

UFO

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BEE, Sacramento, CA - Jan. 14, 2003 CR: J. Challenger

Mission: Identify those flying objects

Sacramento man well-known among UFO trackers for his careful scrutiny of NASA flights



By Will Evans • Bee Staff Writer

Thursday, when NASA launches another shuttle into orbit, the folks at Mission Control won't be the only ones following its every move.

Jeff Challenger will be watching every second of shuttle footage available on cable television from his Sacramento home. And he'll be recording it, adding it to his collection of hundreds of missions, for proof.

Proof of what, he doesn't know. But Challenger, 49, believes National Aeronautics and Space Administration cameras are catching glances of UFOs.

Alien spacecraft, space animals, secret government experiments or none of the above - Challenger has no idea what they

are. But despite debunkers who say he's staring at ice particles or other space junk, Challenger doesn't think the white spots occasionally moving across his screen can be explained by normal means.

These flying objects are, at least for him, "unidentified."

"I don't go for the flying saucers and little green men routine," he says. "All I know is that there is something appearing on NASA video that doesn't belong there."

Though there are many UFO trackers in Sacramento, he's one of only a handful in the world that scope NASA flights for clues. And for his patience and dedication to detail, watching video that he says produces about



Jeff Challenger of Sacramento is surrounded by computer and electronics equipment that he uses to examine NASA mission films for unidentified flying objects. Disabled by a severe spinal injury, he works stretched out on a mattress as he searches for the unusual. "I want answers," he says. "I believe something's going on and the facts are being kept from us."

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1 - BEE,
Sacramento, CA - Jan. 14, 2003)

NEWS-CHRONICLE, Green Bay, WI - Aug. 20, 2002 CR: R. Helden

GREEN MEN

put Texas town on map, 105 years later

By Josh Shaffer
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

AURORA, Texas — In 1897, a flying saucer came sputtering over Aurora's town square and crashed into Judge Proctor's windmill, destroying the good judge's flower garden and killing the hapless alien.

Aurora was astounded. Townsfolk combed the wreckage and found scribed hieroglyphics, apparently a record of the space creature's travels. They scratched their heads, declared the dead thing to be a Martian and buried him along with his strange metal craft. They even gave him a tombstone.

At least, that's how the story goes.

Tiny Aurora, northwest of Fort Worth, has swapped tales of little green men, alien technology and government cover-ups ever since. Now, Janet Derting has opened a lime-green haven for alien enthusiasts and conspiracy theorists everywhere.

She named her store Area 114 after the two-lane state highway that bisects the town, and stocked it with Aurora T-shirts, hats, bumper stickers — even a candy called Shiny Mutant Pops.

Aurora will finally get some respect from the UFO community.

"The whole world knows about Roswell and Area 51," she said. "But we were the first one. The first government cover-up."

The idea came to Derting on a recent trip to Las Vegas, which is close to Area 51.

Like much of eastern Wise County, Aurora is swarming with newcomers. The signs on the edge of town still say Pop. 376, but the total is closer to 1,000 now.

Derting and her husband, Steve, Aurora's mayor, don't want the town's legend lost in a crush of subdivisions, and she hopes her store will educate the unwitting.

There are tables covered with alien books, including Time/Life books on space creatures and examinations of the real Lee Harvey Oswald. Alien yo-yos are for sale, along with alien candles, alien-themed gourds and T-shirts painted with crop circles.

"Hey, this is good for the town," said Jim Marrs, a conspiracy theorist in nearby Paradise who wrote "Alien Agenda." "In Roswell, every little storefront has little aliens in the window. That doesn't mean people

Marrs, a former Star-Telegram reporter, visited the Aurora Cemetery in 1973 along with a reporter from the Dallas Times-Herald. They brought a metal detector along and passed it over the ground, laughing that the positive readings were probably some sort of Star Trek paraphernalia.

Marrs said, "The stone had like an inverted 'V' on it with three circles. If you duplicate it and put it together with a mirror image, that design makes a little saucer with portholes in it."

Rubberneckers hit Aurora after news stories appeared, and soon after, the headstone vanished. Marrs said when he returned with the other reporter years later, the metal detector no longer showed any readings on the alien's grave.

"There's some strange stuff," he said.

doesn't think the civilian agency is involved in any cover-up — but he thinks there probably is one.

In fact, there are quite a few government people and aviation experts — even famed astronauts Gordon Cooper and Edgar Mitchell — who believe the government knows more than it's telling.

"I know there's something out there because I've chased 'em," Filer says. Flying in the Air Force in 1962, he was ordered to follow a supernaturally large object detected by radar and came close enough to see its lights before it disappeared.

Aviators apparently have so many such experiences that one ex-NASA scientist founded the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, which compiles UFO reports from pilots.

Since the government no longer investigates UFO reports, the task falls on these private organizations and on amateurs.

The Mutual UFO Network, for example, is dedicated to investigating all sightings. Cynthia Siegel, director of the Sacramento chapter, is training half a dozen locals to become "field investigators," to document sightings with interviews, photographs and video — even soil samples.

