever they wish whenever they wish, but in a covert manner such that the UFO cover-up does not come unraveled prematurely. Thus, they haven't hovered around very long in any one place within the developed nations.

Jim Deardorff  
Corvallis.

more than 400 reports of UFOs or aliens. Incident can be confidentially reported, and a UFO investigator will look into the case.

In the past year, sightings have been reported in Auburndale, Marshfield, Pittsville, Stratford, Chili and Spencer. Other reports of shining objects in the sky come from Medford, and Loyal's Tribune Record Gleaner newspaper reported on April 14, 1976, that the "sheriff's department has received 'a few' calls from persons who reported seeing 'strange' objects in the sky, some of them have been quite low to the ground."

Aaron Weber, 31, Marshfield, has never seen a UFO, but he's a believer. "It's one of those things that until somebody proves it wrong, you have to keep an open mind to it," he said.

The state's love interest in the paranormal doesn't stop there.

The American UFO and Sci-Fi Museum in the Wisconsin Dells highlights other Wisconsin encoun-

ters and recreates Area 51's famous alien autopsy in New Mexico.

And UFO enthusiasts will celebrate aliens and maybe even see a saucer at the 14th annual UFO Daze on July 20 in Dundee. Last year, participants reported different sightings around the area, and this year they will continue to look for the little green men. UFO experts will also present their findings.

Hoppe admits that hoaxes are a problem when talking about the paranormal. He researches every report to the best of his ability, but said that there will always be some who exaggerate. Meteors, weather balloons and satellites have all been mistaken for space objects. According to UFO Wisconsin, 20 percent of UFO reports are valid.

"I have been reading UFO stories and doing research since I was a kid," Hoppe said. "There's more statistical information that proves it rather than disprove it."

Amy E. Bowen writes for the Marshfield News Herald.

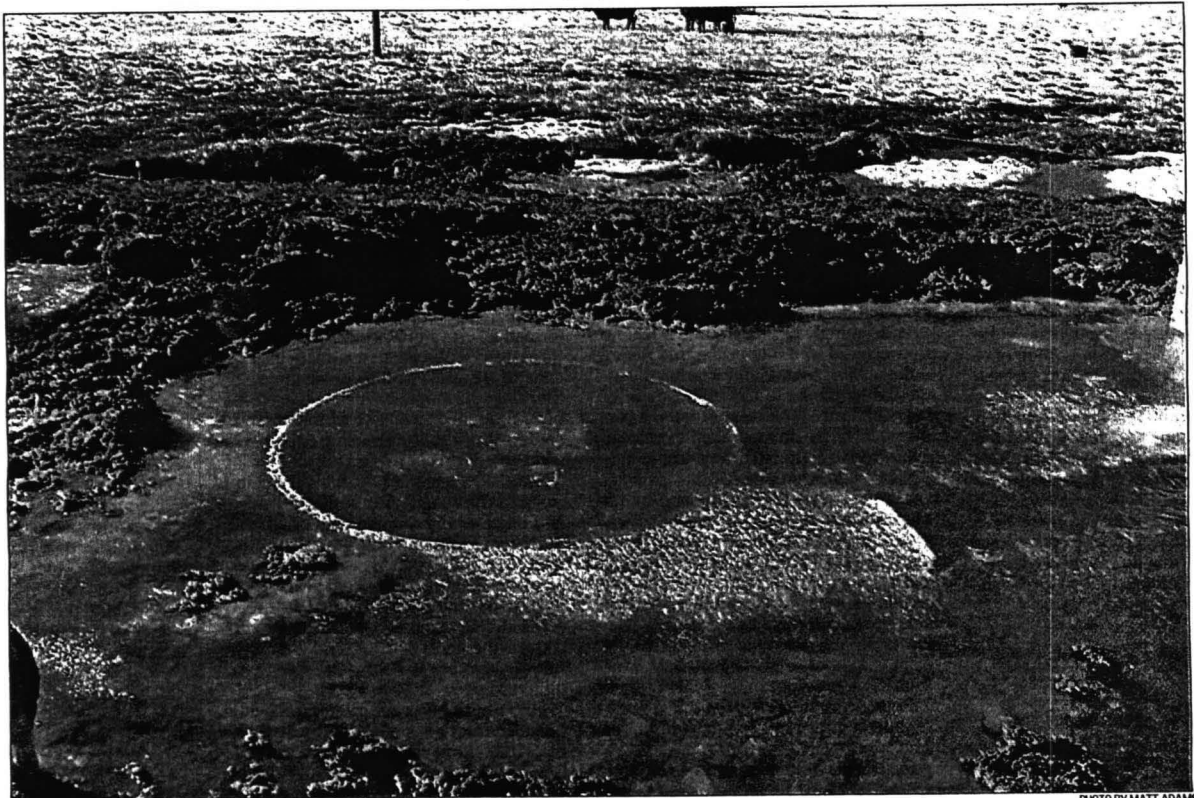


PHOTO BY MATT ADAMS

Something carved a perfect circle in the ice at the Gorman ranch. The circle was just under six feet in diameter and seemed oddly reminiscent of the crop formations seen in English wheat fields.

# Close encounters

## Las Vegas businessman sets up shop at Utah ranch to study paranormal activities

BY GEORGE KNAPP  
MERCURY

*This is the second of two reports about persistent stories of anomalous phenomena in a section of northeastern Utah. The activity, as reported by hundreds of witnesses over several decades, includes UFOs, unusual balls of light, animal mutilations and disappearances, poltergeist events, sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures and other unidentified animals, physical effects on plants, soil, animals and humans, and a vast array of other unexplained incidents.*

*The activities seem most concentrated on a 480-acre cattle ranch owned by the family of Tom Gorman. (Gorman isn't his real name.) In 1996, the ranch was purchased by Las Vegas businessman Robert Bigelow, who arranged for an intense, ongoing scientific study of events at the ranch. By agreement with Bigelow, and at the request of many of the witnesses, a few names have been changed or omitted to protect those who don't want to be hassled by media outlets or UFO enthusiasts.*

It began as a dull white light, appearing out of nowhere in the darkness of the middle homestead of the Gorman ranch. Tom Gorman saw it. So did a researcher named Chad Deetken. It was nearly 2 a.m. on Aug. 28, 1997. Gorman and Deetken were out in the pasture as part of an ongoing effort to document unusual activity on the property.

Both men watched intently as the light grew brighter. It was as if someone had opened a window or doorway. Gorman grabbed his night vision binoculars to get a better look but could hardly believe what he was seeing. The dull light began to resemble a bright portal, and at one end of the portal, a large, black humanoid figure seemed to be struggling to crawl through the tunnel of light.

After a few minutes, the humanoid figure wriggled out of the light and took off into the darkness. As it did, the window of

light snapped shut, as if someone had flicked the "off" switch. Deetken had the presence of mind to snap a few photos of the event, but would later learn that his film had recorded little of what the two men had witnessed.

Tom Gorman, his wife, two teenage kids and several extended family members had grown accustomed to weird things happening at the ranch. They had seen numerous UFO-type craft, as well as balls of light that seemed to be intelligently controlled. Their neighbors had seen them too. Residents of this basin have been reporting similar phenomena since the '50s. Native Americans say the sightings extend back even further. But aerial anomalies weren't the strangest occurrences on or near the ranch, not by a longshot.

In his two years on the property, Tom Gorman had lost 14 head of cattle from his hybrid herd. Some animals simply disappeared, as if plucked from the sky. Others

were carved up with surgical precision. Family members and neighbors had also seen Bigfoot-like creatures, oversized wolves, animals and birds that no one could identify. Their horses had been attacked, their dogs incinerated, their cats abducted.

The Gormans themselves were bedeviled, almost daily, by odd little household incidents that, separately, wouldn't amount to much, but when considered together, were hard to dismiss. Windows and doors in their home would rip open or slam shut, seemingly on their own. Frequently, when Mrs. Gorman would take a shower, she'd emerge from the tub to find that her towel and personal items had been removed from inside the locked bathroom. On one occasion, she returned from town with a large haul of groceries and other supplies. She carefully put the provisions away in various cabinets,

walked into another room for a few minutes, and returned to find all the supplies back out on the kitchen table.

Clothing, tools and appliances seemed to develop lives of their own. But this wasn't the equivalent of socks disappearing in the laundry. For example, Gorman's son worked up a considerable sweat to meticulously stack a one-ton pile of cord wood on the south side of a treeline in the middle homestead. He took a 30-minute water break and returned to find that the ton of wood had been moved 100 yards to the north side of the tree line. Tools often disappeared, then reappeared on the range. In one instance, a heavy post hole digger vanished. It was finally discovered, days later, high up in the branches of a cottonwood tree, as if placed there by a crane. The uneasy feeling grew among family members that they were constantly being watched, but they had no idea who, or what, was doing the watching.

### Enter Robert Bigelow and NIDS

Las Vegas businessman Robert Bigelow first heard about the Gorman ranch in the summer of 1996. A small newspaper article

about mysterious events at the property prompted Bigelow and his team to fly to Utah. Bigelow bought the ranch and convinced Tom Gorman to stay on as caretaker, against the wishes of his family.

Bigelow is the founder of NIDS, the National Institute for Discovery Science, a Las Vegas research organization dedicated to the study of unexplained phenomena. NIDS staff members include highly trained and educated scientists, engineers and former law enforcement personnel with solid credentials, degrees and experience. Although the organization investigates seemingly bizarre events, it has no preconceived ideas about the true nature of the subject matter and is primarily interested in getting to the truth, wherever that truth leads. (This observation is a personal one, based on more than six years of interaction with the NIDS organization.)

NIDS staffers emphasize that they are constantly drilled by Bigelow and by his Science Advisory Board to rigidly adhere to the scientific method. ("The Science Board really holds our feet to the fire," one staff member confides.) Because the subject matter itself is so controversial in science circles, NIDS realizes that any deviation from the scientific method would mean a loss of credibility. If they were deemed a crackpot organization, their findings, no matter how profound or well-documented, would be dismissed out of hand.

The Gorman ranch presented a unique

opportunity to study a rich tapestry of strange stuff. It was as if someone had ordered up the Weirdness Pizza With Everything on It. UFOs and Sasquatch, balls of light and cattle mutilations, poltergeists and crop circles, psychic manifestations and Native American legends—the ranch sounded like a unique place in all the world. NIDS staffers knew they had to be careful but also knew they couldn't merely dismiss the stories told by locals.

"We had no preconceived ideas about what was going on, but we decided to use an 'open-filter' approach to gathering information," says one senior NIDS staffer. "We had a lot of reservations about the legends of skinwalkers, Bigfoot sightings, all the things the family claimed to have seen, but we decided to collect all the data we could get, without dismissing it outright, and figured we could evaluate it all later."

The NIDS team set up shop. They installed a command post, positioned video and other monitoring equipment around the ranch, built new fencing around the perimeter of the property to better control access to the site, constructed observation posts in the pastures and staffed the property with trained observers. The effort constitutes the most intense and thorough surveillance of a UFO hot spot ever undertaken.

UFO researchers were incensed at being excluded from the study. They floated rumors that Bigelow was working for the CIA, that he and NIDS were already in

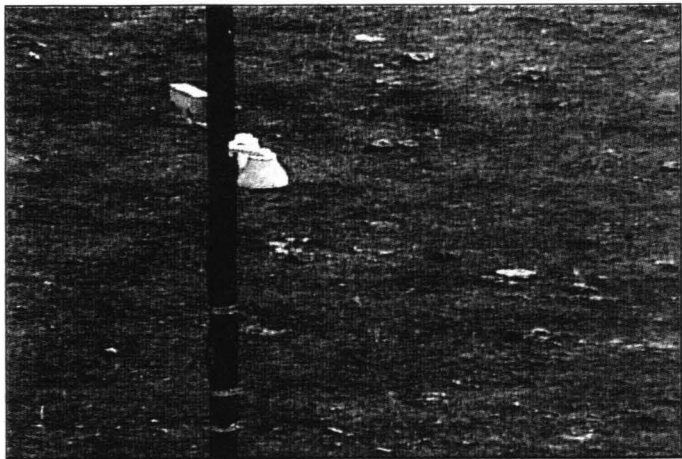
contact with E.T., and that whatever information was gleaned from the ranch probably would be locked away in dark vaults under the Pentagon. The constant criticism prompted the publicity-shy Bigelow to grant a rare interview. He told a Utah newspaper that NIDS was not communicating with either extraterrestrials or lizard people. He appealed, perhaps in vain, for a reasonable amount of time, free from outside interference, so a legitimate study might be undertaken.

"We know so little in terms of what the overall scope of the phenomena are that it's just embarrassing to try and make some conclusions at this point," Bigelow said. He admitted that the activity at the ranch seemed to be "selective in how it exposes itself and to whom," suggesting that a tailgate-party atmosphere where people sit around outside the ranch, barbecuing hot dogs while awaiting flying saucers, would not be conducive to a scientific study. Not surprisingly, this plea for sanity fell on deaf ears among the UFO faithful. They were so busy expressing their outrage over being barred from private property that they failed to grasp the major clue dropped by Bigelow during his interview.

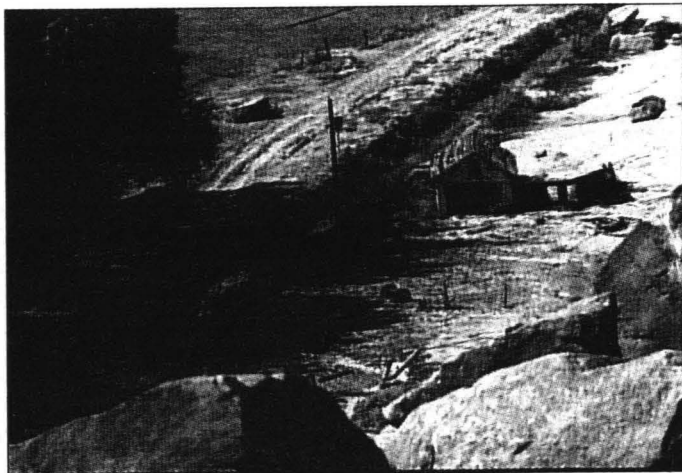
### A pre-cognitive intelligence

Contrary to some predictions, the odd  
(continued on page 3)





NIDS researchers have installed sophisticated monitoring equipment at the ranch in hopes of detecting paranormal activity.



This part of the ranch is where witnesses say some kind of portal opened up.

phenomena at the ranch didn't evaporate under the glare of scientific scrutiny. Activity continued, but grew even harder to comprehend. NIDS staffers saw the same balls of light, even UFO-type craft that the Gormans had seen. But their attempts to photograph or videotape the sightings were largely futile. Team members, accompanied by Gorman and former lawmen who were hired for the study, often saw anomalous aerial phenomena, with their eyes, their binoculars and with night vision equipment. With few exceptions, though, the images inexplicably could not be recorded on film or video.

A confidential report prepared for NIDS board members and obtained by this reporter documents dozens of encounters involving NIDS staffers, the Gormans and other witnesses. After several months of round-the-clock surveillance, a mind-boggling pattern began to emerge. The phenomena, whatever they represent, seemed capable of anticipating the moves of the scientists. If they placed extra cameras and personnel in the southern field, the activity would pop up in the northern pasture. If they concentrated their observations in the center homestead, the activity might move to the ridge overlooking the ranch.

Skeptics might suggest that such an explanation for a lack of photographic evidence sounds a little too convenient. But something happened on July 19, 1998, that sheds further light on the challenge faced by the research team. Soon after arriving at the ranch, NIDS had installed three telephone poles in one of the pastures. Atop each pole was a sophisticated package of sensing equipment, including multiple video cameras. The cameras had a full view of that section of the ranch and were connected to video recorders back in the command post. At exactly 8:30 p.m., the three cameras on the westernmost telephone pole were suddenly disabled. When NIDS staffers went to check out the problem, they saw that something had shredded their electronic equipment. Wires had been ripped out of the cameras with considerable force. Plastic brackets were snapped in two. Thick layers of duct tape that had been used to secure the equipment had been ripped away. A foot-long piece of TV cable was missing. Analysis of the remaining cable showed it had been slashed with a knife.

Team members excitedly returned to the command center, knowing that the telephone pole that had been assaulted was in full view of cameras positioned atop the second pole, located about 200 feet away. The assumption was that, whatever had ripped the guts out of the first camera would be clearly visible on video recorded by the second. But when they rolled the tape back, they saw nothing. At the exact moment the first camera package was being vandalized, nothing visible could be seen anywhere near the second telephone pole. This incident set a pattern for what was to follow.

"I came up with a term for it," says Col. John Alexander, a retired Army intelligence officer who still works on classified projects with Los Alamos National Laboratory and remains an adviser to NATO organizations. "I called it a pre-cognitive sentient intelligence. It certainly seemed to be intelligent, and it seemed to know what we were going to do even before we did it."

Alexander is a former adviser to NIDS who made the trip to the ranch to see what was going on. As a scientist and military insider, he is reluctant to jump to any conclusions about the nature of what has happened there. But he suspects, after exploring the property and reading the witness reports, that there is an intelligence behind the assorted phenomena and that it

almost seems to be playing a game with those who are trying to observe it.

Another NIDS staffer arrived at a similar conclusion. He has a doctorate in physics, a long list of peer-reviewed papers about cutting-edge scientific concepts, and a lengthy employment history with prominent think tanks and classified military programs. He asked that his name not be used in the belief that he would never again be hired for sensitive scientific work if his involvement with the ranch were made public.

"It's a very messy affair. Nothing is clear cut. It isn't as simple as saying that E.T.s or flying saucers are doing it," the scientist said. "It's some kind of consciousness, but it's always something new and different, something non-repeatable. It's reactive to people and equipment, and we set up the ranch to be a proving ground for the scientific method, but science doesn't seem amenable to the solution of these kinds of problems."

### Ice and dinosaurs

As if to punctuate the point, the phenomena at the ranch seemed to constantly evolve. One of the most recent incidents occurred on a cold morning in February. The caretaker for the property was patrolling the grounds early in the morning. As he walked past a watering hole, he noticed an odd circular impression in the thin ice that had formed overnight. Something had carved a perfect circle in the ice. The circle was just under six feet in diameter and seemed oddly reminiscent of the crop formations seen in English wheat fields.

The cuts extended only a quarter-inch into the ice and the ice itself was perhaps another quarter-inch thick. The question arises, how could this have been done? Someone standing on the muddy bank would have left footprints. The only prints were cattle tracks. The ice itself was so thin that it could support almost no weight and certainly would have cracked and broken if someone stood on it. Could someone have suspended themselves above the ice patch and then somehow carved a perfect circle? How, and more importantly, why? NIDS staffers, following the scientific method, collected and analyzed ice shavings from the spot, took readings for magnetic fields and EM radiation, checked for tracks throughout the area but found no clues. There is no natural explanation for such a subtle event, and it has never been reported again.

NIDS employees compiled a confidential report containing information about all the assorted incidents on the ranch. Reading this report will make the hair stand up on your neck. To date, the researchers have recorded seven distinct incidents involving magnetic abnormalities. Simply put, their compasses went nuts while out on the range. The needles of the compasses either spun out of control, or pointed straight down at the ground. No one has a reasonable explanation.

There were several instances involving some sort of invisible force moving through the ranch and through the animals. One witness reported a path of displaced water in the canal, as if a large unseen animal was briskly moving through the water. There were distinct splashing noises, and there was a foul pungent odor that filled the air but nothing could be seen. A neighboring rancher reported the same phenomena two months later. The Gormans say there were several instances where something invisible moved through their cattle, splitting the herd. Their neighbor reported the same thing.

Of all the strange incidents at the ranch, this one may take the prize. It occurred on the night of March 12, 1997. Barking dogs alerted the team to something lurking in a

tree near the ranch house. Tom Gorman grabbed a hunting rifle and took off in his truck toward the tree. Two NIDS staffers followed in another vehicle. Up in the tree branches, they could make out a huge set of yellowish, reptilian eyes. The head of this animal had to be three feet wide, they guessed. At the bottom of the tree was something else. Gorman described it as huge and hairy, with massively muscled front legs and a doglike head.

Gorman, who is a crack shot, fired at both figures from a distance of 40 yards. The creature on the ground seemed to vanish. The thing in the tree apparently fell to the ground because Gorman heard it as it landed heavily in the patches of snow below. All three men ran through the pasture and scrub brush, chasing what they thought was a wounded animal, but they never found the animal and saw no blood either. A professional tracker was brought in the next day to scour the area. Nothing.

But there was a physical clue left behind. At the bottom of the tree, they found and photographed a weird footprint, or rather, claw print. The print left in the snow was from something large. It had three digits with what they guessed were sharp claws on the end. Later analysis and comparison of the print led them to find a chilling similarity—the print from the ranch closely resembled that of a velociraptor, an extinct dinosaur made famous in the *Jurassic Park* films. (For the record, no one at NIDS is saying he shot a velociraptor. They don't know what it was.)

### More cattle deaths

Two days before the above incident, another animal was found mutilated on the ranch, and it is the only case from the ranch that NIDS has publicly confirmed before this article. Gorman and his wife spent a bright Sunday morning tagging the ears of newborn calves. They put a tag on the ear of a calf born near the ranch house, then wandered out into the pasture for a period of 45 minutes. In that interim period, with the Gormans only 200 yards away in the pasture, the calf was completely stripped of flesh. The Gormans were alerted by a wail from the mother of the calf. The calf's entrails had been placed, almost ritualistically, on the ground, but all of its flesh was simply gone, leaving only bone and hide behind. There was no blood on the ground or on the animal.

A NIDS team was at the ranch and quickly scoured the area for evidence. The remains were sent to two pathology labs. Both pathologists concluded the calf had been butchered by two distinct instruments, something like a heavy machete and something like sharp scissors. How this was done in broad daylight, in an open pasture and in clear sight of the ranchers remains a mystery. (A second calf disappeared that same morning after being tagged and was never found. In all, 12 cattle have met a similar end since NIDS has been on the ranch. A full report on the calf incident can be found on the NIDS website.)

### So, what's going on?

Capt. Keith Wolverton spent more than 20 years as an investigator with the Cascade County Sheriff's Department in Great Falls, Mont. In the mid-70s, that area experienced a similar wave of UFO sightings and cattle mutilations, as well as Bigfoot sightings, and Wolverton investigated them all.

"I asked my boss back then to give me six weeks to solve the mystery," Wolverton says. "It's 30 years later and I'm still left with a lot of questions but no answers."

Wolverton wrote a book about his Montana experiences. He came to the ranch to share his expertise with NIDS, and while there are similarities between the things that happened near Great Falls and at the Utah ranch, Wolverton says he's never heard of any place with such a concentration of weird activity as the Gorman ranch. Microbiologist Colm Kelleher has reached a similar conclusion.

"I thought that if we threw enough personnel and equipment at this one, pull out all the stops, adhere to the scientific method, that we would probably get answers," Kelleher says. "We have all of these strange cases, close to 100, many of them well-documented, but if you try to call that scientific evidence of anything, you'd be laughed at."

The main reason NIDS has been unwilling to go public with information about the ranch is there isn't much that can be said. For a scientific organization to merely toss out a lot of scary stories would be counterproductive, especially if it resulted in hordes of UFO nuts flooding the property and interfering with whatever goes on there. Make no mistake, the activity at the ranch certainly seems to have an interactive component. It responds to people, events and disturbances. In many instances, it seems capable of anticipating things that were about to happen.

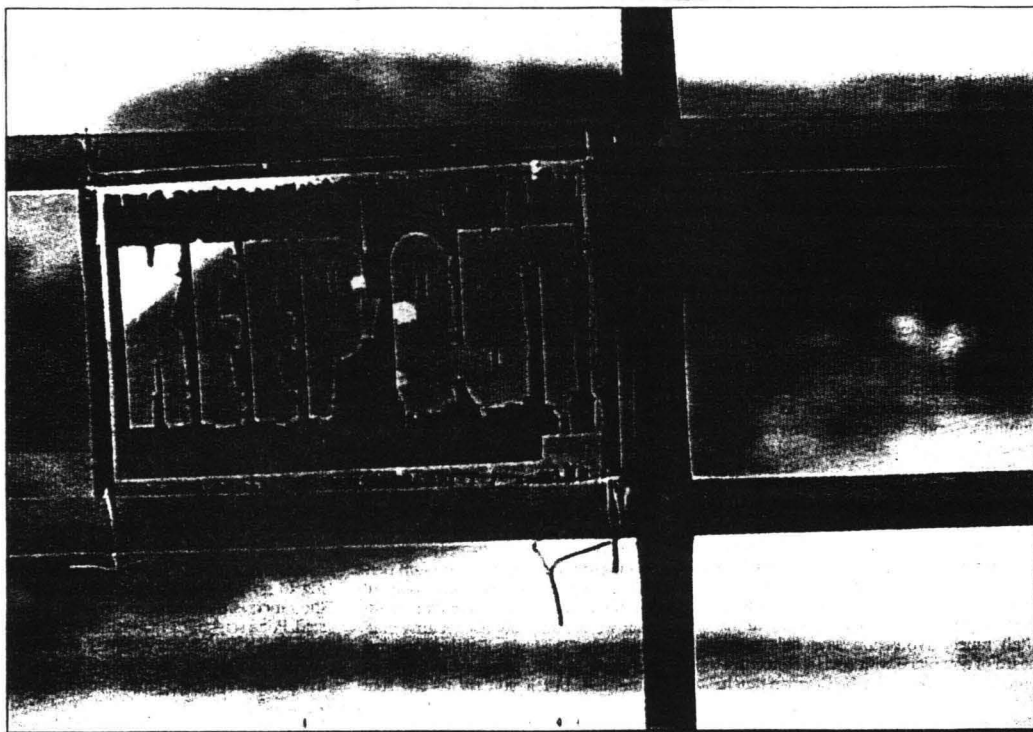
"The only thing that jumps out of the data is how unreproducible these things are," Kelleher notes. "No two events ever repeated themselves in the same fashion. It's almost as if it's a learning curve and we were being led along. It's the only thing consistent here."

What could possibly explain all that has happened at the ranch? Natural predators, rustlers or pranksters might conceivably be responsible for some of the events, but certainly not all of them. NIDS staffers considered the possibility that Indian shaman or black magic practitioners might have been carrying out some sort of ritualistic campaign at the ranch. They note that the Ute people consider the ranch to be an unholy place, a forbidden place, but that explanation falls far short on many levels.

Hardcore UFO believers have proposed an E.T. connection to events at the ranch, but NIDS staffers say there isn't an iota of evidence to prove such a hypothesis. The possibility exists that unknown military units might be capable of producing nearly all of the events that have been reported in the area, perhaps as an experiment in psychological warfare. (Tom Gorman was convinced of this for a long time, but came to realize the theory was more than a stretch. Someone, somewhere would have seen these military men operating in such a rural area.)

That doesn't leave much. There is one possibility that's worth considering. Cutting-edge physicists have proposed the existence of alternate dimensions or parallel universes. Quantum physicists believe that portals may exist between our world and other worlds. The concept of wormholes is no longer considered to be the stuff of science fiction. New York physicist and author Michio Kaku theorizes that there are 11 dimensions in our universe, although humans have only identified four. Might a wormhole resemble the portal of light that was seen on the ranch? And if such portals do exist, could they allow beings on the other side to travel into our world? As wacky as it all sounds, leading scientists believe that wormholes and alternate dimensions are perfectly consistent with known laws of physics. If so, then it isn't much of a leap to suggest that UFOs, aliens, Bigfoot beings or other creatures, even poltergeists or spirits, could

(continued on page 4)



NIDS strongly discourages UFO enthusiasts from trekking to the ranch. Trespassers will be prosecuted.



## The truth might be out there

BY GEORGE KNAPP  
MERCURY

If you haven't read, or don't plan on reading the "Skinwalker" article elsewhere in the *Mercury*, chances are this column may not be for you either.

Admittedly, the "Skinwalker" subject matter is a bit strange, but I tried to write the two-part article as a straight news piece with only a few subjective comments. This column will put more of a personal slant on what it's like to chase after aliens, ghosts and such.

I made two trips to visit the Utah ranch that is the site of assorted weirdness. On the first trip, I was accompanied by photographer Eric Sorenson, as well as Dr. Colm Kelleher. On the second trip, Kelleher joined myself, photographer Matt Adams and former sheriff's deputy Keith Wolverton.

During both trips, we scoured pretty much every inch of the ranch. We were out in the field and up on the ridge day and night. We photographed and inspected every part of the property, prowled the ranchlands surrounding the area, interviewed townspeople and other witnesses, but we never saw anything remotely unexplainable.

On one night, I spent some time sitting out in a field, dangled there like a piece of bait. Whatever the phenomenon is, it has been known to react to the arrival of new people, to the presence of fire on the range and to disturbances of the earth. So before I took my seat out in the field that night, we made our presence known in a big way. We built a large campfire down in the third homestead and sat around telling stories. And just before nightfall, the caretaker of the property fired up his bulldozer, plowed over some dirt piles and cleared a new pathway into the lower homesteads. If anything was around, we hoped to have its full attention.

It was a disappointment that nothing happened during our visits, although, to tell the truth, I was a bit relieved during my stint as bait that the mystery cattle mutilators didn't show up to taste-test a new, yummy type of flesh. (Mmmm, too much gristle and marbling, wouldn't you say?). Dr. Kelleher says the phenomenon has seemingly moved on or taken a hiatus. There has been very

little unexplained activity of any kind for the past year. Some folks familiar with the ranch think that, whatever "it" is, it doesn't like to be watched, and that it may just be in hibernation until such time as the NIDS people move on.

The only odd thing we witnessed was a huge flash of light that occurred just after sundown. The flash was captured on one of the video cameras that run 24 hours a day on the property. We watched the tape of the flash over and over, trying to figure out what it might have been. It wasn't until days after we returned to Las Vegas that Dr. Kelleher called to say he had confirmed the flash was caused by a missile launch further west. That might sound anticlimactic to some, but is indicative of what NIDS has been doing up in Utah for the past six years.

I've been privy to info about the ranch for several years, even though I didn't have permission until now to write anything about it. And all through that time, I watched the way the NIDS researchers have operated. Mostly what they do is to search for mundane explanations for the things they've seen. They try to find normal explanations for what seem like paranormal events. For example, they didn't assume that the big flash of light caught on the video was caused by a UFO. Instead, they looked for other, more prosaic explanations. The same is true for their investigations of animal mutilations. While checking out the slice-and-dice job on an unfortunate calf, their first instinct was to look for evidence of tracks, either animal or human. They found none, but that didn't lead them to conclude that space aliens with a taste for beef were responsible. They drew no conclusions at all.

The fact that NIDS scientists would even dare to study such matters seems to be an affront to some of their snooty counterparts. Most of the scientific establishment has accepted the ridiculous explanation that coyotes and mountain lions are responsible for animal mutilations throughout the country, even though solid scientific evidence demonstrates beyond any doubt that sharp metallic instruments have been used to cut up the animals. From my observations, the NIDS investigators have gone into their study with open minds, and I've never heard one of them say that aliens are involved with any of this

stuff. They just gather information, which is what I thought scientists were supposed to do.

Unfortunately, I was unable to use the real names of many of the researchers involved in studying the ranch. The sad fact is most of them worry that they would never be able to land another job if they were linked to such research. I think they're right. I would hate to think a good scientist like Colm Kelleher will be forever branded as a nutcase simply because he spoke with me about the ranch, but it's a possibility. That stinks.

The same prejudice exists within the journalism fraternity, and I should know. For the last 13 years, I've been The UFO Guy. The public seems very interested in my occasional pursuit of UFO stories and allegations of government disinformation on the topic, but it really drives my journalism brethren up the wall. I can't count the number of times I've been pilloried by radio DJs, newspaper columnists and others because of my interest in UFOs. They generally all use the same jokes (something about spotting Elvis, something about E.T. phoning home, something about beam me up, Scotty) but really think themselves clever at the moment for coming up with such rich, original material.

Since my face is on TV a lot, I figure it comes with the territory, and I have laughed at a lot of it along the way (including the hilarious parody songs produced by radio guys Johnson and Toffe.) The part that bothers me most is that many of the wisecracks are issued by people who haven't done one whit of work in the area of paranormal research. They don't know squat, other than a generalized belief that everyone involved with UFOs or animal mutilations is a wide-eyed saucer nut wearing an E.T. beanie and a Darth Vader mask. I will grant them that the UFO field attracts more than its share of mentally challenged true believers. No one has encountered more UFO wackos than yours truly. But at the core of the phenomena, there remains a body of evidence that is not easily dismissed and is worthy of further study.

Most mainstream scientists, even the stuffiest among them, will concede that confirmed contact with another civilization, an alien civilization, would be the most profound event in human history. It would change everything, absolutely everything. They have used this argument to justify spending money on SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Somehow, that endeavor is respectable, but looking for evidence of E.T.s closer to home is a waste of time, no matter how intriguing the data might be. After all, since we can't get to other solar systems, surely aliens can't get here either.

That sort of view is a form of prejudice, as closed-minded as a religion. In fact, many people would argue that science is our new religion, with its strict commandments against prohibited thoughts or behavior. In the case of the Utah ranch, the adherence to the scientific method has been an asset—and a necessity. The Science Advisory Board of NIDS has held the feet of the staff to the fire, insisting that they merely collect information and not try to reach any conclusions about calf-loving

come and go and never be detected by puzzled, mystified humans.

"Aliens may be here now," says Kaku, "here in another dimension, a millimeter away from our own world."

Admittedly, it all sounds farfetched. But if anyone has a better explanation, let's hear it.

### A final note

For further discussion of the Gorman Ranch mystery, along with a few personal observations, check out the Knappster column elsewhere in this issue. Also, the website of the National Institute for Discovery Science is packed with information and research papers concerning these and other issues. Anyone with information or insight about the ranch, UFOs or mutilations is welcome to contact NIDS through the website. All such contacts will remain confidential.

Another word of warning to UFO diehards: It is probably futile to ask for restraint on the part of the faithful, but here goes anyway. Visitors are not welcome at the Gorman ranch. The ranch is patrolled 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and NIDS emphatically declares that trespassers will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. One of the principal caretakers of the property is a 20-year veteran of Utah law enforcement and will not hesitate to bust people who mess with the property, the animals or the staff. The people who live in the area do not want to be hassled. So leave them alone. Don't be a jerk.

Furthermore, anyone expecting to find the ranch and see UFOs or Bigfoot will be deeply disappointed. Paranormal activity on the property has all but disappeared over the past year, which is a primary reason that access was obtained from NIDS for this article.

Zeta Reticulans who have a penchant for Utah scenery. The board has even been tough on NIDS founder Robert Bigelow, demanding that he justify his interest in the Utah property. Even in personal conversations, Bigelow is reluctant to say what he thinks might be going on at the ranch. He, like his staff, will only say that more study is needed before any conclusions can be reached.

There's an astrophysicist named Jacques Vallee who has written extensively about UFO phenomena. In my view, he's the most important guy to ever study the topic, although he has publicly kept an arm's distance from it for the past several years. (In the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the character played by Truffaut is modeled on Vallee.) Vallee once told me he would be deeply disappointed if the beings we refer to as aliens turned out to be "only" extraterrestrials. Vallee thinks the real explanation may be far more complex and more challenging than the simple idea of E.T.s visiting Earth. The possibility that other dimensions may exist and that these dimensions may help to explain some of our mysteries is a concept that is catching on with younger scientists, those on the cusp of cutting-edge research. Quantum physicists, for example, are now convinced that other dimensions and parallel universes really do exist and that wormholes might be a way to travel between worlds.

It isn't much of a leap from such theories to the strange stuff at the Utah ranch. The NIDS people won't say it, of course, but others familiar with what's going on at the ranch think the property might be some sort of roadway or shortcut to other realities. I know how wacky that sounds. So do the people at NIDS, and that's why they simply won't talk about it. Many of the true believers in the UFOlogy field are convinced that NIDS is hiding dark secrets, that the organization is a CIA front, that Bigelow wants to corner the market on E.T. technology. The simple fact is that NIDS hasn't spoken about the ranch because there isn't much to say other than relating anecdotal information that is unreproducible.

I really hope my articles about the research at the ranch don't result in damage to anyone's employment future, because from what I've seen, the study of the ranch has followed all scientific protocols. Instead of being scorned by their peers, the folks at NIDS should be praised for having the courage to proceed into unpopular areas, to explore new ground while adhering to accepted scientific practices. That, after all, is how progress is made.

Some mainstream types are convinced they already know all there is to know about UFOs, Bigfoot, animal mutilations, ghosts and such. They don't need to go out and study it themselves because it can't be true. It can't be true, and therefore

it isn't. And woe to anyone else who dares to challenge the official mantra. I always believed it is the duty of science, and of journalism, to investigate the unexplained, not to explain the uninvestigated.

### One more plea to the saucer nuts

I know in my heart that this will do absolutely no good, but I appeal once more to the UFO diehards around the world to leave the ranch alone. You are not going to see anything. The activity has stopped or moved on and you are too late. What you will see is jail if you trespass on the property. NIDS is very serious about that. What's more, the residents in that remote section of Utah generally don't want to deal with the paranormal stories, at least not with strangers. This place isn't Area 51 and there is no Little A'Le'Inn to help celebrate all that is weird and unexplained.



# Muons may not be out there, but something unexplained is

Michael Horn believes in extraterrestrial life, but doubts the Muons from Myton are ready to land on Earth or that they even exist.