"There are so many more accounts than people realize," Siegel says.

The National UFO Reporting Center recorded two Sacramento-area reports in December: a "cigar-shaped craft" and a "triangular craft with three large white lights."

Challender, searching for more using a different technique, founded Project P.R.O.V.E. It stands for "People Recording Orbiting Vehicles from Earth," which says it all. Challender holds his ordinary camcorder to the sky when the International Space Station passes over Sacramento and waits for something unusual. So far ... nothing.

"But I don't give up hope," he says.

An even more difficult project may be establishing credibility for UFO buffs. To help change the kooky image, Linda Willitts of Folsom works on Project Disclosure, which gathers testimony from top government and military figures who "believe."

On the other hand, she participates in what some consider the definition of kooky, traveling around the country to summon ETs through meditation.

"We ask them to show up and they always do," she says.

That's not Challender's style. He shirks the "true believer" label and diligently fills out incident reports for everything he sees, striving to be scientific.

Yet, he knows he's unlikely to solve the puzzle from his home in Sacramento.

"The only way I will find out is with full government disclosure. Or if something lands in my front yard and asks me if I want a ride," he says with a chuckle. "But I'm not holding out for that."

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The Bee's Will Evans can be reached at (916) 321-1987 or wevans@sacbee.com.

10 seconds of "interesting" material out of several hundred hours, he has become respected as a self-taught "expert" in the wider UFO community.

"He has probably more expertise than anyone else, certainly outside of government, in looking at the film," says George Filer, a retired Air Force major who runs a UFO Web site from New Jersey.

Challender, disabled by a severe spinal injury, lies on a mattress surrounded by an arsenal of recording equipment for his work: nine VCRs, stacks of VHS tapes, two DVD burners and a DVD player.

With his massive, hand-built, quadruple-hard-drive computer in front, he seems suspended in some kind of space vessel himself.

But the only thing that hints of extraterrestrial interests is a little silver alien, perched on top of his computer.

Challender grabs the NASA footage from Channel 72, run by the Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium. From this mission he'll probably examine 30 to 40 hours of tape, sometimes straight from breakfast to when his family calls him to dinner.

The longtime aviation junkie started taping missions in 1997, just for fun, to edit each one into a documentary. But in 1999, he saw something that grabbed his attention: an illuminated dot, pulsating as it whizzed across the screen. Then, later, he saw many white dots moving around, changing direction and speed.

What were they? Challender has been tracking similar "anomalies" ever since.

"I want answers," says the former railroad laborer. "I believe something's going on and the facts are being kept from us. NASA isn't so sure."

"I'm not aware of any visuals of (extraterrestrial) activity," says Fred Brown, executive producer of NASA Television.

Challender points to incidents where the camera seems to zoom in on one of the dots and then cuts off the live footage — signs, he says, of a cover-up.

Nonsense, Brown says. "If those things were out there and we were trying to hide them, we wouldn't put them on NASA Television."

Challender is probably seeing bits of liquid or ice, close to the camera, blown around by jets of gas from the shuttle, says Seth Shostak, an astronomer at the SETI Institute, a nonprofit organization running what used to be NASA's "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence."

"You have to be careful," he says. "They're very impressive if you're naive."

But Jack Kasher, a retired University of Nebraska, Omaha, physicist, says he's viewed Challender's findings, concluding that they aren't ice particles and challenging anyone who says so to prove it.

Still, Shostak says, why would SETI spend millions searching for alien radio signals if there were Martians buzzing around every NASA mission?

Shostak believes that there is alien life. If 10 percent of stars had planets and 1 percent of those supported life, there could be millions of worlds with life just in our galaxy, he calculates.

But NASA would have no incentive to hide any evidence.

"That would be the greatest thing for NASA. Their budget would go up instead of going down," he says.

Bernard Haisch, ex-director of the California Institute for Physics and Astrophysics, has led several NASA studies, and

buy into it, but they're not above capitalizing on it. "Sprawl is moving out to this area by leaps and bounds," he said. "There's younger people out here with fresher ideas who will believe it, at least as a story."

There are many reasons Roswell, N.M., flourished as an alien capital while Aurora stayed hidden, Marrs said.

For one, the country folk of Wise County wanted it kept quiet.

"They don't want a horde of wild-eyed fanatics coming in and digging up their yards," said Marilyn Maddox, who works at Area 114 on Tuesdays.

Still, Marrs said, the story has persisted. Whenever it resurfaces, he said, interested alien hunters call the Fort Worth Star-Telegram or Rosalie Gregg, chair-

woman of the Wise County Historical Commission.

Both parties have long insisted the saucer crash was a hoax dreamed up by the townsfolk.

"We have an interview with a fella who was 11 years old and lived there at the time," Gregg said. "He had all his sensibilities about

him when we spoke, and he said that it did not happen."

But the town remains divided.

On the day of Area 114's grand opening, a man came in holding a medallion he insisted had been unearthed at the crash site.

"I'm pretty convinced something happened there," Marrs said. "I'm not going to say it was a spaceship because I don't know."

It was enough to convince the Dallas Morning News in 1897. The only space-related story in the Fort Worth Register — aside from a man in Cisco, bound for Cuba with a cigar-shaped airship full of dynamite — involved "credible witnesses' accounts of a mysterious aircraft passing over Rhome nearby.

But on April 19, 1897, the Dallas paper carried accounts of statewide alien sightings on its front page, including a story about the Aurora crash.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board," wrote reporter S.E. Haydon, "and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world."

"Mr. T.J. Weems," the story continues, "the United States signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he was a native of the planet Mars."

Derting said she just hopes to lure some of the inquisitive folk.

Her store has a Web site — www.auro-raalien.com — and soon science-fiction fans will be able to buy accoutrements online.

As for what happened 105 years ago?

"I think it's possible," Derting said. "I'd be really naive to think in this vast huge universe we were the only intelligent beings."

People are naturally curious about space life, Marrs said, and are increasingly open about their suspicions that it exists. As the legend of Aurora grows, fewer people will shut their doors to the idea of extraterrestrials for fear of being hauled away. The uncertainty only makes the idea more attractive.

"Somewhere in all that smoke," Marrs said, "there's fire."



GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - Jan. 14, 2003

UFOs want to tell us something

How about a new twist on UFOs.

The multiple ones that circled the White House many years ago were most interesting. They actually looked like the president himself was being visited and notified.

Could it be these flying saucers we are having so much trouble identifying are not aliens from another planet at all, but a form of communication trying to tell us there is something else out there and we are apparently not seeing it?

Isn't it kind of strange that the UFOs seem to appear at times when we have war-like intentions? Wasn't there a UFO seen circling around the Enola Gay as it made its way to Hiroshima?

I don't want to be guilty of taking the tourist trade away from Roswell, N.M., but trying to communicate to us seems to be a very logical idea.

Laura L. Hales
Corvallis

UFO Search in Roswell Turns Up Surprise

with a laugh, the contract prevents him from revealing what he learned.

All will be revealed Nov. 22 when cable's SCI FI Channel airs "The Roswell Crash: Starving New Evidence."

The Roswell Incident has become a holy grail for UFO believers. They say an alien

Doleman is bound to secrecy by a contract between UNM and the television network that funded the dig. The contract even bars him from telling "non-terrestrial entities" what he found.

Apparently, if aliens kidnap him and subject him to unspeakable torture, he said

that totally surprised us and made me say, "Gee whiz," said Bill Doleman, the UNM archaeologist who led the dig.

Was it a fragment of the alien spacecraft alleged to have crashed near Corona 55 years ago? Perhaps the bones of a little green man?

To find out, mark your calendars for the evening of Nov.

BY JOHN FLECK
Journal Staff Writer

University of New Mexico-led team of archaeologists, working under "top secret conditions," excavated the alleged Roswell UFO crash site in September and found "something."

"We found something there

UNM archaeology team is sworn to secrecy but will tell all on SCI FI channel Nov. 22

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craft crashed near the southeastern New Mexico town in the summer of 1947, and the government is covering it up. Skeptics say the tale is mythology, rooted in the crash of a top-secret research balloon and embellished by over-enthusiastic UFO researchers.

"I'm thoroughly convinced there's life out there, and that some of it is way more intelligent than we are," he said. Doleman said before he started the project, he knew of no physical evidence that any of those aliens had visited Earth. Doleman will not say whether he still believes that today, now that his Roswell excavation is completed. But he does believe what he

and his colleagues attempted could be an important contribution to UFO research. Past Roswell research is based on "hearsay and anecdotal evidence," Doleman said. "This project is the first to my knowledge to cross over from using hearsay and anecdotal evidence ... and to search for actual evidence," Doleman said during an online chat on the SCI FI Channel's Web site.

How the work will be received in the UFO community, where passions pro and con run strong, remains to be seen. In trying to approach the project as a serious scientist, Doleman runs a risk that his work could be tainted by the commercial motivations of the network, said Karl Pflock, an author from Placitas who has written extensively about the

Roswell Incident. "It is troubling that they've allowed themselves to be co-opted by what is, in essence, a commercial entertainment enterprise," said Pflock, a Roswell skeptic. "They're playing into something that is good old-fashioned circus bal-lyho."

Doleman said the contract signed with the network requires him to keep silent about what the archaeologists found until the network gives written permission to speak. "I have to keep my mouth shut until they say I can open it," he said. The university's Office of Contract Archaeology, for which Doleman works, specializes in archaeology for hire, generally working for developers and government agencies

involved in construction projects. The office was originally approached by UFO researchers in 1999 about conducting a Roswell dig. The researchers returned this spring with the financial backing of the cable network, signing a \$25,000 contract with the university to fund the work, Doleman said.

One theory backed by Roswell believers is that the alien craft first hit Earth on ranch land near Corona, breaking up and scattering debris before coming to rest at a second site. Doleman and his colleagues excavated on the ranch land where the first impact is believed to have happened and where debris is alleged to have been found.