"I don't consider the Muon information to be valid, especially since there's absolutely nothing presented to back it up," Horn of Los Angeles said in an e-mail response to last week's column about the Muons orbiting the planet waiting for a government to welcome them. "There is an enormous amount of fraudulent and hoaxed material in the UFO field, as I'm sure you've noticed."

**ACCORDING TO HIS** Web site, Horn is an award-winning painter, trend-setting designer and inventor, but for purposes of this column he is a UFO researcher. He has studied the case of "Billy" Eduard Albert Meier, who claims he has had regular contact with extraterrestrials since 1975.

"I have researched the Meier case for over 23 years and can only conclude that it is authentic based on his abundant documented information ... and his still irreproducible hard evidence," Horn's e-mail said. "That and the fact that I've spoken to about 12 of the other 100 witnesses to seeing the ships and two of the other half-dozen or so people who've photographed the ships."

Meier, a Swiss farmer, has notes from his conversations with ETs, 1,000 photographs of spacecraft and a recording Horn said cannot be duplicated.

"It should be mentioned that in February of 2001, I contacted the professional skeptics group, CFI West in Los Angeles (affiliated with the magician and debunker the "Amazing" Randi) and challenged them to duplicate one of Meier's photos and one of his film segments," Horn said. "Since I had been assured by a CFI West investigator that these were easily duplicated hoaxes, I was interested in seeing just how quickly they could duplicate them."

"It is now more than a year and one-half later and they have been unable to duplicate even one of them, despite my invitation to use any technology currently available to them (and which clearly wasn't available to Meier)."

"I did suggest, if he wished



"SHEEZ, WHERE DO THEY COME UP WITH THESE STORIES??"



Wally Haas

to be sporting about it, that the investigator use only one arm." Meier has only one arm.

But there are skeptics in what has been called the most-documented UFO case in history.

Kal K. Korff of San Jose, Calif., president and CEO of Total Research, says the Meier case is an elaborate hoax. Underground Video, which says it first supported Meier, now says he's a fraud.

**"AFTER SIX MONTHS** of intense inquiry, with the assistance of cinematographers, physicists and computer analysts from Total Research, we found the claims of the representatives of the Meier case to be absolutely untrue," the Underground Video Web site says. "We discovered miniature models, and a variety of deceptive methods used to create this hoax. Additionally, an undercover 'hidden camera' investigation penetrated the Meier cult in Switzerland, revealing irrefutable scientific evidence of FRAUD."

Horn countered with information Meier published ahead of its time, including Jupiter's rings and the World Trade Center attacks.

"Also, you may not know that the (Korff) models were made by the investigative team and photographed in the places where Meier allegedly photographed the

UFOs. This was done so that they could compare and computer-evaluate the two sets of photos to see if Meier indeed did use models.

"The results were clear: The objects in Meier's photos were NOT models, they were larger objects with specific characteristics that set them completely apart."

**THE MORE I READ** about UFOs, the more interesting — and confusing — the evidence becomes. The mystery that surrounds life outside this planet is why television shows like "X-Files" and "Taken" are popular and why last week's column was the most-read Register Star column ever posted online.

But if you're like Mike Ash, and hundreds of others who think the sugar rush from too many Christmas cookies is affecting my brain, you probably think I need some psychiatric evaluation.

"I think you should have more respect for nature, and not kill trees to print this type of lunatic ramblings," Ash wrote. "No one from space would land on Earth. If they are exploring out there, they would be looking for intelligence, and mankind hasn't even evolved enough to get along with each other, let alone a truly intelligent race of beings capable of intergalactic travel."

Ash may be right, so the aliens/UFO topics will be set aside like so many empty boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Unless the Muons from Myton actually land.

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## PhilStanford



ON THE TOWN

# UFO flybys created big national buzz

Phil Stanford's column will resume Jan. 7. In the interim, the Tribune will publish some memorable past columns, such as this one from May 8, 2001.

**T**he day was June 24, 1947, and a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold saw them near Mount Rainier: nine shiny, boomerang-shaped objects that he said seemed to skip like saucers as they sped through the atmosphere. When he landed, he told reporters that he estimated their speed to be about 1,700 mph, which was considerably faster than any known aircraft was capable of doing at that time. News of the first flying saucer sighting flashed around the nation.

Hardly more than a week later, on July 4, 1947, scores of flying saucers were spotted over Portland. Two police officers, Walter Lissy and Robert Ellis — both World War II vets and civilian pilots — saw the first ones above Oaks Park: fast-moving, silvery discs, traveling in formation, they said. The Portland police force immediately went on full alert.

That same day, Thomas Berry, who lived on Northeast Killingsworth Street, spotted something, too. So did M.A. Deaton, who lived on Northeast 32nd Avenue. Deaton said it was a disc, flying due east "faster than an airplane." Downtown on Broadway, in the Oregon Journal's Jackson Tower, International News Service employees reported seeing a flyby of discs.

Three sheriff's deputies assigned to the harbor patrol spotted a cluster of discs at about 10,000 feet. Another policeman, Earl Patterson, radioed in from his car at Southeast 82nd Avenue and Foster Street with another report of flying discs. He said they were aluminum or eggshell in color, traveling at a high rate of speed.

That evening, more strange discs were spotted by the pilot, copilot and stewardess of a United Airlines flight en route from Boise to Portland. Nine of these flying saucers, which they described as bigger than an airplane, cruised along with them for 15 minutes.

Whatever it was, it was catching. The next day, sightings of the flying discs were reported in 23 different states. Weather balloons, sun glares, hoaxes or visitors from outer space — who knows? If you looked at it all very coldly, there was a certain lack of hard evidence that anything had occurred at all. "The whole thing," offered Dr. Frederick Courts, a psychology professor at Reed College, "could be the result of a general semihysteria due to the nervousness of the public over reports of atomic warfare and guided projectiles." The Rev. Jessie Falmer of Portland's Assembly of God took it as a portent that the end was near. "The Bible," he noted, "says the Second Coming will be preceded by wars, great disasters and heavenly displays."

The heavenly displays abruptly subsided. Then, almost three years later, on May 11, 1950, another unidentified flying object was spotted over a farm outside McMinnville. What made this sighting different from so many others was that before the strange, dislike craft disappeared from view, Paul Trent managed to click off two shots.

The photographs weren't published until almost a month later when the Trents' banker took a copy of the snapshots to the McMinnville newspaper. Since that time, the photos have been analyzed by experts. As a 1969 Air Force report found, the sighting by the Trents is "one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated — geometric, psychological and physical — appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object ... flew within sight of two witnesses."

# Investigator has devoted decades to UFO research

By MARGARET MOSES  
Staff Writer

Blair and Cambria counties have historically been hotbeds for paranormal activity, according to a Westmoreland County UFO researcher.

Stan Gordon of Greensburg has spent the vast majority of his 52 years studying and documenting UFO sightings across the state — and said he has plenty of documentation from this area from over the years.

"In the 1980s and '90s, there was a lot of activity in your area," said Gordon. "One of the interesting cases was in October 1983 and it happened along Route 220."

Turning to his files, he recounted the details. A woman was driving along the highway when she saw an object rise from a field adjacent to the highway. The craft approached her car, lifting it up on one side.

Gordon discussed numerous other sightings from the area, stretching from Grazierville to Johnstown to Snyder Township to Tipton.

"Historically there have always been a

lot of sightings in Pennsylvania. There are news accounts of sightings dating back to the 1800s," he said. "A high percentage turns out to be natural or man-made in origin. But there is a small percentage that can't be explained."

He said a lot of the sightings are not just odd lights in the sky but are of crafts encountered up close, many of them cigar-shaped, rectangular or triangular.

"Many of the sightings are in the daylight and many are with multiple witnesses. It's not just in rural areas either. I get reports from populated areas, like the suburbs of Philadelphia and downtown Pittsburgh. In one case, two people observed a cigar-shaped object hovering over traffic in Squirrel Hill," he said. "One incident was on the Pennsylvania Turnpike when a fast-moving object came out of the sky and almost hit a car."

In the mid-'60s, he began investigating cases throughout the state as he heard about them, interviewing witnesses and gathering information. He set up a hot line in 1969 for people to report sightings and

calls still come in along with about 200 e-mails every day. His hot line number is (724) 838-7768 and his e-mail address is [pauf@westol.com](mailto:pauf@westol.com).

When Gordon realized he couldn't keep up with the investigations himself, he set up volunteer groups of researchers to help him collect and analyze reports and data.

The 52-year-old electronics salesman said the volunteer groups have since disbanded because he was unable to continue funding them out of his own pocket.

Gordon said there has been a dramatic change since the 1960s as far as public support for people who have seen UFOs.

"It used to be there was a huge amount of ridicule, so people would keep their mouths shut. In the last few years, people have become a lot more open-minded," he added. "People are more willing than ever to talk about what they've experienced, but they are still often reluctant to give their names. I've interviewed people from all walks of life who have reported seeing UFOs. There are a lot of credible people whose lives have been greatly disturbed

and changed by these occurrences. They just want answers as to what is going on."

Gordon said although the government's official position is it no longer investigates sightings, he doesn't believe it. He said there have been documents obtained from different government agencies that indicate the interest is still there.

"It's likely that they don't have all the answers," he said.

Gordon, who said he has never seen a UFO, has advice for anyone who does.

"I don't recommend you get close to it. Rarely are there reports of hostile encounters, but there have been reports of temporary physiological effects like headaches and temporary facial burns," he said. "The best thing is to try to get good pictures or good video. And if there is any physical evidence, take photographs of it but don't disturb it."

"And call me right away."

Mirror Staff Writer Margaret Moses can be reached at 946-7447 or [mmoses@altoonamirror.com](mailto:mmoses@altoonamirror.com).

## Much unexplained about 'UFO'shkosh

BY ALEX HUMMEL  
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

Beer.  
Cheese.  
Crop circles?

Aside from the Packers' recent on-field performance, the Badger State boasts quite a file of "the unexplained" - as in Bigfoot sightings, eerie farm-land apparitions and crop circles.

For the price of a movie and soda, a conference Sunday in Neenah invites the public to witness Wisconsin's weird side.

### Conference seeks answers to paranormal signs

from homegrown UFO phenomena to heavenly angels to evidence of past lives.

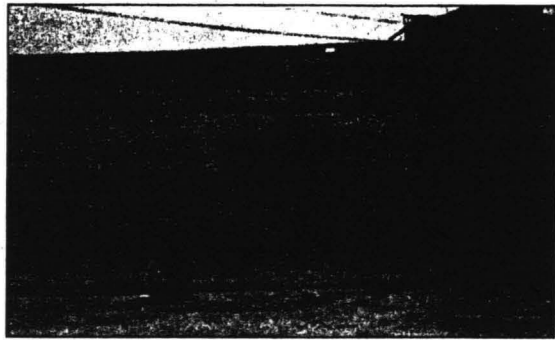
"I think people have always had these questions, and now it has become so mainstream that they feel like they can go to a conference and it's not going to be new-agers with crystal balls," said Chad Lewis, a 28-year-old Eau Claire resident and conference speaker on "Strange Wisconsin." "It's regular people going to these conferences."

Lewis dubs himself a paranor-

mal researcher. He recently earned a degree in Applied Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a thesis on college students' beliefs in the paranormal.

He has been touring the state with conferences like the one planned for Neenah's Park Plaza Valley Inn. The forums last about two-and-a-half hours and typically draw between 100 to 200 people, Lewis said.

They ride a recent wave of sci-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**MYSTERIOUS CROP CIRCLES** appeared on this farm in Wausau in 1997. A similar event happened in Port Washington in 1998.

GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - Dec. 3, 2002

## Letter perpetuates common misconceptions about UFOs.

The letter by P.M. deLaubenfels on Nov. 25 was a classic collection of common misconceptions about UFO sightings and research. These misconceptions are frequently repeated by people who haven't examined the best available evidence. Many skeptics concentrate so hard on looking for lies that they end up ignoring or denying more significant truths along the way.

Contrary to deLaubenfels' assertions, many UFO sightings have been made by groups of witnesses. These include pilots, policemen, air traffic controllers, radar operators, military officers, Nobel Prize-winning President Jimmy Carter, and many very credible civilians.

It is also untrue that astronomers have not seen and are not interested in UFOs. There are numerous astronomers and astrophysicists involved with UFO research and disclosure groups. Astrophysicists Bernard Haisch and Jacque Vallee, Stanford physicist Peter Sturrock and Princeton/CUNY physicist Michio Kaku spoke recently about the importance of UFO research and disclosure at George Washington University. The GWU symposium, held on Nov. 8, was moderated by Ray Suarez, a radio-journalist from NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and the "McNeil/Lehrer Report."

Another common misconception repeated by deLaubenfels is the impossibility of UFOs doing anything that violates the "laws of physics." That is a ridiculous assumption. Look how far we have come in just one century of powered flight and 40 years of space exploration. The real impossibility is the arrogant assumption that our limited understanding of physics could set any meaningful boundary conditions on the capabilities of more advanced civilizations.

Ed Case  
Corvallis

fi seasoned skepticism. "The X-Files" struck a nerve with the black-helicopter crowd about a decade ago, but most recently the crop-circle flic "Signs" and T.V. guru John Edward, who reunites dead or "crossed over" people with the living have made waves.

Lewis' presentation is billed as a discussion of "his investigations of ghosts, UFO's, alien abductions, crop circles, bigfoot and haunted sites from Wisconsin..." He said he always caters his portion of the conference to the area he is visiting.

Lewis said he'd discuss a 1903 mass sighting of a UFO in the Appleton area and, among other things like the Oshkosh woman who died yawning the same year, a 1910 report of a large alligator in Lake Winnebago south of Oshkosh.

"What a lot of people don't understand is when we have a bigfoot sighting such as we had in Granton in 2000, a lot of these things make national news," he said. "Wisconsin also has the second highest rate of reported UFO sightings after New Mexico."

Lewis will be joined by Judy Meinen, an Eau Claire-area registered nurse and healing touch practitioner who will "demonstrate various tech-

niques to use while encountering an 'eerie' feeling": i.e., the possibility of the presence of angels. Also on the bill is Bob Salt, a UW-Stout professor of human development and a past life therapist discussing reincarnation.

"I'm not talking about faith," Salt said. "I'm talking about people who actually remember other lifetimes. There are little children who just spontaneously remember previous lifetimes and adults can do it through hypnosis or maybe a repeated dream. What I'm going to do is describe the research done by scholars compiling cases, and there are thousands."

Lewis said, at their core, the conferences always appeal to those folks with the big questions.

"It's the basic questions we humans have always had," he said. "Are we alone in the universe? What happens when we die? They are all these questions people ask when they sit down and talk about stuff... Even if they don't necessarily believe, a lot of people say, 'I'm a skeptic, but I really like the information. It's given me a lot to think about.'"

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HERALD-LEADER, Lexington, KY - Jan. 7, 2003 CR: J. Stone

## Decades-old claims of alien sightings persist

### FILM CREW INTERESTED IN STORY DATING TO 1955

By Michelle Carlton  
KENTUCKY NEW ERA

PRINCETON — Geraldine Hawkins was only 7 or 8 years old the first time she heard the story of the Kelly green men.

Although her father, Elmer "Lucky" Sutton, said he was one of the people who witnessed the alien invasion on Aug. 21, 1955, he didn't talk to Hawkins about it until the late 1960s when two writers contacted him for an interview.

"This was the first I'd ever heard of it," Hawkins said. "I remember it was a man and woman that came to the house. I had never heard anything about it. I remember sitting on the floor with my legs crossed listening to this story. It terrified me."

The local legend recently attracted the attention of an independent production company in Glendale, Calif.

A film crew from Barcon Productions came to Hopkinsville to research the incident. Barcon has been recording witnesses' accounts for a film titled *Monsters of the UFO* to be released next summer.

The sighting occurred at Kelly, a small town on U.S. 41 about 8 miles

north of Hopkinsville. "Lucky" Sutton and several family members said a spaceship landed near the house that evening. It was carrying about a dozen little space creatures, they said.

"Lucky" Sutton and other family members said they had a gunbattle with the creatures that lasted for hours.

Most of the Sutton family members who said they fought the aliens off with shotguns are dead.

However, Hawkins and her younger brother, Elmer Sutton Jr., of Trigg County, said their father, who died in 1995, shared his experience with them.

"He talked to me about it because I was one of the last ones to leave home," Elmer Sutton said. "I prodded him about it a lot. If I'd catch him in the right mood, he'd sit down and talk for hours about it."

According to the family, a visitor to the Sutton house, Billy Ray Taylor of Pennsylvania, had been in the backyard getting water from the well. He noticed a light streak across the sky and descend into the trees along a ravine about a quarter of a mile away.

A while later, "Lucky" Sutton's mother, Glennie Lankford, saw a creature with long arms and talon-like hands raised in the air approaching the back of the house.

"(Dad) said they appeared to have a human shape, but with some modifications that made them different," Sutton said. "He called them little green men.



MICHELLE CARLTON | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geraldine Hawkins and Elmer Sutton Jr. say their father told them he saw aliens.

He called them green, but said they actually weren't green. He said they were silver, but they had a greenish silver glow to them. He said they were about 3-foot tall.

"Their arms were double the length of humans' and had pointed ears. He said the eyes were in the same place as

humans', but were more of an almond shape. The eyes had a luminous glow. He said they really didn't walk, just skimmed on top of ground, but moved their legs."

"Lucky" Sutton and Taylor each fired several shots at the aliens, they later reported to police. The siege continued through the night, the story goes. None of the bullets seemed to affect the creatures.

"He told me he didn't know what in the world they had in mind, but he wasn't going to stand around to find out," Sutton said.

The Suttons, Taylor, Lankford and a few children in the house that night said they piled into two cars and headed for the police station in Hopkinsville.

City, county and state police, along with military personnel from then-Camp Campbell, flocked to the Kelly home- stead and stayed until about 2 a.m. They searched the house, the yard, surrounding fields and a wooded area, but reportedly found nothing.

The family claimed the creatures returned again about 3 a.m. and stayed until morning.

Contrary to speculation by some, Hawkins insists that her father and other family members were not drinking alcohol that night, nor did they fabricate the story.

"I could always tell when my dad was pulling my leg or not. He wasn't pulling a fast one," Sutton said.

**"I could always tell when my dad was pulling my leg or not. He wasn't pulling a fast one."**

Elmer Sutton Jr.

son of Kelly man who said extra-terrestrials invaded his back yard





# FOREIGN NEWS

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

INTERIOR NEWS, Smithers, B.C., Canada - March 27, 2002 CR: G. Conway

## Unusual objects sighted in Houston - Smithers area

Contributed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three Houston

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

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

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

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

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

In the month since the Feb. 1 sighting, Vike has been narrowing the possibilities. Some explanations for the lights were: airport lights; helicopters; small, fixed-wing planes; ski-dos 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 or an inordinate amount of sightings is peculiar.

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

Some recent sightings in the Bulkley Valley:

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

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

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

# ARE WE BEING WATCHED?



New light on UFO alert as sightings increase

THE mystery of eerie flashing lights in the skies of Hemel Hempstead deepened this week after several more sightings of strange goings-on.

Leverstock Green residents flooded the newsdesk with calls following the story in last week's HeraldExpress of lights hovering over playing fields near Pancake Lane.

And the mystery light was seen over Ashridge this week.

A Northchurch woman has seen the strange light twice in the past two weeks.

The woman, who does not want to be named, said the first occasion was on the day it was spotted over Leverstock Green a week ago last Sunday but early in the morning.

She said: "I was up very early and looked out of the window. I saw the light just as described in your report and it was over

in the direction of Hemel Hempstead.

"The light was pulsating and quite stationary and I watched it for a full five minutes.

"I told my family when they woke up and they just said 'Oh yes...!'"

"The next day I told the girls at work and got a similar reaction, but then your paper came out with the report and they were all talking about it."

The woman didn't contact us then, but she did on Monday night after seeing the same UFO over the Ashridge area while driving home from work.

"I was on the old A41 at about Cow Roast when I saw the light again. It appeared to be over Ashridge and was perfectly still."

The original report of the strange light came from Adrian Childs and his son Kevin who

saw a large triangular-shaped light suspended in the air for nearly an hour.

Others backed up the story this week.

One resident of Westwick Row described how, on the same night, she watched a pair of flashing red lights in the sky over Leverstock Green for 45 minutes at about 11.15pm.

Richard Brook, who lives in Chipperfield, spotted a UFO a couple of weeks ago at around 3.30pm as he looked in the direction of Hemel Hempstead.

Richard, who is a former aviation engineer, is certain it was not an aeroplane.

He said: "It was like a sparkler going off. It was fairly high but below the level of high flying aircraft."

Have you seen the light? Call India Jolly on the newsdesk on HH 262311.

**As Steven Spielberg's new £25 million TV blockbuster about alien encounters, *Taken*, hits our screens tonight, a Mail writer reviews the mounting evidence**

# After 50 years of ridicule, denial and cover-up, is the REAL truth about alien abductions about to be revealed...?

tall, with large almond-shaped eyes set in an oval, hairless head, may not only have landed on earth, but have also abducted human beings for bizarre experiments; while all the time there has been an official conspiracy to keep their visits secret.

Tonight American filmmaker Steven Spielberg, the man who brought the world *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* and *ET*, will bring those convictions — and aliens — to life in his new mini-series, *Taken*, on BBC2.

**A** CUNNING mixture of fact, conjecture and fiction, based on the latest research, it tells the story of how aliens affected the lives of three American families over the past half-century.

A massive hit in the U.S., where it was broadcast on consecutive nights last month, Spielberg's series is the most expensive TV science fiction drama ever made — with a budget of more than £25 million — and it's certain to re-ignite public debate on this forever-contentious subject.

But surely all this talk of aliens is far-fetched? As a natural sceptic, I've always believed so, but over the past weeks and months of reviewing the evidence I've come to the conclusion that it does, in fact, warrant the closest investigation.

There certainly seems to have been an official conspiracy to keep the facts secret.

In the past few months, for example, firm evidence about unexplained events connected with Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and extra-terrestrial phenomena has begun to appear for the first time as governments around the world have released previously secret documents.

And, for the first time, politicians have started to admit that evidence on the possibility of extraterrestrial life has been concealed.

In October last year, for example, former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, who worked for President Clinton, called on the U.S. government to de-classify 'records that are more than 25 years old' and 'to provide scientists with data that will assist them in determining the real nature of this phenomenon'.

Only four years ago, former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher hinted to British UFO researcher Georgina Bruni that there was considerable secret information on the subject, adding mysteriously: 'You can't tell the people.'

**B** RUNI was so struck by the remark that she used it as the title for her 2001 book on alien sightings in Suffolk in 1980. Shortly afterwards, former Tory Secretary of State for Defence Michael Portillo also confided to her on the subject: 'I know a lot, but I tell a little.'

After a campaign by Bruni and other researchers, the Government last month released scores of secret files on UFO sightings in this country, all of which suggest that aliens can no longer be dismissed merely as the product of fevered imaginations.

Certainly the majority of the public now seem to believe that aliens do exist. As the editor of the British UFO magazine, Graham Birdsall, points out: 'Sixty years ago, 90 per cent of the population thought the idea was absolute rubbish'.

'Now every single opinion poll on the subject shows that millions of people firmly believe in UFOs.'

Last June, for example, when it was announced that Bonnybridge in Scotland boasted more UFO sightings than any other place in the world, a Sky News poll showed 65 per cent of its viewers believed in UFOs.

Five years earlier — in one of the biggest telephone polls ever conducted on TV — 100,000 viewers phoned ITV to answer the question 'Have aliens already visited Earth?' and 92 per cent voted 'Yes'.

'There's strong evidence to suggest that Earth has been visited by extraterrestrial intelligence,' insists Birdsall.

And after my own research I am prepared to admit that it is no longer possible to dismiss people such as Birdsall as 'cranks'.

Spielberg, whose film *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* dramatically raised the issue of alien encounters for a global audience, is certainly convinced they've happened.

Fascinated by the possibility from childhood, he's devoted part of his life to discovering the truth and has become an authority on the subject as a result.

But there is a striking difference between Spielberg's approach in his TV series *Taken* and the one he took two decades ago in *ET*.

This time the aliens he is depicting are not trying to phone home — they're here to subvert, and ultimately control, the human race.

And the new TV series, his first since the award-winning *Band Of Brothers*, is not only about the arrival of aliens, it's also about 'alien abductions'.

(continued on page 9)



**by Geoffrey Wansell**

**O**N A hot, sticky July afternoon in 1987 Jason Andrews is celebrating his fourth birthday at his family's cottage near Slade Green in Kent when the heavens open.

As the thunder crashes all around, there is a single flash of lightning. Suddenly, a stream of numbers starts pouring out of Jason's mouth: fantastic numbers, complex mathematical equations, even algebra — all from a boy who struggles to count to ten.

Seconds later the windows and doors begin to shake violently and the four-year-old announces to his mother, father and elder brother: 'They're waiting for me. I have to go.'

Jason's father, Paul, grabs his son and stops him from walking out into the downpour, but the boy struggles violently, and as he does so the house shakes to its very foundations — until, finally, he seems to wake from a trance and the shaking stops.

It is the first sign that Jason Andrews is no

ordinary little boy and, in the eight years that follow, that is dramatically confirmed.

It wasn't until 1995, when he was almost 12, that Jason told his astonished parents exactly what had been happening to him — aliens had been abducting him from his bed at night.

'It's always the light that comes first,' he confessed to his mother, Ann. 'Then I see the tall one rise up at the foot of the bed.'

'Suddenly there's lots of little ones everywhere. They're fuzzy and indistinct, and they move very fast. I can't move or speak, but I'm awake and I can see and hear and feel. I want to scream and run, but the sound doesn't come out and my body doesn't move.'

'I hate them. I hate them,' the boy sobbed. 'I have to go with them.'

'They take me to an operating theatre, like at the hospital. It's all white and shiny. Some-

times it's a circular room with a metal floor. It's always cold.'

'They're there. The big one touches me but I don't feel it, like as if I've had an anaesthetic.'

Then he added poignantly: 'But you don't believe me, you just think I'm making it all up.'

In fact, Ann *did* believe him, and went on to explore the phenomena affecting her son's life in a book, *Abducted*. This decent, uncomplicated wife and mother came to the conclusion that we may not be alone.

Now, the rest of the world may be about to agree with her. After five decades of ridicule, official denials and alleged cover-ups, the possibility that aliens may have visited Earth is beginning to be taken seriously — and not just by sci-fi fanatics and UFO freaks.

Scientific researchers are increasingly convinced that thin, grey-skinned beings about 4ft



(continued from page 8 - DAILY MAIL, London, England - Jan. 11, 2003)

"I thought I couldn't do justice to this genre in a two-hour movie," Spielberg explains.

"We would need a lot more time to do justice to the history of alien abductions, starting back in 1947, right through to today."

Watching the first episodes, it's clear that Spielberg has done everything in his power to create a fictional series on the edge of fact. This is no sci-fi comic book, no *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*, but a compelling — and all-too-plausible — drama.

British UFO expert Mike Soper, of Contact International, is as convinced as Spielberg that alien abductions have happened.

**T**HE TELLING fact is that there are features common to all the people's stories," he maintains. "They all remember being taken to a craft, and often talk about being 'examined'."

"Many talk about something being 'implanted' in their bodies, and when they return they often have triangular marks on their bodies and aren't wearing exactly the same clothes they were before the abduction."

Ministry of Defence civil servant Nick Pope, 37, agrees.

"Abductions most definitely do occur," he says. "And although the phrase 'alien abductions' is a gift to those people who want to deride it, these are genuine, ordinary people who believe that they have been in extraordinary situations."

Pope isn't a man with an anorak and a slightly weird look in his eye. He is a down-to-earth civil servant who had no interest in aliens at all until 1991, when the MoD asked him investigate reports of UFOs, alien abductions and other strange phenomena.

"The 100 or so people I interviewed about being abducted by aliens weren't publicity seekers merely after their 15 minutes of fame," he explains.

"I came to the conclusion that some of these people had to be telling the truth. And if just one of the abductees' reports is true, the implications for the human race would be profound and disturbing."

One person who helped to convince Pope was 37-year-old British-born make-up artist Bridget Grant, whom he met seven years ago.

She addressed an audience of 750 people at the British UFO conference in Leeds in 2001, where she talked about her own abduction. She explained that in February 1993, when she was living in Los Angeles, she was driving with a friend in the Brentwood area at 5.50pm one bright, sunny day when she drew up at a set of traffic lights.

"I suddenly saw this silver tip out of the corner of my eye," she explained. "Then I saw that it was a solid silver craft, with a red-orange colour underneath it, about 35-45ft in diameter. It came right above the car and I leaned towards the steering wheel and looked up."

The craft "flew really, really low" over her head, she said, and away to the west. Her friend Jane, sitting in the passenger seat, saw it, too.

Grant was so disturbed by the experience that in September 1998 she went to see the American UFO researcher Budd Hopkins, of the Intruders Foundation in New York, to undergo four sessions of 'regressive hypnosis'.

She wanted his help to remember the exact details of what happened on that afternoon in 1993 — because she thought she had

forgotten something. It appeared that she had. For when this pale young woman, with shoulder-length dark hair, addressed the Leeds audience she told them she'd not just seen the spacecraft but had been abducted by it, even though she thought she was in her car the entire time.

"There is often a time shift element in the stories of abduction, where the individual doesn't realise that time has passed," explains Nick Pope.

"My hands were gripping the steering wheel," Grant explained to the conference. "But then I felt a pressure, like my body was being sucked. It felt like all the atoms of my body were going through the steering wheel."

"Then I saw this being. I was fascinated by its appearance — it was transparent, had white hair and was carrying a baby."

Hard though it may be for some to believe, and Grant is reluctant to discuss the events further, there is no doubt that the artists' impression of the being which she said she saw looks uncannily like many of the other descriptions of aliens that have surfaced in recent years.

However, as sceptics point out, there have been so many depictions of 'space creatures' with dome heads and large oval eyes that it is hardly surprising that this has become something of a stereotype.

When Spielberg was researching the aliens for *Close Encounters*, he held lengthy consultations with the veteran American astronomer Dr J Allen Hynek — a once-fierce critic of UFOs and alien phenomena who changed his mind com-

pletely after he became a consultant on the subject for the United States Air Force.

Hynek assembled the authoritative American dossier on alien encounters, *Project Blue Book*, and advised Spielberg what aliens looked like.

But the idea that little grey — rather than green — men, with elongated fingers, legs and neck, may actually have visited this country still sounds incredibly far-fetched — until you talk to Georgina Bruni.

"When I interviewed Lady Thatcher a few years ago," Bruni explains, "I was describing to her the fact that U.S. military personnel here in Britain had reportedly had contact with aliens, and an alien spacecraft, in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk in December 1980."

"I expected her to tell me that I'd been watching too many episodes of the X Files. But she didn't look shocked at all. She just said, twice: 'You can't tell the people.'"

**W**ITH Bruni's encouragement, in the wake of this conversation Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, tabled 16 Parliamentary questions in the House of Lords — as a result of which the Government released more than 200 previously secret files concerning UFOs and aliens.

One of the files revealed that then Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill wanted the matter investigated in 1952.

He sent a memo to his scientific adviser, Sir Henry Tizard, asking:

'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth?'

After several months, Tizard reported that all the sightings were 'explicable by natural events', although shortly afterwards the Government explicitly banned RAF personnel from discussing sightings with anyone not from the military.

The U.S. Government had adopted a similar policy of official secrecy five years earlier, in the wake of a spate of incidents near the U.S. Air Force base at Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947 — incidents that Spielberg uses as his starting point for his TV series.

And so the modern history of UFOs, aliens — and official cover-ups was born.

British UFO researcher Jenny Randles, who has spent more than 20 years investigating UFO and alien phenomena, maintains that in more recent times alien kidnapping has become much more common.

"An ever growing tide of people suspect that they may be alien abductees," she says.

So is it fact or fiction? I'm not certain, but the evidence of witnesses such as Jason Andrews and Bridget Grant is hard to ignore. And it's clear that, as the 21st century begins, opinions are changing.

The Government announced recently that it was 'open-minded' about the 'existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms' — a markedly different official position from the one taken half a century ago.

Perhaps the politicians are beginning to accept that we are not alone. Steven Spielberg certainly does.

STANDARD, Terrace, B.C., Canada - July 17, 2002 CR: G. Conway

# We're UFO central

Researcher Brian Vike says Terrace is a B.C. hot spot for unusual sightings

By JENNIFER LANG  
IT ALL STARTED at around 9 p.m. on a dark winter's eve in February.

Three women from Houston, B.C., were driving home from Smithers after a day of shopping when they noticed something unusual in the sky.

A bright, shining object was visible high in the clouds above them. They thought it was the moon.

Then it did something strange. It moved.

Without warning it swept through the cloud bank, dropped down towards the dark forest next to the highway, flew over their vehicle and vanished out of sight.

Enter Brian Vike, an independent field researcher who's been a full-time investigator into strange occurrences across northern B.C. for the past four years.

"They're just normal folks," Vike says. "But what they seen scared the heck out of them. One of them didn't even go to work and had to have someone stay with her for about a week."

A mutual friend put them in touch with Vike, a former forest industry worker who lives in Houston B.C.

Vike, 50, is a friendly-sounding guy with a plain way of talking. He likes to interview people face to face. That way he can see if they're telling the truth.

The women, seated

around a kitchen table as they told their story, were visibly nervous. On Feb. 1 they'd seen a huge, boomerang-shaped object with seven rectangular lights across the bottom.

"These people here are credible. They're not a bunch of hooligans," he says. They're church-goers who are married with children.

And they're definitely not the only "normal folks" in northern B.C. who've seen a UFO lately.

After the Telkwa Sighting, other reports from people along the Highway 16 route began to trickle into Vike's investigative headquarters, HBCC-UFO Research.

He wondered if the sightings were connected, so he issued a call all along Highway 16, asking anyone who had seen anything unusual in the sky to contact him.



Brian Vike

He was inundated with reports by phone, email and through the post as Vike's request appeared in newspapers from Prince George to Kitimat.

But he wasn't prepared for the sheer number — a whopping 66 unexplained sightings from communities along, and north of, the highway — making UFO history.

Terrace, Vike says, is the undisputed hot spot of the region, with 17 sightings from here alone.

He received three sightings from Kitimat, two

from Cranberry Junction, eight in Kitwanga, four in Old Hazelton and one in New Hazelton.

That's not counting the sightings that have come in from further east.

"That's a lot of sightings," Vike says, adding most of the reports came in during February and March.

They share some similarities, but mostly the reports are different.

Some UFOs looked like meteors or stars that changed direction all of a sudden.

"Meteors don't do that and stars, of course, stay stationary."

One report involved a group of older men who were camping south of Burns Lake when they saw an object they thought was an airplane at first.

It stopped in the distance above a field.

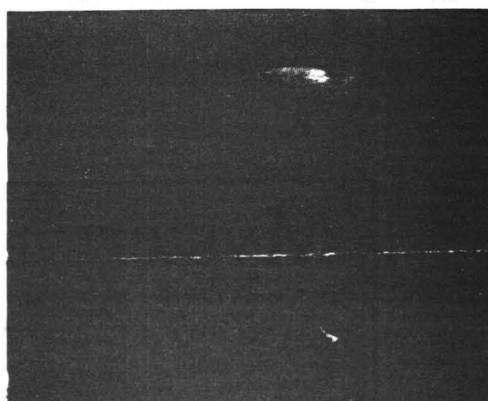
"He described it as, 'The light was sweeping something.' Then it was gone faster than it even arrived. So what was that?"

A group driving into Terrace watched a cube-shaped cloud hover above the peak of a mountain near Usk and then vanish.

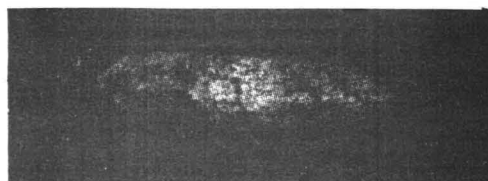
Vike, who used to volunteer at the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium in Vancouver and was also a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, may be a scientist at heart.

"What I'm trying to do is look into [the report] and come up with possibilities that might fit."

Venus, also known as the Evening Star, has been responsible for countless UFO reports. The planet



ALIEN AIRCRAFT or a blimp? No one knows what this Bremerton, WA, sighting is



A CLOSE up of the Bremerton, Wa. sighting

has tricked a few people who should know better, including astronauts and pilots.

Other UFOs are found to be aircraft, meteors, satellites, stars or even blimps.

Still, most of the northwest sightings remained unexplained — for now.

"Is there an attraction to Alcan? There's a big power source there."

So far he's ruled out secret military exercises above regional airports, but there's more work to be done.

He still has to contact observatories, and aviation agencies like Nav Canada. Data can also be run through astronomy pro-

grams to see if a sighting can be correlated with a known object.

"I can tell you right now, a lot of them are not going to have answers," he says.

Meanwhile, Vike, the Telkwa Sighting and the Terrace reports are slated to be the focus of an upcoming episode of a new Discovery Channel show.

"Our town is excited," he says. "I'm invited to the next council meeting — whenever that is!"

Contact: HBCC-UFO Research by phone or fax at 1-250-845-2189. Email hbccufo@yahoo.com. The website address is www.geocities.com/hbccufo/home.html

# ALIENS ON THE SPACE HIGHWAY

by TONY LEONARD  
**THESE** are the amazing pictures that offer the best evidence yet that aliens DO exist.