Strange object displayed during UFO convention

By KAY JENNEY
The Daily News

LAUGHLIN — An object allegedly ejected from a Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) apparently drained the batteries in a hotel safe Wednesday morning, requiring security and maintenance workers to break into the safe to retrieve the object for the owner who invited skeptics and debunkers to explain what it is.

"I just want to know what it is," said Bob White, owner of the object. When White attempted to remove the object out of the safe in his room at Harrah's of Laughlin Hotel and Casino he was unable to do so. Hotel Security Supervisor Dave Rymill said it was unusual for the safe's batteries to fail. He said the only problem people frequently encounter is trouble opening the safes by entering the wrong code. Rymill said after several attempts using the wrong code, the electronic safe "goes to sleep." Rymill said he did not know what caused the batteries to go dead. White reportedly found the object in the 1980s while on a three-day break from his entertainment career when traveling by car with a friend through Colorado. He said they saw a bright orange light over the highway and stopped the car and turned off the headlights. White said he got out of the car for a better look, but his friend turned the headlights back on and the UFO took off. He said the UFO changed shape and emitted a small flash of light that landed nearby. White said he uncovered the glowing object from under 18 inches of dirt after it had cooled.

"I didn't want people to call me a UFO nut," White said when asked why he had not come forward sooner. He said he had a good career in the entertainment field at the time. "I'm not looking for my 15 minutes of fame," White said. White said the object had a tendency to cause lights on its display case to burn out 10 times faster than normal. He said after experiencing the safe failure, he wants further testing on the object for electromagnetic properties. White said the object has been tested at three laboratories and the consensus is that it is mostly made of an aluminum-type material with traces of many elements, some of which, according to White have not been fully identified. White wrote in his press packet that he was told by Los



The object of undetermined origin was available for viewing at a press conference at Harrah's Wednesday morning.

more about the object. He said he still has top security clearances and previously saw a similar object possessed by the US Army that reportedly was ejected from a "Foo Fighter" during World War II. Jordan said years ago, he attended UFO gatherings near a military base that was conducting experiments with ball lightning. Some of the people at that gathering thought they were seeing UFOs.

Jordan said "the men in black" have not discouraged him from this investigation. But, even though he is retired, Jordan said he was offered a job by the National Security Agency (NSA). He said if he worked for the NSA they could instruct him not to talk further on the subject. He said he filled out their application, but has not since heard from the agency.

White said organizers of the 12th Annual International UFO Congress Convention and Film Festival going on this week at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino were aware of his object.

"I wasn't invited," White said as to why he was not presenting his case at the UFO meeting.

In a later interview Wednesday, Bob Brown, conference organizer, said White may have slipped through the cracks. He said White was someone who should be part of the gathering.

"We don't want to slight anyone," Brown said.

White said his story has been told by some media outlets, but this was the first-ever press conference he and his supporters have held. White said he invited skeptics to examine his object, and tell him what it is, but he has had trouble eliciting interest.

"What are they afraid of?" asked White. "I really do want to know the truth."

True believers gather for UFO Conference

By JON MICHAEL POMPIA
Special to The Chief

While the truth may be out there, a large portion of it could be found in the Fortino Ballroom at Pueblo Community College Saturday.

A solid gathering of true believers converged on the ballroom for the first UFO Conference of Pueblo, a day-long event coordinated by local UFO researcher Bill Winkler. The symposium featured four presenters, including Tim Edwards, who says he has documented a host of UFO activities in the Salida region; crop circle specialist Ron Russell; Rev. Larry Resel, who spoke on weird phenomena in the Las Animas area, and commercial pilot Don Daniels, who is involved with both the Center for Search for

Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI) and the Disclosure Project.

"For the first-ever hosted UFO Conference in Pueblo, I believe it was well attended," Winkler said. "We had attendees from Pueblo and the outlying areas, Buena Vista, Trinidad, Woodland Park and Canon City."

Winkler is hoping to hold conferences as frequently as twice a year. "By staging these conferences, word will spread that the conferences are a place to hear and visit people with similar opinions and views," he said.

First on the agenda was Salida resident Edwards, who presented testimony and videotape footage of an extraordinary daylight sighting from August 1995. The renowned footage has appeared on more than 10 television programs, including "Sightings" and "Extra-

Footage of other sightings in Salida also was shown.

Aurora resident Russell, a noted international crop circle researcher, treated attendees to an amazing slide show of what he termed "secret art" and "energy machines." While a few of the circles have been created by skilled artisans, the majority, Russell noted, are of unknown origin and possess energetic, even mystical powers.