The stunning images - taken by a satellite trained on the sun - appear to show UFOs travelling along a space highway.

The objects photographed vary in shape and size... and one is even a dead-ringer for the USS Enterprise from TV's Star Trek.

The satellite which took the pictures had originally been set up as a joint project by US space outfit NASA and the European Space Agency to observe the sun.

But boffins were shocked when it beamed back hundreds of images of what look like spaceships.

They were even more staggered to find that the craft seemed to be following the same path - along an "alien road" - supporting the theory that they are being steered by intelligent life-forms.

Now UFO experts believe the images are proof that extra-terrestrial life is out there.

## Excited

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, said: "The images are irrefutable in that they are from official satellites owned by NASA. They resemble the sort of spacecraft we used to see in sci-fi programmes such as Star Trek."

"To all intents and purposes here is evidence of alien life-forms in space that appear structured and seem to have intelligently controlled movements."

"I'm extremely excited at the prospect of seeing authenticated images coming into the public domain that have taxed a considerable number of people at NASA."

NASA has refused to comment officially on the images.

But UFO investigators claim it is significant that NASA expert Jill Tarter last year publicly stated that she believed there was intelligent life in space.

She said: "I think it is quite probable there is life, and in fact intelligent life, elsewhere in our galaxy."

The images can be seen at Leicester's Space Centre on January 24, 25 and 26.

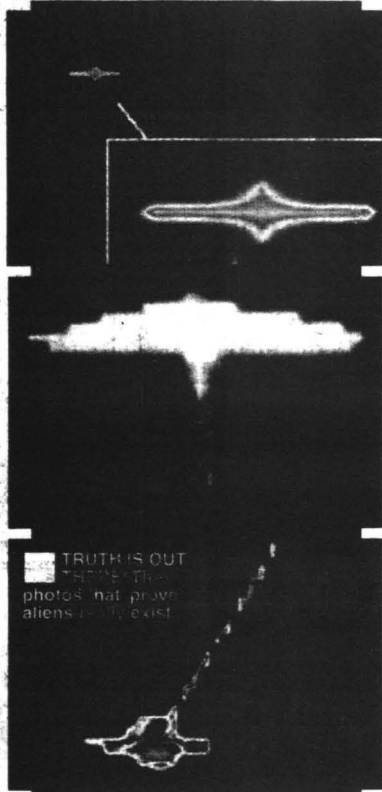
## Did you see this UFO?

As public relations officer for Southampton UFO Group, I have received a report from a mother and her adult son who were walking in Lordship on the evening of Saturday, September 7.

They spotted a brightly lit disc-shaped object hovering over the area. It didn't seem like an aircraft and they were startled to see it suddenly speed off towards Eastleigh. No sound was heard. Further details are being retained so as not to influence anyone who may have also seen it.

Inquiries are being made of local authorities and a sighting form is being sent to the pair.

If anyone has information about it please contact me.  
ERNE SEARS,  
23 Ashburton House,  
Rotary Court, Netley  
Abbey, Southampton  
SO31 4EF



# Mystery in the sky above Loch Ness

FOLK around Loch Ness have been keeping watch on the night skies after mystery lights appeared above the village of Drumnadrochit last weekend.

Local astronomers have been called in to see if they can find the truth about what is out there, while residents in Drumnadrochit have gathered to watch the light in the early hours of the morning.

"It's the buzz of the village," said Liz Gresham, whose husband Ian first spotted the light.

"A lady who lives in the respite centre asked the kids if they had seen the light. When they said they had, she told them: 'They should do something about that. It's not natural'."

Mr Gresham first noticed the light when he looked out of his window at around 1.30am last week to check for snow and has since filmed the light using the family camcorder.

"It's amazing, whatever it is, because it spins and rotates into shapes," Mr Gresham declared.

"It looks green when you look at it on the video, but it's actually bright blue. We sat and pondered about it. It can't be a shooting star, otherwise, it would shoot off, and it's not an aircraft. It's amazing how it just hovers about and then heads off in different directions. When it slows down, you can see it's not round, it's oblong."



□ Liz Gresham (left) and her daughter Nicole view video footage of the mystery lights.

Mrs Gresham revealed that people were coming down every night to watch it. "I've never seen anything like it," she said.

"It looks as though there are two black things, one at the top and one at the bottom and colours in the middle. For the colours to blend like that it must be spinning round."

Mrs Gresham has even

contacted RAF Lossiemouth to see if they have picked up anything on radar but was told there is no record of it. The station radar is not manned after 11pm at night.

The light gradually moves across the north-west sky, then appears to take off in a different direction. "It looks as though it's going down, but it's actually getting further away," Mr Gre-

sham claimed. "With the camera, I've been trying to get as close in as possible. Whether you expect to see some little aliens waving back at you, I don't know."

The family are keeping an open mind about what the light may be, but are not ruling out an extra-terrestrial origin.

"The whole village, to be honest, thinks it's a UFO. That's what's

putting worries in their minds," Mrs Gresham stated. "I have been on astronomy websites and there's not a star that does anything like that."

"We're now just waiting for the kidnappings to start!"

Less worried are the couple's three children, Nicole (12), Lauren (8) and Bradley (7), who are excited about the whole phenomenon

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES, Cockermouth, England - Nov. 15, 2002

# County pulls in the aliens!

## Freewheeling through the archives

with How Michael

**"A tumbler-shaped craft was spotted in the sky over the Solway by observers in Distington, Silloth and Wigton."**

local sightings seem to occur in clusters, which really proves nothing. How many people witnessed similar phenomena and said nothing? I didn't. It's likely that there were many more such sightings, all unreported and unrecorded, which were more evenly spaced out.

In a recent press report, Bonnybridge was singled out as being the centre of UFO activity. The Solway coast is another. Whitehaven had a spate of sighting back in 1967, in January and February.

On February 24, a spherical object was seen over Ambleside at 9.35pm. A similar object was spotted over Whitehaven at 9.45pm. The same UFO? One viewing could have been a hoax or a mistake. Two sightings? Unlikely.

So what was it? Who knows? An explanation which was often dragged out by various authoritative bodies was that these must have been weather balloons. Ten minutes from Ambleside to Whitehaven? Some balloon.

Ambleside and Conistone had featured in the sixties sightings. For most of them, the physical description of the UFOs was similar. In August 1963, a tumbler-shaped craft was spotted in the sky over the Solway by observers in Distington, Silloth and Wigton.

UFOs were in the news, and the local papers, in January, 1982. A mysterious object had been seen and reported by countless West Cumbrians. To quote from a description given by one observer: "At about 9.15pm I saw a large floating light come in from the

coast and move silently across the sky. It was as big as a very bright star, and lights were flashing regularly on it."

So was this a credible witness? I think he might have been. It was none other than Terry Kirtton, then editor of the *Times & Star*, who was out jogging near Dearham at the time. Dearham is not a million miles away from Broughton Moor, and our area did house air force establishments. Coincidence?

So why were the men from Mars, or any other planet, interested in us? Members of the local Aetherius Society were convinced that Martians or Venusians were flying their craft over the Solway to 'mop up radioactive dust from Windscale and Calder Hall, to save us from ourselves.' Ingenious but unlikely.

So where do they come from? It's only a guess, but then it's all a guessing game when it comes to UFOs. I suspect that they are and have been man-made craft, all very hush-hush.

If you have a prototype, it has to be tested somewhere. So where better to test it than in our part of the world. Somewhere comparatively quiet, sparsely populated and remote. Our planes, American planes? Are we ever likely to find out until they open up the archive files sometime in the distant future.

One final thought. We have made numerous attempts at contacting alien beings over the years. Why? If they turn out to be intellectually inferior to ourselves, we'll probably invade their planet and exterminate or exploit them. If however they are technologically advanced enough to pay us a visit then we could end up as the victims. There's a lot to be said for being an insignificant little planet tucked away in the remoter part of the universe.

COURIER, Inverness, Scotland - Jan. 17, 2003 CR: A. Trotmann

"The two oldest were up on the first night and they thought it was fantastic," Mrs Gresham recalled. "Nicole came home from school and told us she had to stand there a hundred times a day and tell people about it."

Mr Gresham thought that the TV programme "The X-Files" had fired people's imagination. "I think people do believe there is a big place where they keep bits that have fallen off flying saucers," he said.

Maarten de Vries, of Highlands Astronomical Society, has studied the video with colleagues and, although he has not identified the object, he believes it is most likely to be man-made as it is too low to be a celestial body, he added.

"It's very unlikely it is extra-terrestrial or anything extra-terrestrial visiting, because there is no evidence of anything like that anywhere in the world. There are plenty of stories, but no concrete evidence," Mr de Vries stated.

"It is a UFO, because it is unidentified, but people confuse that with extra-terrestrials. It's very possible it's a single light source that has been blurred by the atmospheric conditions, and atmospheric conditions have been very bad."

"If I had seen this, I would be intrigued - so thumbs-up to the people for making the video."



# Grampians 'hot spot' for UFOs

By NATHAN ANDERSON

THE Grampians has been identified as a 'hot spot' for Unidentified Flying Objects.

In the latest edition of The Australian UFO Bulletin, sightings investigations officer, Paul Norman, reports on a series of sightings in the National Park.

He has seen the objects above the Roses Gap area on a number of occasions, and up

to 20 can be seen at any one time.

He said his first sighting in the Grampians lasted just a few seconds.

## Big white glow

"It was a big white glow. It went out and there was a smaller yellow one glowing," Mr Norman told the Spectator. "Then there were 35-40 red lights, equally spaced, above and below. Then they started vibrating horizontally."

"To do this there has to be some intelligence."

"The whole thing lasted five seconds."

Stawell UFO watcher, Steve Swanwick, has visited the park every night since June last year, with sightings most nights.

He said the objects appeared to be communicating.

"I've seen them. They'd be six to eight kms apart and one will start to signal. If you do the same (by flashing a torch), they will signal back," he said.

## Craft respond

Mr Swanwick said no matter the number of

craft, there was always a larger one to which the smaller craft appeared to respond.

"They are not any type of conventional aircraft," Mr Swanwick said.

He sent footage of the objects, taken in 1997, to the United States where it was analysed and proved to be a UFO.

"They can sit in the one spot for one or two hours or they can take off in one or two seconds."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 14, 2002 CR: G. Conway

## Interior residents: We saw flying ball of light

By Nicole Fitzgerald  
The Interior News

SMITHERS — Reports of UFO sightings are flying around the central Interior and the credibility of the sightings is gaining momentum.

"I can't keep up with all that is going on," said an excited and exhausted Brian Vike, a UFO researcher in Houston.

Already this year, more than 70 sightings of unidentified flying objects have been reported in northern B.C.

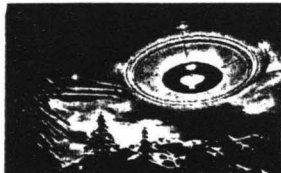
Since a local story was published last week, a handful of witnesses have come forward claiming they saw a ball of light simi-

lar to one that Telkwa resident Gordon Stewart reported seeing on July 29.

Teacher Dina Hanson of Quick called Stewart to share the details of her sighting, which she recorded in her journal the day after her experience.

Her son, civic engineer Ryan Hanson, also saw the object, which partially matched Stewart's description.

The Hansons' sightings took place five minutes earlier than Stewart's sighting, and involved a bright light travelling at high speed in a southwesterly direction. In both cases, the observers commented on the awe-striking



Signs of the times?

orites produce sound, she is uncertain.

"I am pretty cynical about things like UFOs," she said. "But because there was no sound, I think it is remotely possible it was something else."

A Smithers family of late-night hot-tubbers, two adults and their children, also contacted Stewart, sharing a similar story, adding that the light went through a series of loops.

Smithers resident Dan Derbyshire reported an unrelated sighting, saying he wanted to support those stumbling upon these unexplainable phenomena.

"Sometimes people feel they are

the only ones [who are seeing unusual sights]," Derbyshire said. "But, I thought I'd let them know they aren't alone."

He stated he is a believer in UFOs, but dismissed his own sighting as that of an American flight exercise.

Vike surmises Derbyshire's suspicions are correct after a series of phone calls attributed that sighting to a military reconnaissance drone passing overhead.

Stewart is heartened by the additional reports coming in.

"[People] can't say I've lost my marbles," Stewart laughed. "There are too many people who have seen it. I am not the only one."

WESTERN GAZETTE, Yeovil, Somerset, England - July 11, 2002

## A personal quest for the truth about UFOs

by Matthew Bell

Correspondent  
e-mail: newsdesk@westgaz.co.uk

A UFO spotter says he is bidding to expose the mysteries behind crop circles and their links to unidentified flying objects.

Alan Foster, aged 42, of Meare, near Glastonbury, has been compiling information on crop formations and UFOs for 30 years and his work has taken him to 70 countries and he has worked at more than 30 US military bases. It is his "personal quest".

For six years he has been sharing his experiences on the lecture circuit visiting community groups across the country.

Mr Foster said: "It was April 1973, when I was returning from a church confirmation service when I had a UFO encounter. It was in a village and completely silent."

"I could see something with lots of lights flying perhaps 200 yards completely silently. It was quite unusual."

"There was something in that the craft came over the village in one direction and the engine was off. The craft fol-

lowed by silently, the village was in complete darkness."

Mr Foster claims information is not getting out about UFOs because Governments are sitting on it.

He said: "The US military is fully aware of UFOs and its reality, look at Area 51. It continues to happen all over the world in remote areas and crop circles are part of this. Scientists are hiding this information from the people."

"We have the Freedom of Information Act in Britain and there is a 30-year delay before any information is released. There is the Roswell incident in 1947 where a

UFO crashed, there were a number of witnesses to it."

Mr Foster has a catalogue of pictures from crop formations, some of which he showed to the Western Gazette, and says are so technically advanced, they could not have been hoaxes. He also claims there have been certain cases of villages having blackouts because of the effects of magnetic fields.

● MR Foster has written a book called Ascension: Poems of Prophecy. If anyone has information they would like to share with him, he can be contacted on 01458 860543.



**SOLVING MYSTERIES:** Crop formation expert Alan Foster, of Meare, wants the Government to come clean about information he claims it holds about unidentified flying object incidents. He says scientists are hiding information about UFOs. Picture by Matthew Bell.

ADVERTISER, Ilkeston, England - Oct. 10, 2002

## It's not light as we know it Jim

A CIGAR-shaped UFO drifted over Kirk Hallam - then did an encore.

The massive craft appeared to head for the village of West Hallam before returning from whence it came.

It was watched by an amazed family of three, who lodged a detailed report with the Phenomena Research Association.

Although looking like a cigar, it flew sideways and had a series of lights.

Association official Omar Fowler said: "It made a low-pitched droning noise that is typical of a large UFO craft."

"It is a major sighting and points to an increase in activity in the Ilkeston area."

It comes days after a man spent over an hour watching two white lights circle the Nottingham Road area. He alerted police.

The latest sighting came at 7.45pm on Monday, September 30th. Police say they received no other reports.

But a precise description was drawn up by the three witnesses, including a mother who watched it through binoculars.

She said: "I have never seen anything like it. There's no aeroplane like that."

"It seemed to float across and there was this hum coming from it."

Her son first saw the UFO while he was looking towards Little Hallam Hill. He alerted his parents.

The object had two rows of white lights near each end. Underneath were two yellow lights - and a red pulsating beam.

The centre of the craft was dark and it was difficult to gauge its size. But the woman held a biro at arm's length and said it appeared as long as that.

The UFO came from the direction of the Stanton Works and later headed back that way.

About four months ago, the Kirk Hallam family reported seeing another flying cigar at about the same time of the evening. This was silent and had a row of 20 red lights.

# 'GLOWING OBJECT' LIT UP ENTIRE FOREST

## U.K. REVEALS UFO REPORT

By Peter Goodspeed

After two decades of secrecy and alleged cover-ups, Britain's Ministry of Defence has been forced to release all its files on a reported UFO sighting that has long been dubbed "Britain's Roswell."

As the result of an experiment in more open government, Britain's Parliamentary Ombudsman has ordered the Ministry of Defence to open its "Rendlesham File," which details a 1980 sighting of a glowing triangular-shaped UFO that allegedly crashed in a pine forest surrounding a Royal Air Force base that was being used by NATO to store nuclear weapons.

Over the years, the sighting at RAF Woodbridge, near Ipswich in eastern England, became a classic close encounter of the third kind, with some published reports claiming U.S. military police stationed at the air base had met and conversed with intergalactic aliens who were 1.5 metres tall and dressed in nylon coated pressure suits.

The aliens were said to have spoken in electronically synthesized voices with a strong American accent. And in some reports, the Americans are said to have helped the aliens repair their damaged space ship. Over the years the incident has become almost as famous among UFO enthusiasts as the allegedly secret recovery of the bodies of space aliens from a crashed spaceship in Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

For the past 20 years, UFO enthusiasts have inundated British officials with requests for more information regarding the alleged sighting, only to be repeatedly told the incident had been dismissed after "no evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom."

Last week, however, Britain's Parliamentary Ombudsman Ann Abraham ordered the Ministry of Defence to release its "Rendlesham File," named after the forest outside the base, after concluding defence officials had repeatedly suppressed documentation on the case.

Fewer than 20 people had seen

the file prior to last week's ruling. Now, the archive documents surrounding the sighting have been placed on Britain's Ministry of Defence Internet Web site ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)).

While they contain no reference to any direct contact with aliens, the documents do depict two bewildering and frightening nights in late 1980 in which at least seven U.S. servicemen encountered something strange and unexplained in a misty forest surrounding their nuclear weapons base.

A memo drafted by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt of the U.S. Air Force, the Deputy Commander of RAF Bentwaters, which was adjacent to RAF Woodbridge, describes the two unexplained sightings in detail.

Around 3 a.m. on Dec. 27, 1980 two U.S. Air Force security police patrolling the perimeter of RAF Woodbridge reported seeing unusually bright lights at the back of the base.

"Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate," Lt.-Col. Halt's report says. "The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high."

"It illuminated the entire forest with a white light."

"The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank[s] of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs."

"As the patrolmen approached the object, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared."

The security detail reported that as the UFO departed, animals on a nearby farm "went into a frenzy."

The next day, as U.S. officials investigated the UFO site, they discovered three depressions in the ground approximately "1.5 inches deep and 7 inches in diameter."

The ground appeared to be "blasted or scuffed-up" and trees in the vicinity had been scarred on one side, in a circle, all around the landing site. Tree branches, some



Internet image of a purported, unspecific UFO sighting: A recently released British report into a UFO sighting near a Royal Air Force base in 1980 says a glowing object left three depressions in the ground.

as thick as an inch in diameter, had been broken off surrounding trees as high as three metres.

On the night of Dec. 29, Lt.-Col. Halt and a team of three other military experts toured the site, equipped with a Geiger counter and a Starlight night vision scope.

When they checked the depressions in the ground allegedly left by the UFO, the investigators recorded radiation readings that were "significantly higher than the average background readings" one would expect to find.

"Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the centre of the triangle formed by the depressions," Lt.-Col. Halt said. "A nearby tree had moderate readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions."

As the men worked, they also tape recorded their conversations.

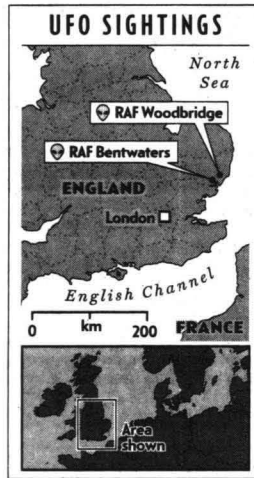
Around 1:30 a.m., just after the bells of a local church tolled across the dark, cold forest, the U.S. military investigators noted that there were "very strange sounds out of the [nearby] farmer's barnyard animals."

"They're very, very active, making an awful lot of noise," Lt.-Col. Halt says into his tape.

Just then, the team members all witnessed a sudden bright light among the trees of the forest.

"It's a strange, small red light, looks maybe a quarter to a half mile, maybe further out," Lt.-Col. Halt reports as he and his men started to move through the woods trying to get a closer look.

"A red, sun-like light was seen through the trees," he reported lat-



NATIONAL POST

er. "It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared."

"Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon."

The objects "moved rapidly, in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights," the report says. The two objects in the north appeared to be elliptical when viewed through binoculars, then they turned into full circles and disappeared, after hanging in the sky for an hour.

The object to the south remained visible for up to three hours, hovering over RAF Woodbridge while it "beamed down a stream of light from time to time," Lt.-Col. Halt said, adding that "numerous individuals witnessed the activities."

A Ministry of Defence memo included in the file shows considerable skepticism about the sightings, although it said the department was "open-minded" about them.

"No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom, and no further investigations were carried out," the memo said.

"No further information has come to light which alters our view that the sightings of these lights was of no defence significance. No unidentified object was seen on radar during the period in question, and there was no evidence of anything having intruded into U.K. airspace, and landed near RAF Woodbridge."

British officials theorized that the U.S. airmen actually saw the beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse, located about 11 kilometres up the coast from RAF Woodbridge, "with distortions being caused by the beam having been seen through the trees."

"There were also suggestions that fireball activity might explain some of the lights," one departmental report says.

"In the absence of any hard evidence, the MoD remains open-minded about these sightings."

National Post  
pgoodspeed@nationalpost.com

NEWS SHOPPER, Sidcup, England - Sept. 4, 2002

**BEXLEYHEATH:** Author appeals for information from 1950s youngsters who saw 'flying saucer'

# UFO kids urged 'phone home'

by LINDA PIPER

lpiper@london.newsquest.co.uk

A FORMER policeman who is researching UFO sightings in Britain is trying to trace a group of Bexleyheath children.

John Hanson, who lives in the West Midlands, is writing up a journal of UFO activity between 1941 and 1982.

He believes the children, now well into their 50s and 60s, could have been witnesses to an extraordinary sighting in Bexleyheath in 1955.

The incident took place on July 17 that year, in King Harold Way, when Margaret Fry, who lived in Hythe Avenue, was taking her way to her doctor's surgery.

She and the doctor, Dr Thukarta, both saw what she

described as an "enormous craft" hovering over the doctor's car.

She described the craft as saucer-shaped with a "blue/silver/grey/pewter texture, yet, none of those colours."

Mrs Fry said it also had what looked like three spheres inset into its base, one of which "fopped out", landing on the ground at the junction of near-by Ashbourne and Whitfield Road.

A group of twelve children who were playing nearby saw it and went over to have a closer look, before it rose up from the

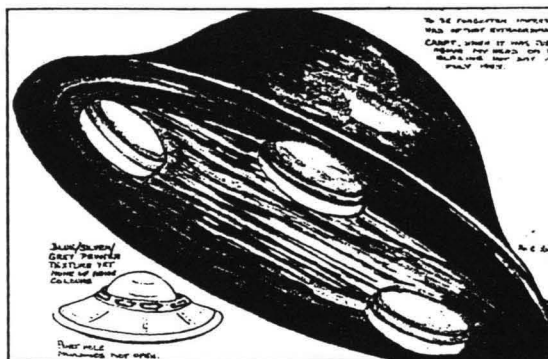
ground and into the sky, disappearing from sight after a few minutes.

Dr Thukarta died in 1965 but Mr Hanson has spoken at length to Mrs Fry, who now lives in North Wales, about her experience.

They would both like to know whether anyone else remembers this incident, particularly the children.

If you were one of those children or know anything about the incident, email Mr Hanson at [hanson45@btopenworld.com](mailto:hanson45@btopenworld.com) or write to him at PO Box 10467 Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 1WF.

Alternatively, call News Shopper on 01689 885723.



● 'This (drawing) is the exact impression I had of that extraordinary craft, just 18ft above my head on that blazing hot day in July 1955,' wrote Margaret Fry



# 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 South American newspapers and other media sources.]

May 17, 2002 — *EFE News Agency* — Electrician Alleges UFO Abduction in Southern Chile — The light that hovered over his car made him pass out. When he woke up, he was over 10 km. from where the encounter occurred — Santiago, May 14 (EFE) — An electrician claims having been abducted by a UFO while traveling by car between two towns in southern Chile.

Gabriel Encina, 47, states that the strange experience occurred six years ago, but that the anguish he experienced kept him from disclosing it until now. "No one can keep me from thinking that I was abducted by something or someone. What I saw wasn't an airplane or a flying saucer—it was simply a very bright light that landed on top of my car," said Gabriel Encina in an interview published by *El Diario Austral de Temuco*. Encina notes that he never discussed the subject and that only his wife and close friends knew about it. "I know that others will call me a madman."

"In spite of the time that's elapsed, I'm still a bit affected by it. Ever since that abduction, I have headaches, migraines and bone trouble," he explained. "I have difficulty sleeping, I'm afraid of dreaming, and when I close my eyes, I see that light following me, moving slowly toward me."

Chile, a nation of 15.5 million inhabitants, ranks fifth among the countries having the greatest number of UFO sightings, after the USA, Peru, Brazil and Russia. Encina recalled that the incident occurred on June 27, 1996 at 20:00 hrs., (24:00 GMT) while traveling between Los Sauces and Angol in the La Araucania region, 608 km to the south of Santiago, under clear skies and the damp weather characteristic of that winter season. "I suddenly saw a very bright white light some 3 meters in diameter which appeared and descended and followed me. I accelerated, but curiously, the car lost speed," he added. He says that when the light landed on his vehicle, the radiance was so intense that he could make out dust particles floating in the air. "That's when I felt anguished and passed out."

According to Encina, when he awoke, both he and his car were some 12 km. from where the encounter with the alleged UFO took place. "My legs trembled and my head hurt. I was surprised that my wristwatch had stopped at 20:05 hours, although almost an hour had elapsed since the encounter," Encina explained.

In mid-April of 2001, Erasmo Mena, an expert with the Centro Informativo Para el Fenomeno OVNI en America Latina (CIFOAL) disclosed the "massive" presence of UFOs between the cities of Angol and Victoria which could be seen by the unaided eye. Until 1990, Chile experienced over 400 sightings and the country's northern region was the scene of a number of cases, such as so-called close encounters of the third kind and the abduction of a Chilean army corporal by the crew-members of alleged flying saucers. — CREDIT: Ing. Marco Reynoso, Fundacion Cosmos

May 23, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — ANOTHER MUTILATED ANIMAL FOUND IN FIELD — \*\*\*This is the third such case\*\*\* — GENERAL ACHA (DNA) — Another cow turned up dead in a very strange way in a field of the General Acha region. As in previous cases, the animal was bloodless and was missing some organs. No traces were found in the place and the causes of these deaths remain a source of mystery to investigators. During the recent discovery, despite the fact that the animal had been dead for days in the outdoors, it had not yet putrefied.

Mystery struck once more in a local field: the latest event occurred in the "El Huitru" farm some 70 km. from this city near provincial highways 115 and 18, where a dead cow was found with characteristics similar to the first two. It was bloodless and was missing an eye, jaw and tongue. The strange part of the case is that authorities were unable to find a perpetrator for the crime committed at rural lot 16, section 9, of the Utracan department.

In a conversation with this newsroom, the main official of the local town hall, Roque Ceferino Estepa, reported that the cattleman claimed that between 18:00 hrs of the 14th and 17:00 hrs of the 15th of May, he had found one of his Aberdeen Angus cows--approximately 3 years old and weighing 450 kilograms--mutilated by persons unknown. Cattleman Dario Garcia alleged that the cow had been found completely exsanguinated, without a tongue and missing a left ear, jaw, an eye, its udders and vital organs.

He further opined that in spite of the incisions made with sharp hot objects, given that the animal's fat was still warm, there were no traces of blood on the spot. Police elements under the command of Officer Lucero established themselves in the field, together with veterinarian Juan Manuel Orterdag, who analyzed the strange death.

Instructional and Correctional Court No. 1 of General Acha, presided by Judge Manuel Alvarez, has intervened in the matter.

This is the third animal to have been found mutilated in similar circumstances, which places a shroud of mystery over the police investigation. The same happened only a few days ago at a ranch in the vicinity of Salliquello, where police investigation has still been unable to find an answer. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

May 28, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — \*\*\*More Strange Animal Deaths\*\*\* — TWO COWS FOUND DEAD IN AN ARAUZ FIELD — JACINTO ARAUZ (C) — Two bovines were found dead under strange circumstances this weekend in a field located north of the town of Jacinto Arauz. As occurred in other cases recorded in several locations of the provincial east, the cows were missing certain organs and no traces or clues as to their deaths were found.

Although this correspondent became aware of the event late yesterday, professional veterinarians who examined the animals were notified on Saturday by the field's owner, whose name was not disclosed. The cows were some eight meters away from each other in an area with dense ground cover.

The animals were examined by veterinarians Evaristo Doumoulin and Gaston Granieri. The first could not find a logical explanation when asked for one: "In 21 years in this profession I never saw anything like it. Both cows were missing teeth and one was missing the abdominal tissue from the inguinal area. Their mammary glands were missing, having been completely excised without leaving traces or damage in surrounding tissue. The incisions to the skin were clean and irregular and did not affect tissue in immediate contact with the skin. No muscles were affected. (One cow) was also missing an ear and had a ring of skin concealed between both parts of the outer ear, which was perfectly cut."

(The cow) was also missing its lips and 60% of its tongue. The other animal showed similar characteristics, with the difference that the mammary gland was only partly missing. "In both cases normal blood coagulation was found in the jugular vein," concluded the veterinarian. As readers will recall, other animals were found dead in equally strange circumstances in the fields of Macachin, General Acha and the Salliquello region of the Province of Buenos Aires. While

the deaths were originally ascribed to lightning strikes, this explanation was set aside. This fact has drawn attention of provincial and national media alike. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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July 30, 2002 — *C.O.R. (Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense)* [Rio Cuarto Ufological Circle], Rio Cuarto, Argentina — **Policeman Sees Giant UFO — \*\*Was on Duty at the Time\*\*** — Guillermo Arias, who provides services in the dependency of the town of Chajan, 60 km southeast of Rio Cuarto, was on routine patrol through rural Chajan at 23:00 hours on Sunday, July 21, 2002, when he heard over the radio that his colleagues in arms over at Achiras were seeing lights in sectors of said community, and that they were heading toward Chajan along Nat'l Route 8, which links the cities of Rio Cuarto in Cordoba with Villa Mercedes in the province of San Luis Arias. At the wheel of the police patrol van, he managed to see a formation of 7 lights in the distance and decided to drive 10 km along a rural dirt road. When he had covered said distance, he noticed, not without surprise, that the engine of his vehicle sputtered and died, causing the police car to strike the edge of a guard rail.

Simultaneously, the lights on the van's dashboard began turning on and off randomly, the police radio went haywire and its dial displayed the random shifting of the frequencies (channel codes) while the cabin became filled with an acrid odor, as though of burnt wiring, and the interior lights and stop indicator, which were broken, began lighting on and off. Seized by fear, Arias leaped from the van and walked away a few meters down the road, losing his cellphone in the escape.

The darkness was total, when suddenly, amid the [confusing] situation, an immense light emerged from a field adjacent to the road as a triangular object rose majestically into the air. Now, (the officer's) condition went from fear to abject terror as he saw what he described as a real "floating city" some 200 meters long with a long row of windows (perhaps as many as 100). Arias claims having seen something move behind them, describing the movement as "TV sets which make lines and shadows" (sic), which he defined as "non-human", and that many beams of light came out of the giant triangle, aimed at the ground. The event lasted 2 or 3 seconds, but Arias said "it felt like an eternity" to him.

The object suddenly rose and sped away, vanishing behind the hills of a local field. Arias's statement indicates that while the object moved away, the entire sector was lit "as though it were daytime," since he could clearly make out farms, fields, barbed wire fences, etc., and that the afterglow lasted another 20 minutes.

Recovering from his nervous condition, he returned to the vehicle and notified his comrades of the experience, receiving radio instruction that reinforcements were being sent but. In the darkness, he heard the cellphone ring, and that is how he found it: his wife was trying to find him and his fellows. He told her briefly about what had happened and sat down to wait for the expected assistance. Patrolman Barrios from Achiras was trying to keep him calm over the radio, while Sgt. Medina, who was the first to arrive on the scene, and Sgt. Cordoba were among the subofficers who reached the area to lend aid to their comrade in distress.

Meanwhile, other police elements radioed the incident to their superiors at Regional Unit 9 at Rio Cuarto. After learning the details, these superiors issued specific directions. In this regard, we add that today, Monday noon, the senior officers of said police unit reported to Chajan to order a medical exam for Sgt. Arias and a subsequent re-creation of the events, for which they returned to the scene.

There was news coverage from Rio Cuarto Channel 13, LV-16 Radio Rio Cuarto and numerous FM stations of this city interviewed members of the C.O.R. to learn further aspects of this spectacular incident. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte, C.O.R.

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August 2, 2002 — *El Norte*, Province of El Chaco, Argentina — **ANOTHER MUTILATED BOVINE, THIS TIME IN LA TIGRA — LA TIGRA (San Bernardo Special Agency)** — Just when the SENASA report seemed to have done away with all of the theories that invaded our country and province with regard to cattle mutilations, a journalist from La Clotilde, Miguel Van Ek, informed *El Norte* of the existence of a case in La Tigra, in a field some 10 km away from the urban center. The pasture field, located in Lot 12, belonging to Horacio Salivar, 35, held a bovine who met the same fate as other similar ones which made the national news.

Salivar remarked with stupefaction that a neighbor had told him last Tuesday that there was "a flutter of crows" over his field. Upon reaching the field, he found that an 11 month old calf had died, but revealing strange injuries, among them the absence of eyes, tongue, maxillary muscles and anus.

The cattleman, confronted by this scene, alerted the local police unit, which in turn informed the Livestock Agency, contacting Pedro Tomas Bosch and the provincial capital's Rural and Ecological Police. But as of late Thursday, no one had visited the site, which leaves the rancher helpless in the face of the entirely atypical and fear-inspiring event.

Other singular aspects beyond the injuries which apparently caused the animal's death is the fact that there was a considerable number of crows flying over the area, but contrary to what is usually the case when an animal has died, none of the birds dared approach the dead bovine. Nor did the other bovines, who usually surround their dead companion, at least in the initial moments, come close. In this regard, rancher Salivar stated that "it's evident that its been dead for a few days, but it's neither stiff nor smelly. One of my cows died a while back, and in that case, the crows ate it up in a matter of hours. This is very odd, and it's the first time I've seen it," he said.

Moreover, the rancher manifested his annoyance toward the health authorities on the provincial or national levels, as well as municipal ones, "which did not even offer to provide me with minimal assistance," after the event was reported. He explained that "if I don't hear any word by tomorrow (meaning today) I will incinerate the animal, because I don't know what might happen. It could have a plague or something similar." Furthermore, the rancher said that "in all my years of working with livestock, I've never seen anything similar, only lately through television, when all of the cases became known at the national level."

Finally, Salivar highlighted that both he and his farmhands refuse to touch the animal, "because it's something weird... I don't believe, as it is said, that the mouse is involved, because in looking at the animal's position and body, it is very strange for it to die like that and that its eyes, tongue and everything else should be extracted so cleanly. Some days have gone by and there's still no odor. This is very weird," he insisted. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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August 4, 2002 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — **LOCAL RESIDENT CLAIMS SEEING UFO; HOSPITALIZED IN SHOCK — \*\*Cellphone snatched by unidentified object\*\*** — JACINTO ARAUZ (C) — A well-known resident of Jacinto Arauz was hospitalized late Friday in a state of shock after having had a strange experience in a field he owns, and which he was only able to discuss in early hours this morning.

Police officer Marcelo Alarcon told this correspondent's office that on Friday afternoon, Raul Dorado, 64, was touring the field located 5 km northeast of the town, as he is accustomed to do. The man explained to the police that "he heard loud sound on two occasions, like a whirlwind, which drew his attention. The third time, he saw something he



describes as a green circle with three legs hovering over him."

At that moment, Dorado fell to the ground, and according to his story, he carried a shotgun, binoculars and a cellphone, the latter of which was "taken from his hand," and he could clearly see being sucked into the object, which was apparently at low altitude, being unable to specify how high it was.

After the object disappeared toward the east, Dorado remained at the location for an hour before being able to rise and walk back to his car, returning to town in a state of shock. He was barely able to say a word, using signs and writing. Aided by his wife and neighbors, the man was admitted to the local hospital where he was cared for by Dr. Ana Maria Lazaric. In her preliminary examination, Lazaric was able to verify that the ring finger on the left hand had a puncture mark on the upper part of the nail, in the cuticle. Dorado could not say if it had occurred in his routine duties or at the moment [of the experience], but he did say that he was experiencing severe pain in that hand.

The man, who was only able to regain speech in early hours of the morning, said it is the first time that such a thing has happened to him. The police, at the command of the General Acha Regional Unit, commanded by inspector sheriff Carlos Munoz, is preparing an intervention with the Second Court of General Acha, presided by Judge Alvaro Reyes.

Meanwhile, Dorado's wife said yesterday that her husband was doing rather well at home and that he had fully regained his speech. The woman asked that her husband be granted some time to process the event he has lived through.

[Mrs. Dorado] said that it was hard to describe the experience, because when [Mr. Dorado] reached the house "he hugged me and wept, unable to speak." She also maintained that her husband, who was calmer now, admits to having intended to fire his shotgun at the object, but was unable to. And regarding the puncture on his finger, it was on the hand in which he held the cellphone. "It happened when it was taken away from him. Some of his fingers still hurt and he feels an itching sensation."