While Las Animas may not seem like a hotbed of strange activity, Resel offered a lot of evidence to the contrary. Resel told amazing tales — accompanied by videotape footage — of such things as cattle

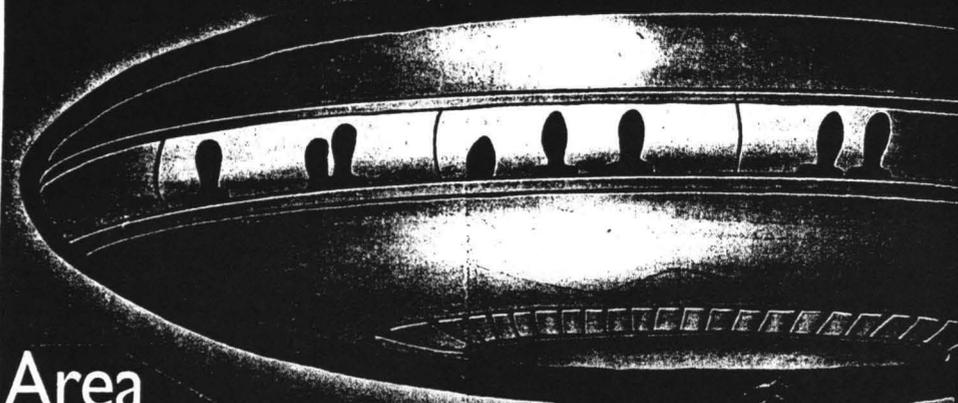
mutations, changing landscapes, houses that move, unexplained lights and objects in the day and nighttime sky, chemtrails or contrails left by passing aircraft and much more.

Closing out the day was Evergreen resident Daniels, an associate of Dr. Steven Greer, the force behind CSETI and the Disclosure Project. Daniels shared techniques for contacting and attracting extraterrestrial craft as well as information on the Project, the goal of which is to have Congress hold open hearings on the existence of UFOs, zero-point energy devices and more.



CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - Nov. 10, 2002

Untold mysteries



Area residents open up about close encounters of the UFO kind

BY MARGARET MOSES
Staff Writer

It's easy to snicker and roll your eyes when hearing accounts from people who claim to have seen UFOs.

Maybe it comes from not wanting to believe it could have happened. Maybe it comes from deep fears about acknowledging that there are others out there.

People who have had the experiences grow accustomed to the ridicule of skeptics and nonbelievers. They eventually stop talking about it altogether or only speak of it when prompted by someone else's experiences.

But what they don't do is forget — or change their stories. Their memories are vivid and lasting, whether the occurrence happened last week or 40 years ago.

Several readers willingly shared their stories with us when the Life Department asked to hear from people who have had UFO encounters. Snicker, roll your eyes ... or think about what else might be out there in the vast unknown of space.

It was the persistent noise that finally made Sarah get up and look out her bedroom window nearly 40 years ago.

"I heard this extremely loud noise, like the sound of a lot of freight engines," said Sarah (not her real name), of Altoona. "I didn't pay too much attention to it at first, but it didn't let up. Even though we lived not too far from the railroad tracks, it didn't sound like what we usually would hear."

It was near dusk on a summer evening in 1963 or 1964. She had gone upstairs to read while her children and some of their friends were camped out in the living room downstairs. When she couldn't ignore the deafening noise any longer, she put down her book and walked over to the window. The first thing she noticed was the noise stopped. The second thing she noticed was a strange, cigar-shaped craft in the sky.

Mesmerized by the metallic-looking craft about the size of a small airplane, she watched it hovering about three stories off the ground.

She said the UFO zipped across the sky about a block away, then turned around on the spot to

reverse directions and darted back toward her. It then traveled in a different direction and hovered briefly over another neighbor's house.

"It was just about dusk, so I could see clearly," she said. "There were no lights or anything on it. I couldn't believe how low it was."

Sarah said she ran from window to window in her house to keep an eye on the craft, yelling to her children and her nephew to look out the window to see for themselves.

"I wasn't frightened, I was flabbergasted. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was like it was trying to get someone's attention," she said. "I think I was supposed to see it. I think the noise was to get my attention, or somebody's attention."

Her nephew finally went to the window, and he, too, saw the craft as it zipped around the neighborhood. After about five minutes, it disappeared. Sarah called the Altoona-Blair County Airport in Martinsburg to report what she had seen, but officials there told her nothing suspicious had shown up on the radar.

"They said they would report it to some federal agency and someone might be calling me, but no one ever did. I didn't tell anyone else because people think you are nuts," she said.

About 10 years later, she and a neighbor were chatting about something and the subject of UFOs came up.

"She asked me if I believed in UFOs. She said she never mentioned it, but she knew she had seen one. I asked her when this was and she told me. I said, 'I know you're not lying, because I saw the same thing,'" Sarah said.

Sarah asked her nephew a few years ago if he ever talked about what the two had seen that night decades ago. He told her, "I don't talk about it, because people think you are crazy."

As for whether the craft she saw was from another world or something from the federal government, she leans toward the latter.

"We don't know what the government does. I really wonder, though. Was it from another planet or was it something our government was doing that was

top secret? I kind of think it was the government. Maybe it will come out someday that they were just experimenting. But I think there is life out there," she said. "That's my prerogative. I'd swear on the Holy Bible today that I saw it."

It was just a few years later that Suzanne Woomer of Bellwood had a similar experience. The 18-year-old and her fiancé were walking back to their car from the refreshment stand at the Altoona Drive-In Theatre in the summer of '65 when they looked up and saw a craft hovering in the sky in front of them.