Following this incident, Deputy Sheriff Daniel Rosane, who is on furlough, but willingly made himself available for questions, reported that he has since dialed the rancher's cellphone a few times. It would ring and then made the typical sound of when buttons are being pressed to dial.

In a subsequent attempt, he discovered that the phone was answered, but only heard breathing sounds. In later attempts, the operator reported that the phone was either off or out of range. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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August 4, 2002 — *El Tribuno* [Provincial news section], Salta, Argentina — Santa Victoria Oeste — Strange discoveries and explosions — Mutilated Cows Found at 4,000 Meters Above Sea Level — A Salta geologist provides a curious account on strange deaths and demands an investigation — Juan Antonio Abarzua -- *El Tribuno* — Salta geologist Carlos Taballione specializes in high-altitude highways and has carried out such tasks for the United Nations in different parts of the country. He demanded a thorough, credible and serious investigation to uncover the enigma of Argentina's "mutilated cows," which recently flared up again in the Salta community of La Troja, where six cows were found missing their eyes, tongues and flesh and hide covering the lower jawbones, although the rest of their bodies was intact and gave off no odor whatsoever, and had not been caused by carrion animals or insects.

Taballione told *El Tribuno* that: "As soon as information on similar events began to appear throughout the republic, I recalled an event which occurred in August 2000 and which I witnessed. While involved in laying out the new Santa Victoria-La Quiaca road at the request of the Secretary of Mining and the local municipality, I found half a dozen lifeless animals in an esplanade located a little over 4,000 meters high. All of them showed the same signs which have characterized the unsolved mystery of "cattle mutilations". They had no eyes, tongue, flesh or hide on the lower jawbone. Nor did they issue any odor or attract flies. Condors, the world's most powerful winged predators, and which can consume a large bovine in less than two hours, seemed to ignore the carcasses. And not only that; I also recalled that in the recent cases and the one I witnessed, there were further similarities--the beasts appeared to have been slain simultaneously and did not make a single movement after hitting the ground. There were no tracks around them save their own, interrupted by a sudden and instant death. It was as if they hadn't even lost balance before dying. They left no signs of erratic movement, nor signs of a struggle for their existence. But there were even stranger things. All of the animals fell in the same direction, on their right flank, heads pointed toward the north and forming an almost perfect circumference of 100 meters in diameter."

Taballione, 55, noted that on said occasion he was "accompanied by a backwoodsman, who was startled by the discovery but attributed the deaths to lightning, which is very common in Abra La Apacheta, where we were standing. The man's reasoning was questionable," he added, "because when lightning strikes, it falls in a given location and not over a wide area. It is therefore impossible for one of these meteorological phenomena to cause the death of six animals over such a wide area. Still less to think that they were slain by individual lightning bolts. However, after taking a few snapshots, I continued my work and never forgot the incident, which represents a mystery I've never been able to solve."

The geologist noted that "the challenge to really find out what happened in these cases has spurred me on even more, now that similar claims have been made everywhere. The carnivorous mouse hypothesis put forward by SENASA is groundless: rodents are vegetarians, and the Puna [high Andean upland--SC] is not inhabited by the "red-muzzled" species to which the official explanation has ascribed the deaths. Nor are vampire bats to blame, and the theory put forward by my colleague Domingo Jakulica—who attributes lethal properties to the saliva of the flying hematophage *Desmodus Rotundus*—can be rejected, at least in cases occurring in the Puna. The only way to dispel all doubts is to conduct a thorough investigation. I don't mean to say that the Chupacabras or aliens will be found behind all of this, but the fact is that the nervous explanations given to justify the events are so weak that they make those who believe in alien intervention or fantastic predators seem credible," he concluded. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi and Gloria Coluchi

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August 7, 2002 — *El Diario de La Pampa*, Argentina — CONTRADICTIONS EMERGE IN REPORTING ANIMAL MUTES — "There exist no orders to cease accepting reports on cattle mutilations," said the chief of Regional Unit 1, Sheriff Inspector Juan Carlos Gorris, as well as the Assistant Chief of RU IV in the town of 25 de Mayo, Deputy Sheriff Osvaldo Olie, in regard to public statements by rural livestock producer Julia Cavanagh, who said: "Local police do not take down reports involving mutilated cows, because there are orders from above [not to do so]."

"Under no circumstances can we stop accepting reports, because we are obligated to act. The judge will determine later on if a crime should be investigated or not," said Gorris.

On this issue, the Chief of RU1 indicated that "today (meaning yesterday) I was in touch with the chief of the Telen Dependency (deputy sheriff Hector Bucher) and I asked him to go to the El Nauco ranch, 120 km away from said town, to make the pertinent inquiries."

While adding that he did not have Bucher's report in hand, he pointed out that "no one has gone to the sheriff's

office to file a report on these cases."

He then explained that El Nauco ranch is 50 hectares in size, and in this regard, "part of it falls under the jurisdiction of RU1 (at the Telen Sheriff's Office) and the other under RU IV (the Chacharramendi police station). The officer in charge of RU IV, Osvaldo Olie, indicated that "we are in the middle of an investigation. We still do not have official information to give out, because we're just finding out what happened."

Julia Cavanagh is the daughter of the pasture field's administrator, located some 70 km west of Chacharramendi, where she said that since June 20th to date, "six cows and four bulls have been found mutilated." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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August 9, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — **THREE BURROS MUTILATED IN JUJUY** — JUJUY — The discovery of three dead burros, showing signs of mutilation, raised concerns among residents of El Churcal in the Jujuvian department of Humahuaca, according to police sources.

The animals, belonging to Miguelina Martinez, were found lying in a pasture field. One of them was missing an eye, another its tail and part of the anus, while the third one--a pregnant female--had a circular wound in the lower abdomen and was missing its foetus.

The discovery of the mutilated animals was corroborated by Sixto Vazquez Suleta, an author from Humahuaca and former cultural affairs director of the province, who stated that the case is not normal and is not related to normal predator activity.

Vazquez Suleta stated that the animal bodies give off no odor, while dogs refuse to approach them, and there are no signs of violence or struggles in the place they were found. The mutilation claim was made at the Humahuaca sheriff's office, whose headquarters dispatched a mission to the scene to learn further details. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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August 9, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — **TEN REPORTS IN PATAGONES** — PATAGONES (A) -- Despite the fact that the red-muzzled mouse was officially fingered by SENASA as the culprit in over 200 animal mutilations in our country, and that the case was closed by said nationwide agency, cases are still being reported in Patagones.

This is what rancher Hugo Valdez told *La Nueva Provincia*. Valdez, whose property is 50 km northeast of the district seat and some 5000 meters distant from the first cases, at the Miguel Angel Cordoba field. "My son Ignacio made the discovery while out hunting with a friend. They approached the dead animal when they saw it." According to Valdez, the animal's death would have occurred some 10 days ago, approximately.

Upon reaching the site, they saw that it presented the characteristics of the mutilated animals. Faced with this find, they marked the area, returned home and then went back to see if it was really similar to other cases. "We proceeded to photograph it and perform a necropsy to see what parts were missing," said Valdez.

"We could readily see that in part of the lower jawbone, the bone was entirely dessicated. Right there, in that part, it gave the impression of an animal that had been dead for a very long time," he added. "This was not the case, however, with the rest of the body parts, meaning to say that there was no rigor mortis. On the other hand, the udder had been cut off in a circular manner and the anus had been extracted altogether. The digestive and reproductive tracts, as well as the bladder, were absent. There were no incisions nor extractions to be seen in the abdomen, on the other hand."

"It was also missing its tongue, but not its trachea. We were surprised when we cut the shoulder blade and turned [the animal] around. There, the flesh seemed practically natural, since an artery was cut and the blood was coagulated. We then opened the abdomen and the rumen, and we could see that the dung was as one would find in a recently butchered animal," explained the rancher.

He noted that there was a certain degree of odor, but the flesh gave the impression of having all of its colors, as though the animal had been recently butchered, which can be seen in the photographs. [NOTE: NO PHOTOGRAPHS PRESENTED WITH THE ARTICLE].

Hugo Valdez told this paper that he had comments on other cases, but never had direct access to any animal. "This is the first one on my property, and we don't discard the possibility that there could be others, since the wilderness is very dense and access is difficult."

The necropsy was carried out by Valdez and his son, who is a veterinary medicine student and whose school--in the province of La Pampa--had obtained access to parts from animals mutilated in this province. "What little he could see resembles greatly what we found in the field. Furthermore, a classmate from the Pampan community of Cuchillo Co had several mutilations on his own property and brought samples to the university. That's what they were able to see," concluded the rancher.

Another tank-emptying case occurred in a pasture field near to Hugo Valdez's, according to the property's owner, who refused to be identified. One of the large-capacity "Australian tanks" was found completely empty. The event occurred only a few days ago. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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August 22, 2002 — *Servicio Informativo Ovnologico*, Rio Cuarto, Argentina — **FIREMAN AND POLICE OFFICER BESIEGED BY BEAMS OF LIGHT** — RIO CUARTO — While no names were mentioned, it was learned from researchers in Rio Cuarto itself that the eyewitness account of Sergeant Guillermo Arias, involving his strange encounter with a 200-meter long triangular device before midnight on Sunday, July 21, 2002, near Chajan, some 60 km SE of Rio Cuarto, is gaining credibility by the moment. Researchers of the C.O.R (Centro Ovnologico Riocuartense) told this service that in spite of certain delays in research due to health reasons among some of the researchers, it has been possible to collect evidence consisting of other, eyewitness accounts, visual evidence, "in situ" measurements and an "in visu" survey of the sectors related to the events in question. This evidence is being analyzed in detail in order not to overlook any aspect.

Within the new evidence provided by the researchers there stands out an episode which, according to the researchers, "surpasses even the Arias experience", given that a policeman and a fireman were "beseiged by a luminous, unidentified flying object with a powerful violet beam." The same source declined identifying the parties involved, arguing "professional secrecy."

They did add that the event occurred moments before Arias's episode and almost in a straight line in a North-South direction. They noted that personal contact had already been made with the protagonists of this event, from whom reports had been received, and progress is being made toward the first investigative phase of this event in particular. Meanwhile, a commission shall work in an area near [the towns] of Chajan and Suco respectively, in gathering evidence. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte





DAILY MAIL, London, England - Sept. 7, 2002 CR: S. Gerrard

# A Lot Less Monster

Latest picture is a slimmed-down version  
—or perhaps it's the baby son of Nessie



The legend lives: A strange neck-like shape emerges from Loch Ness and is captured by Roy Johnston...



This classic shot was exposed as a hoax



James Gray's picture is similar to the latest

FROM the bleak waters of Loch Ness, a mysterious shape arcs gracefully upwards, then vanishes.

These intriguing pictures record the latest 'sighting' of the famous monster and waken once again the centuries-old legend of the Scottish lake.

But while Nessie hunters across the world salivate, cynics might muse that he is not quite the monster we thought he was.

Has he been on a diet? Is he withering with age? The more romantic might wonder if he has fathered a slimline successor.

The photographs were taken by Roy Johnston, until now a diehard non-believer, who expected to see no more than a few birds bobbing on the surface of the lake when he stopped his car to take in the view.

It was shortly before 9am on August 21 when Mr Johnston, 63, pictured inset above, pulled into a lay-by near Inch-nacardoch on the A82 which skirts the edge of the lake.

The retired printer was beginning the long trip home to Loughton, Essex, after a Highland holiday with his wife Janet.

Mrs Johnston stayed in the car while her husband took the well-trodden path through the trees to the water's edge, his battered old Nikon automatic round his neck.

As he gazed across the lake, the long neck-like shape surfaced and rose several metres before splashing gracefully

By Charlotte Gill

back and vanishing. 'I thought I was going mad,' said Mr Johnston.

'The first thought that sprang to my mind was, "It's an elephant". I know it sounds silly, but it looked like a trunk.'

'I had my camera hanging round my neck and I just started clicking.'

'I thought maybe it was a conger eel but I realised it was way too big.'

'It was about seven or eight feet out of the water and it was obvious that there was more of it underneath the surface.'

'It was a black, greyish colour but I couldn't see a head. It didn't make any noise. After a few minutes it disappeared with a splash that was barely audible.'

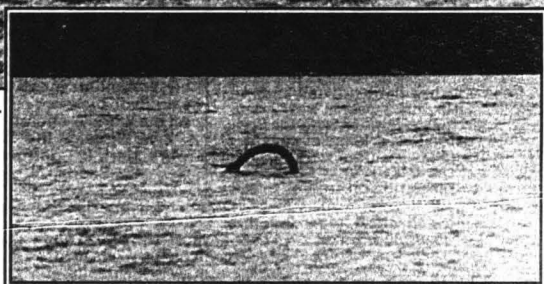
Mr Johnston remained frozen to the spot for several minutes before scrambling back to the car to tell his wife.

'Janet said I was talking rubbish and I started to think she was right,' he said.

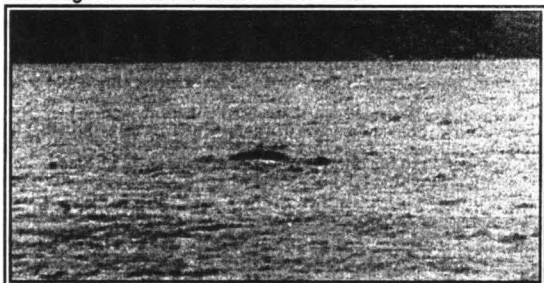
'It wasn't until we got home and had the pictures developed that she finally believed me.'

The most famous Nessie picture, taken in 1934 by a surgeon, was revealed 60 years later as a fake.

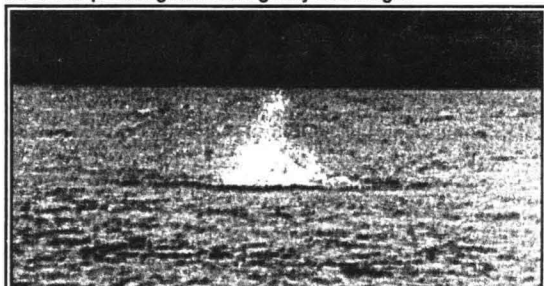
The most recent, before Mr Johnston's, were taken by former Royal photographer James Gray in May of last year and bore remarkable similarities to the latest ones, reinforcing the theory that Nessie is most definitely shedding weight in his old age.



...it lunges and ducks back into the water



...the shape straightens and gently submerges



...with a barely audible splash, it is gone

Fact or fiction? The most astonishing story you'll read this year

# Bizarre 'pet' may prove the existence of aliens

*Weekly News columnist Uri Geller has come across some strange tales in his time, but this is perhaps the most startling. We can't decide whether it's true, or an elaborately-constructed hoax — we leave it to you to make up your own mind!*

by Uri Geller

**C**HILDREN all over the world bring strange things home as pets.

But the tiny creature discovered by Julio Henriquez Carreno might just be the weirdest pet on this planet — or any other.

When 10-year-old Julio first spotted the three-inch object in bushes while his family were enjoying a holiday picnic in Concepcion, Chile, he thought it was a baby bird.

But when he picked it up for a closer look, he says, he let out a yell and almost dropped it.

The creature had a straight, stick-thin body and a large, human-like skull.

And it was alive — as Julio breathed gently on its pinkish skin, the being opened its eyes and looked directly at him.

The eyes continued to open and close as Julio ran with the little creature to his mother, Luisa.

At first, she was revolted, fearing her son was holding a human foetus.

Julio was insistent. "We can't throw it back in the bushes," he said. "It's alive. Look! We have to try and help it."

Julio's father, Armando, agreed, and the family took it back to their home in Santiago, Chile's capital, where it was examined by a doctor and a vet.

Neither could identify it, though the vet was inclined to say it was a wild cat that had been abandoned at birth — a theory the Henriquez Carreno family reject.

"Cats don't have a skull like this," Armando told one journalist. "And, more to the point, cats don't have fingers!"

As these pictures clearly show, the Concepcion Humanoid does indeed have long fingers and toes, with a straight spine, two arms and two legs.

Though DNA tests have yet to show whether it is "Homo sapiens" — that is, a human being — doctors in Santiago insist a human foetus that small could not survive for more than a few moments outside the mother's womb.

## Exaggerated

"An unborn baby that tiny could be no more than three to four months developed, and probably much less," explained one expert.

"And at that age, even with the best technology available, a human being is not 'viable' — it cannot live.

"In the open air of a city, where the child found this mysterious being, it would die instantly."

Young Julio insists his bizarre "pet" lived for eight more days, opening its eyes regularly and staying warm to the touch.

It refused all food, however, and reports in the Chilean Press that it had sat up and even walked around were wildly exaggerated.

Local journalist Rodrigo Ugarte told US researcher Dr Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo that Julio was now keeping the dead creature in a first-aid box in the family freezer.

But the boy is learning about more than just biology — this month, he's had a

Julio's "pet" certainly looks like a tiny humanoid.



crash-course in media studies, as TV crews, national newspaper feature writers, website journalists, UFO-logists and reporters from scientific journals descended on his family home, trying to tease ever more sensational details from the story.

The saga took a wild turn when a self-professed medium turned up at the house, claiming she was receiving telepathic signals from the being.

The psychic insisted on seeing it, and announced she was in communication, but Luisa Henriquez Carreno was sceptical.

"I did not notice anything out of the ordinary," she said. "I doubt that that ever took place."

## Researchers

Others are eager to claim the being as an alien or, more hopeful yet, as an alien-human hybrid that was abandoned as a failed experiment by the extra-terrestrials who supposedly abduct sleepers from their beds in Concepcion.

Until the results of DNA tests by researchers at the University of Chile are known, nothing can be said with certainty.

But anyone seizing on the tiny red creature as proof that there is life beyond this planet would do well to remember the saga of the Galilee alien.

Four years ago, a farmer named Mazal Mamam found a tiny humanoid "corpse" in her fields, and called the police.

Within half an hour, a reporter from Ma'ariv, a major national daily paper, had arrived. He stayed all day. So did the film crew from a leading TV station.

Mazal never claimed that the body was an alien — the Press did that for her. And when lab tests showed the "body" was in fact a child's doll, partly rotted, the poor farmer was a laughing stock.

The moral of the story? If your kids bring home spiders, or toads, or stray cats — be thankful it isn't anything stranger.



The "alien" measures only three inches.



A scientist studies the strange creature.

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

# Bigfoot Alive and Well ... Well!

When the man who might have faked the first Bigfoot tracks died recently, the news media by and large saw fit to treat it as if the Bigfoot thing was a hoax from the day the deceased (Ray Wallace) carved some big feet out of wood and tromped around his logging operations to scare away thieves.

But, then, when one scans reports written about Bigfoot it is usually done with the tongue-in-cheek, eyeballs rolling skyward technique.

Be it newspaper articles or television.