"There are a few things that I am sure of — that it was very close, like 50 yards above us, and that it was lit up with windows all around it," Woomer said. "I don't know if I saw figures in it, but in my mind, I picture silhouettes of people in the windows. I feel sure that whoever was in the craft was watching us like we were watching them."

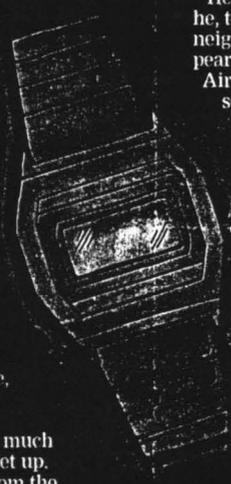
She said she and her fiancé just stopped still watching the craft in the sky, and she remembers thinking, "Why isn't anyone else seeing this?"

"Sometimes I think we were frozen in time for a moment, because we eventually went back to our car and I don't remember seeing the UFO disappear. We must have watched it for 10 or 15 minutes, but it was like we hadn't missed anything in the movie," she said. "We talked about it afterward, and we couldn't believe it."

Woomer, 55, said no one else talked about the incident the next day, and that didn't make any sense to her. She said she wanted to find validation for what she experienced, and she watched the papers and listened to the news, but there never was any mention of it.

"Were we meant to see it? I think so. I feel we were singled out, but I don't know why," she added. "It became like a puzzle to me. I feel like we will never ever know why it happened."

She agreed with Sarah that most people are skeptics when it comes to listening to stories of sightings. People would often rather laugh and dismiss the stories than let themselves believe there could be something to them.



(continued on page 5)

"I think a lot of people have had experiences but they don't talk about them. I believe in other dimensions. I think there is so much more to the universe than just us. It's limitless out there in space. My first thought was this must have been something from the government, but the way it just came up and was gone, I think they have to have more technology than we had at the time," she said.

"What happened is a mystery, but I know it happened," she added.

In the summer of 1966, Kay Hoffer was lying on the sofa watching TV in her parents' Claysburg home when she felt compelled to get up and go outside.

It was about 10 p.m. and pitch

Were we meant to see it? I think so. I feel we were singled out, but I don't know why. It became like a puzzle to me. I feel like we will never ever know why it happened.

Suzanne Woomer, Bellwood

black outside, but the young teenager immediately saw a low-flying round craft hovering overhead. She followed it by keeping track of the light that shone underneath it as it moved slowly into the woods about 50 yards away from her home.

"The light didn't touch the ground. It you weren't right underneath it you wouldn't even see it. There was no glow to it. It didn't radiate. It was this self-contained beam that didn't shine outward at all," said Hoffer.

"I had always wanted to see a UFO, and I thought, 'This is my chance,'" she added. "So I followed it."

It eventually stopped over a clearing and she hid behind a tree, expecting it would eventually touch down and maybe she would see someone, or something, come out. She said she thought she would be safe, as long as she remained hidden from view.

"But the next thing I remember was it was about 5:30 in the morning and I was walking home through the woods. I had no recollection of what happened since I had hidden behind the tree," said Hoffer, 50. "I didn't feel like I had just woken up. I felt well rested but just couldn't remember anything that had happened."

She said her mother asked what she was doing up at that time of day when she walked into the house and remained skeptical about her daughter's story. And it wasn't until her father saw a UFO many years later that he believed what she talked about was true.

Hoffer said she never underwent hypnosis to uncover what happened during what she terms her lost-time experience. "What I've read is that what people remember is not that pleasant," she said, referring to what might have happened onboard the craft.

Ever since her experience she hasn't been able to wear a wristwatch without it malfunctioning. The watch will either stop, or if it's a digital watch, the numbers will disappear. "I don't know if that is connected to what I experienced or not," she said.

Several days after her encounter, she returned to the clearing in the woods -- in the daylight -- and saw an outline of a perfect circle about 55 feet across. For years, the circle impression seemed to remain. Now, it's on the outskirts of the

The next thing I remember was it was about 5:30 in the morning and I was walking home through the woods. I had no recollection of what happened since I had hidden behind the tree.

Kay Hoffer, Claysburg

Claysburg Industrial Park, and young saplings have taken root, surrounded by an older stand of trees, but she said the outline is still distinguishable.

Hoffer had no other encounters with UFOs until just recently. Twice in the past year she has seen glowing red objects falling very slowly from the sky during the daytime -- once near her home and once near old Route 220.

"The first time was either Sept. 11 or 12 [of last year]. My sister and I, since we are Army brats, we went into survival mode after the terrorist attacks. We went to get water [from a spring] up the mountain, and my sister saw this thing in the sky first. She pointed it out to me," Hoffer said.

Not long afterward, a section of the highway was closed, she said, with no explanation given. She said fighter jets flew overhead as if searching the area, and finally a huge transport helicopter came, like the type that would be able to carry another helicopter inside.

"In my mind it was all connected. The government knew something fell and they sent the helicopter to come in and take it away. I think it was from another dimension and the government knows about it," she said. "I think our government has progressed to the point of making peaceful negotiations with these other beings. Do I think they are all friendly? No. But do I think they are all dangerous? No."