Having said that to include TV with the eyeball rolling mischief, I must backtrack a bit. The national TV network, ABC sent its "Good Morning America" crew here for a week to do a documentary on the Blue Mountains Bigfoot phenomena. Also, a couple of

Japanese TV companies have been to Walla Walla and did the same thing in serious fashion.

But, when Ray Wallace died recently and his family said he had faked the tracks and therefore the "daddy," of the Bigfoot lore had died and so had Bigfoot... the mystery of this creature supposedly (and magically) was solved!

And, headlines for the story like this one in *The Oregonian*, fostered that idea: "Bighoax: The abominable truth can finally be told." That story at its outset, declared: "Bigfoot is dead. Really."

And, according to the family of Wallace when the man's obituary came out, "...orchestrated the prank that created Bigfoot in 1958."

Tongues-in-cheek and eyeball-rolling, here we come!

The whole thing has been

played by the media as if Wallace should be credited with the thousands of big foot print tracks of many sizes and shapes which have been found not only in the northern California woods but in forests all over the Northwest and then some!

Such a concept boggles the mind but it is where the media left its readers, many accepting the eyeball movements.

The whole matter has not gone unchallenged by the Bigfoot fraternity which is constantly gathering information about this subject. And, it is a subject, by the way, which just won't go away, and is not likely to fade into the woodwork just because of the claims of Wallace and his family. One of the firmest believers in this view is John Green, probably today's

foremost Bigfoot authority, one whose research goes back many years with a ton of data, including more than 2500 casts of various big footprints. He had several cogent comments on the matter posted on Internet. Green not only points out with clarity how Wallace stories over the years have not matched up with truth and he also chides the media with being lax about the Bigfoot matter ever since the finding of Wallace's obviously faked footprints. He further notes the lack of good newspapering at the time of the 1958 tracks as well as later on (in 1967) when Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin of Yakima filmed a female Bigfoot.

Another long time leader in the investigation of the Bigfoot mystery is Loren Coleman, Portland, Maine, cryptozoologist, who summed it all up:

"Folks who assume Bigfoot sightings will disappear now that Wallace is dead may end up putting their big foot in their mouth."

Coleman said he feels the

legend of Bigfoot remains alive and well, in spite of the news media's presentations. Coleman said Wallace got named "father of the Bigfoot" because he made his claims in 1958, around the time the term, "Bigfoot" first appeared.

However, Coleman notes, there were numerous sightings between 1850 and the early 1900s and Native Americans have been depicting the hairy creature on totem poles for 500 years.

Coleman adds that there's more than enough evidence proving that the Bigfoot legend is something that existed long before Wallace's pranks and not simply his hoax.

No, Ray Wallace might have been one of the first ... heck, make that the first ... to carve out some big feet with straps and wear them around and hoax a lot of people, but that's about all he ever was.

And that's about all the recognition he should receive, for that matter.

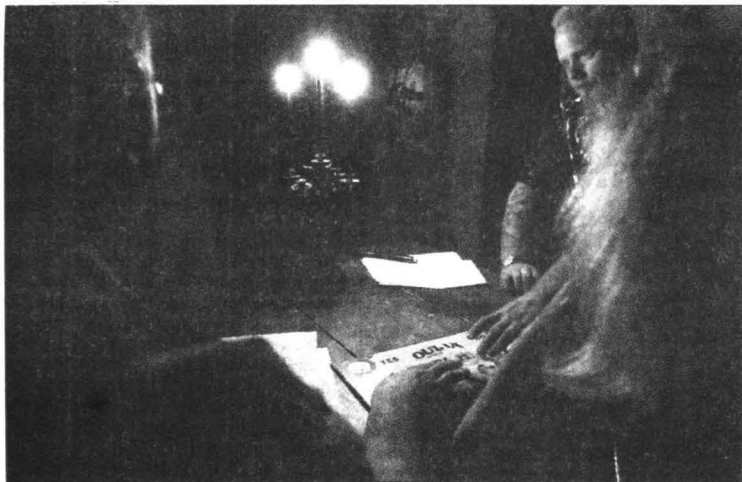




Vancouver "ghost hunters" explored the basement of The Academy recently to gather evidence about the afterlife.

Spirit-seekers poke about local landmarks buoyed by the hope that they just might have ...

# A CHANCE of a ghost



Ghost hunter Casey Smith, upper right, leads a recent Ouija board session in downtown Vancouver's Slocum House. The board is used to try to contact spirits.

couver-Portland metropolitan area, ranging from the disturbingly creepy (David Douglas Park where Westley Allan Dodd abducted and killed two Vancouver boys) to the refreshingly festive (Slocum House, the home of Vancouver's oldest theater company) to various historic landmarks around the area, including many of the McMenamins' establishments, such as the Grand Lodge, Edgefield and St. Johns Pub.

"Spiritually, (the outings seem) to help everybody in this group face what everybody has to face, their own mortality," Bridges said. "It helps us to believe that there is something more than death. We're looking for answers, and if we can find proof, if we can get something tangible, maybe a picture of somebody (in spirit form) walking across the room, then we can say this really does exist.

That's what we keep going for.

"We do take this quite seriously," she added. "But sometimes we have to laugh, too, and have a good sense of humor, because some of the things we find can be downright scary."

On that recent night at The Academy in downtown Vancouver, the Ouija Board summoning appeared to contact a spirit named "Sonter," who said he was a maintenance worker in the

landmark building from 1935 to 1948, eventually dying in 1967.

A McKenzie's Restaurant & Pub cook had asked the ghost hunters to find out if spirits were at play in the eatery's kitchen. So they queried, and Sonter acknowledged he had been watching over the situation.

One of the ghost hunters asked the spirit, "Did you try to communicate with the cook?"

The response was "Yes."

"What did you want to tell him?"

Slowly, the planchette moved over the letters as the wait to see what would be spelled raised tensions. First a "P," then an "E," two more times on "P," then "E" again, then "R." That caused a group guffaw.

Later in the séance, when the quartet was asking Sonter about uneasy feelings they were getting from a stairway, one of the ghost hunters, Jennifer Fuller, suddenly groaned, then collapsed to her knees. Combined with more information from the Ouija board, a gradually recovering Fuller said she was receiving visions from the spirit about some kind of medical condition, heart attack or stroke, that caused the death of a friend named "Santos" on that stairway in 1939.

"That should be on some kind of public document," ghost hunter Casey Smith said, implying that the group will try to confirm the findings at some point.

It's common for these ghost hunters to report having such visions as well as being touched by spirits, feeling chills, getting goose bumps and encountering energy forces (positive and negative). Their cameras get filled with pictures of what they deem as floating orbs or wisps of ectoplasm that they consider signs of spiritual energy miraculously captured in the frame.

"We have a couple of images that really do appear to be people," founder Bridges said.

About 40 percent of the material they gather gets put on their Web site, [www.ghosthuntersalliance.com](http://www.ghosthuntersalliance.com). The rest is being saved for a book that members plan to self-publish in 2003 or the documentary being shot by volunteer Tom Bellas of Portland.

Bellas says there are strict rules in place for the group to ensure that the evidence they present can withstand outside scrutiny.

So the ghost hunters of Vancouver always take more than one shot of each image to lessen skepticism about sun spots, dust particles, light reflections or other explainable anomalies. For the same reasons, they don't shoot outside in rain or snow, and they not only avoid smoking cigarettes around the cameras, they also try to hold in their breath when snapping images.

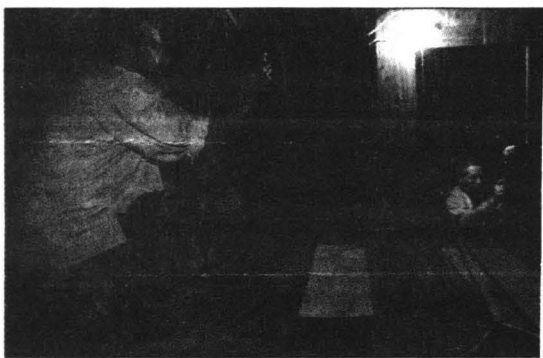
"There are skeptics everywhere," Bellas said. "We're always trying to prove ourselves."

Bridges acknowledged, "Like many things, it's a matter of faith. You either do or do not believe." She says such a spiritual quest goes beyond just transcending mortality, though, or chasing ghosts into the realm of religious intellectualism.

Another one of the ghost hunters, Mike Blake, puts it this way: "There's got to be something out there. When you die, you don't just go away. A person has so much energy, that has to go somewhere. It just doesn't vanish."

"Everybody has their own beliefs," he added. "Some people say there are no such things as ghosts. Some people believe we're the only ones out there. Some people just try to be polite (and not comment). But there can't be just us, so I think we've all got to keep an open mind about things."

Photos by STEVEN LANE/The Columbian



Al Cully, left, and Rich Bridges specialize in photography, trying to capture images of orbs, showing spiritual energy.

By BRETT OPPEGAARD  
Columbian staff writer

As the dozen local ghost hunters hurriedly scattered throughout The Academy's basement, a few of them found a white cloth that they used to cover a worn, waist-high cabinet. One brought out a Ouija board, another an invocation spell, and the séance began — while the rest of the group's members busily explored other rooms and stairways, rapidly snapping digital picture after picture as well as shooting streams of video.

A bare floodlight in the middle of this expansive basement provided a couple of candles worth of illumination in the dim corner where the ceremony took place. The quartet involved each touched a hand to the board's planchette, and participant Kori Cully asked, "Is there somebody here who would like to speak with us?"

"We started doing this just for fun," said Christine Bridges, president of the year-old Ghost Hunters Alliance of Vancouver. "We were getting some really good results, so we decided to organize ourselves and just go from there."

The group since has conducted about 100 investigations of haunts in the Van-

## GHOST HUNTERS

■ **WHAT:** The Ghost Hunters Alliance of Vancouver, a local group of paranormal researchers

■ **INFORMATION:** For more information, call Christine Bridges at 360-253-8291

■ **ON THE WEB:** [www.ghosthuntersalliance.com](http://www.ghosthuntersalliance.com)

# Big Foot was a hoax

As snow falls to the ground here in Oklahoma many will go hunting for a Christmas tree. While searching for a tree you can be worry free, Big Foot is dead. At age 84 Ray L. Wallace died and took Big Foot with him.

An article in a recent edition of *Strange* magazine, which features an interview with Wallace's son explains that Big Foot is a hoax. Wallace's son told *Strange* magazine that the foot prints were wood carvings, the films and stills were fake, & his mom had even dressed up on several instances in the bear like suit. (I knew Big Foot looked like a bear.)

One of Wallace's co-workers admitted that the foot prints were to ward off area thieves that had been targeting their equipment and supplies. (Sounds like a good security system to me.) It worked but then it took on a life of its own. It did more than scare off thieves, it attracted national attention and gave America a monster of it's own.

Before '58 the thought of a hairy man-ape like creature roaming in America had not yet entered into our consciousness. Others claim their native ancestors had seen Sasquatch centuries ago. These sightings are recanted in tribal legends. While others, like me, believe that he/she will exist when they see it standing stuffed.

Not so far from home, Oklahoman's have reported encounters with Big Foot. In several instances teenagers

partying and making noise late at night in the southwestern corner of our state have been confronted by a disturbed Big Foot. In one instance a jeep was supposedly overturned by the mad monster. More likely, I believe that it was the drunken teenagers that turned the jeep over. Alcohol tends to do things like that.

But by far the most sightings are in the southeastern corner of the state. If you journey to the Ouachita National Forest, where the trees are thick and the roads few, some say that you've arrived at Big Foot's home in the Sooner State.

It's not known when he made the great journey to the area but reports started showing up about '90. Since then the reports have been filing in. A Poteau newspaper reported that Smithville residents had a town meeting addressing the disturbances and sightings. I'm sure that this is because rumors fly in a small town, don't we all know that?

'Coon hunters in McCurtain county (the most southeastern county, bordering Texas and Arkansas) claim that within the last decade or so their hounds will return, discouraged and spooked. One man said that as soon as they smell the odor of Big Foot, it's time to head to the truck. A hunting pair also claims that they have "smelled Big Foot" and made eye contact with the creature. Both times they report the creature seemed to look at

them with "interest" and "no intent of harm", and left the scene "non-chalantly". Sounds like another bear suit job, done poorly. He didn't even scare them. What kind of a monster is that?

One Idabel resident claims that the creature has been disturbing his home in the woods for years now; even terrorizing his three year old daughter by running her out of the woods while playing and "staring her down" through a window. The man stated that "If you don't believe me come out here and I'll show you where to stand with a liver around your neck over night". If that's so, I might have to take him up on that, I'd like to bag Big Foot. He would make a nice Chewbacca replica for my room.

Another resident reported that his cabin had received a visit by a unidentifiable mammal and had evidence such as a "non-food driven" rummage, and several tools were merely picked up and moved; leading some to believe that it was well, Big Foot checking the place out. Crooks often do the same if I'm not mistaken.

Often we like to believe the non-tangible is truth, even if we don't have evidence in our hands. It is the basis of religion, faith. During this holiday season as we celebrate our faith(s) we all can be a little warmer knowing that Big Foot has gone cold. I think that this is a great myth; it has inspired thousands of common

citizens and scientist alike to become a Big Foot detective. With intrigue it has generated something that America has never had before and so desired. A monster as famous as the gentle Santa Clause.

(Publisher's note)

Bobby is my grandson and likewise a good friend. However, what grandparent doesn't believe his or her off-spring's off-spring is the best since sliced bread or Johnnie Cash or Ray Charles.

I've watched Bobby grow into a fine young man, and having no sons of my own, I've tried to adopt him sans luck. So, as any smart family part, I've remained in the dark while watching him find his part.

I keep forgetting he has plenty of time, unlike what is left of mine.

He has many options not available to me and I'm not attempting to make him like me. Many years ago our government placed less emphasis on education than it does now. This is good and I certainly don't feel left out because as years go and come various administrations have had focus on different portions of our vast and massive government.

In other words, there are quite a lot of issues to be torn between. Who knows which direction is most important.

However, I give you Bobby Kessler, a family member; I felt you might like to hear from.

## ISU professor to talk Bigfoot on 'Today' show

By TERI ANDERSON  
Post Register

Bigfoot skeptics may have felt vindicated three weeks ago when some of the most-cited evidence of its existence was proven to be a hoax, but an Idaho State University professor still believes the truth is out there.

Anthropology professor Jeff Meldrum is slated to be on the "Today" show this morning on KPVI Channel 6 to present his belief that there's still too much unexplained evidence to say Bigfoot is not legit.

Meldrum, who has studied footprints to prove the so-called sasquatch exists and lives in the Northwest, was interviewed by NBC for a story about Ray Wallace. Wallace's Nov. 26 death in Washington state caught national attention when his family members claimed Wallace started the Bigfoot legend with a 1958 prank in which he asked a friend to carve 16-inch-long feet.

A California newspaper did a story about the feet after a bulldozer operator found the footprints circling and leading away from his rig. The newspaper coined the term "Bigfoot" with the story.

Meldrum said Thursday that researchers have known for years about Wallace's hoax, but he said he has doubts Wallace is responsible for all footprints and Bigfoot sightings.

Researchers attribute one set of footprints to Wallace, but there are hundreds of sightings of possible Bigfoot footprints that haven't been accounted for, Meldrum said.

Some people also have told researchers they have seen sasquatch creatures, but that they looked nothing like the one in a video Wallace claimed he set up, Meldrum said.

Meldrum, who grew up in the Northwest, has researched the Bigfoot legend for six years. He started after someone showed him a long line of footprints that he couldn't identify.

The "Today Show" is on from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., but Meldrum said he didn't know what time his interview is supposed to air.

Idaho Falls reporter Teri Anderson can be reached at 542-6750, or via e-mail at [tanderson@idahonews.com](mailto:tanderson@idahonews.com).

## Alaska's big bird story really taking off

Anchorage Daily News

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A newspaper story this week about the sightings of a large bird in Southwest Alaska turned out to have wings.

The tale of villagers seeing an eagle-like bird with a wingspan as long as a Dodge van brought dozens of e-mails from readers in Alaska and the Lower 48 and one from the Netherlands.

The online newsmagazine Drudge Report posted links. The San Diego FM radio program "Smooth Jazz" talked it up. And David Letterman joked about it.

John Bouker, the Dillingham pilot who saw the bird while flying into Manokotak recently and who was mentioned in the story, said he was getting "bummed out" from all the calls he received from news organizations.

Some people have written to

the paper to say they know what the folks in Manokotak and Togjak have really seen around the hills and valleys west of Dillingham in recent weeks.

"I believe this is a possible Dragon Sighting," wrote "Anonymous." "I believe that it is a Northern Ice Dragon."

People who, like Bouker, have actually seen the bird have said it is like an eagle but enormous, with a wingspan of up to 14 feet.

Even people who say the bird is more modestly sized still say it is huge.

Scientists were somewhat skeptical. They said the bird could be a Steller's sea eagle, one of the largest eagles, a creature native to northeast Asia and sometimes seen in Alaska but whose wingspan is not known to exceed 8 feet.

But to some e-mailers, what do the biologists know?

## Hummm-mm-mm

Does anyone else hear a constant humming noise that sounds like diesel engines running in and around Santa Fe and surrounding communities as far as Las Vegas and Los Alamos?

It can be heard outdoors as well as indoors. Some days it is much louder than other days. From the description of the Kokomo, Ind., hum, described in this paper several months ago, this noise sounds very similar.

After contacting different specialists and asking many different people, there is still no answer. Some folks say it is secret military stuff; others suggest it may be electrical lines reverberating in dental bridge-work.

"Mind over matter" has worked so far, but not always. The water fountains, noise machines and earplugs do not mask this sound either. Any suggestions?

P.J. Nelson  
Santa Fe

## Beached carcass 'new to science'

PARKERS COVE, N.S.

A retired University of Toronto zoologist says a rotting carcass found a week ago on a beach in Nova Scotia's Annapolis County is "something very new to science."

Edward Bousfield, also a marine biologist and research associate with the Royal Ontario Museum, said Monday he's examined a sketch by Anthony Buccola of what the unidentified

animal might have looked like while alive.

The discovery has attracted much attention. The carcass at Parkers Cove appeared to have a long neck with a head still attached. Locals have been chipping away at it since then.

Buccola, a retired New York mechanical engineer and amateur dinosaur enthusiast, said last week the carcass seemed to be a cross between a fish and an animal.

## Bigfoot sightings flood in on Vancouver Island

THE CANADIAN PRESS  
PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

Several people have reported seeing huge creatures resembling the legendary Sasquatch in central Vancouver Island.

Legend says the Sasquatch — also known as Bigfoot — stands seven feet tall and has long hairy arms,

a short neck and flat face.

People say they have seen the creatures on the highway between Port Alberni and Tofino and at Long Beach on the Island's west coast.

"It was too big to be a bear. Bears don't walk on two legs," said Arnold Frank, who swears he has seen the creature twice — in the woods and by the road.