The second time, which occurred more recently, the object fell so slowly she was able to snap three pictures of it.

Hoffer has a theory about why some people see UFOs while others who may be in the same area do not.

"I don't think it would be hard for them to differentiate between a friendly and hostile witness," she said.

"I think we are put here to have experiences, so I live life hard. If something weird is going to happen, I believe it's going to happen to me."

Mirror Staff Writer Margaret Moses can be reached at 946-7447 or mmoses@altoonamirror.com.

Years Passed; Monster Story Never Faded

1952- "I will file this story in my archives as one of the top stories of the day." - Daniel Seymour, master of ceremonies for NBC television talk show - *We the People*.

1953- "On September 12, 1952, the nation's wire services crackled with news of a 10-foot, red-faced monster, which sprayed a foul, sickening gas sent seven Flatwoods, residents into panic." - Gray Barker, *Fate* magazine article.

1954- "One has the impression that, here, was some entity clad in a giant spacesuit and equipped to withstand differential pressures and the gravity and atmosphere, unlike the world it came from." - Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*.

1956 - "What happened to the monster? Braxton County woman feels glowing object was jet ship. Discovery in 1952 stirred up nationwide 'Martian' debate." Donald Seagle; *The Charleston Gazette*.

1959 - "Those who saw the thing were terrified. Those who investigated were convinced that it had been there. But what it was and where it came from constitute the Mystery of the Flatwoods Monster." - Frank Edwards; *Stranger Than Science*.

1963 - "The final incident in the summers panic occurred on the evening of September 12, when a family group near the town of Sutton, West Virginia, saw a flaming object flash across the sky and apparently land on a nearby hill." Donald H. Menzell and Lyle G. Boyd; *The World of Flying Saucers*.

1966 - "With all the words that have been written and spoken, the story of the 'Phantom of Flatwoods' has not been explained. In all probability it never will." - J. Holt Byne; editor of the *Braxton Central* newspaper.

1967 - "Probably the most frightening landing incident on record, considering the physical description of what was thought to be an occupant and its actions, is the Flatwoods, West Virginia incident which took place on September 12, 1952." Coral and Jim Lorenzen; *Flying Saucer Occupants*.

1968 - "During the first five years of the flying saucer craze

it was mostly strange lights, discs and windowed spacecraft, which were reported. None had proven dangerous in any way, and none had landed. But in 1952, the first of two stories about menacing space creatures appeared in newspapers and magazines...on the night of September 12, 1952, near Sutton West Virginia..." Dale White; *Is Something Up There, The Story of Flying Saucers*.

1969 - "About 4 metres tall, the figure had a blood-red face and 'floated' toward the witness who fled in terror. A lingering smell and skidmarks were found." Jacques Vallee; *Passport to Magonia*.

1973 - "The United States has something still better to offer us with the Flatwoods Monster. In September 1952 in the little Virginia (West) village of Flatwoods some children swore they saw a monster." - Jacques Bergier; *Extraterrestrial Visitations from Prehistoric Times to the Present*.

1975 - "Actually, relatively few of these sightings of UFO occupants have created much excitement outside of the relatively narrow world of UFO enthusiasts...but there are a couple of American UFO monsters that have become classics in their field. On September 12, 1952..." Daniel Cohen; *Monsters, Giants and Little Men from Mars*.

1976 - "Not all the reported contacts were so friendly. On September 12, 1952, a group of youngsters reported seeing a meteor land on a hill at Flatwoods, West Virginia. This is one of the few contact stories involving a monster." Roy Stemman; *Visitors from Outer Space*.

1977 - "They didn't see a saucer, but did see a monster ten feet high, four feet wide with bulging eyes a foot apart, sweaty, blood-red face and green glowing body." Susy Smith; *Strangers from Outer Space*.

1979 - "The Flatwoods Monster in Braxton County, a foul-smelling thing that oozed evil apparently landed in a bright, shiny object in a desolate area." Robert Robinson (Associated Press writer).

1980 - "Flatwoods: What

was perhaps the most frightening case on record of an encounter with a 'UFO creature' allegedly occurred on the evening of September 12, 1952, near the small community of Flatwoods." Rondald D. Story; *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*.

1989 - "Two very bizarre reports involving entity sightings, from the many on record, were the Flatwoods, West Virginia (USA) case of 1952 and the Kelly/Hopkinville, Kentucky (USA) case of 1955. The entities seen in these two cases were totally different in appearance. At sunset on 12 September..." Janet and Colin Bord; *Unexplained Mysteries of the 20th Century*.

1991 - "During the night Gene Lemon (witness) became seriously ill, suffering the same inflamed throat as the other boys but also went into fits and convulsions." - John Spencer; *The UFO Encyclopedia*.

1993 - "The things they saw that night in late summer have never been fully explained. To this day the incident is still shrouded in mystery. It's become part of the folklore of West Virginia. It's the tale of the Braxton County Monster." - Benjamin Caldwell; *The Charleston Gazette*.

1994 - "The widely discussed Flatwoods incident reportedly occurred September 12, 1952. The Flatwoods, West Virginia incident allegedly involved a giant humanoid monster with glowing eyes." - David Ritchie; *The Definitive Guide To UFOs and Related Phenomena*.

1997 - "The first alien encounter in the classic Science Fiction mould occurred September 12, 1952, in Flatwoods, West Virginia, USA. It remains highly unusual and is not easy to dismiss as just a hoax." - Jenny Randles; *Alien Contact the First 50 years*.

1998 - "The case of the Flatwoods Monster has become one of the most famous incidents in UFOlogy." - Haden W. Blackman; *The Field Guide to North American Monsters*.

1999 - "To everyone's considerable astonishment, the beam highlighted a grotesque-looking creature." - Jerome Clark; *Unexplained* (New Edition)

UFO evidence is more than just 'what ifs'

Despite recent claims to the contrary, the search for the truth about UFOs is not just a collection of "what ifs." In addition to excellent witness testimony from pilots, air traffic controllers, radar operators, military, police and countless credible civilian observers, there have also been scientific reviews of UFO-related evidence.

The following is excerpted from the Society for Scientific Exploration Web site: "A workshop to review claims of physical evidence related to UFO reports was held in Tarrytown, N.Y., from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 1997. Dr. Peter A. Sturrock, professor of applied physics (stellar physics) at Stanford University, was director of the workshop. Sturrock was assisted by Dr. Thomas Holzer of the High Altitude Observatory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder; Dr. Robert Jahn, professor of aerospace engineering at Princeton University; Dr. David Pritchard, professor of

physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Harold Puthoff, director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Austin; Dr. Yervant Terzian, professor of astronomy and chairman of the astronomy department at Cornell University; and Dr. Charles R. Tolbert, professor of astronomy at the University of Virginia."

They reviewed photographic evidence, video records, radar events, spectroscopic data, aircraft and automobile equipment anomalies, ground traces, damage to vegetation and injuries to witnesses. The report is worth reading. It can be found at: www.scientificexploration.org/jse/articles/ufo_reports/sturrock/toc.html.

The truth is out there -- but many people aren't able (or aren't willing) to take the time to look for it.

Ed Case
Corvallis

Parsing the Bible for space aliens

The Raelians, who claimed success in cloning, cited Scripture in describing extraterrestrial origins.

By Jim Remsen
INQUIRER FAITH LIFE EDITOR

Open your Bibles today to Genesis, Chapter 6. It's a strange passage, part of the accounting of sins that presaged the great flood. Here's how it reads in a prominent Jewish translation of the Torah:

When men began to increase on earth and daughters were born to them, the divine beings saw how beautiful the daughters of men were and they took wives from among those that pleased them. The Lord said, "My breath shall not abide in man forever, since he too is flesh, let the days allowed him be one hundred and twenty years." It was then, and later too, that the Nephilim appeared on earth — when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men, who bore them off-spring. They were the heroes of old, the men of renown.

Jewish sages acknowledge this account of human-divine coupling as a curious fragment of text — but they generally have given it an earthbound understanding.

Some Jewish accounts refer to the "divine beings" as "fallen angels." But most Jewish commentators consider them to be human "sons of God" — as in upper-caste "sons of the judges," according to Bible scholar Neshama Leibowitz. In her *Studies in the Book of Genesis*, Leibowitz says

Claude Vorilhon, also known as Rael, founded the Raelians.

Genesis 6 is a lesson in how "the stronger enslave the weaker, the classic example of exploitation being the subjugation of the daughters" of common folk. No way, say UFO enthusiasts.

A number of fringe religious groups have long seized on Genesis 6 as proof of extraterrestrials. Their writings, known as "the ancient astronaut school," hold that the "divine beings" (*B'nai Elohim* in Hebrew) were super-intelligent visitors from outer space — and that the Bible provides a garbled chronicling of that primeval event.

It's the sort of far-out stuff normally relegated to supermarket tabloids. But it pushed its way to the top of the news with the report that a UFO *Elohim* sect, the Raelians, claimed to have cloned the first human, a baby girl.

The Raelians have a dazzling master narrative. It goes like this:

The *Elohim* come from another planet and are responsible for creating life on this planet. *Elohim*, a plural noun traditionally thought to be a broad reference to God, should be translated as "those who came from the sky."

The sect's founder, onetime French journalist Claude Vorilhon, was the person chosen by the *Elohim* to bring the news of humankind's origins to the people of planet Earth. The *Elohim* dubbed him Rael and made him their prophet.

During close encounters with a few *Elohim* emissaries in UFOs, Vorilhon learned that eons ago *Elohim* mastered



This illustration depicts the story that superhuman aliens abducted and mated with humans. Raelians say the "divine beings" are mentioned in Genesis. This image is from alienresistance.org, the Web site of a Christian watchdog group.

genetics and cell biology and set up laboratories in and around present-day Israel. From DNA, these *Elohim* created plants, then animals, then humans.

Vorilhon says the *Elohim* would like to come to Earth again to give us some of their advanced technology, but will not return until there is world peace and an embassy is built for them in Jerusalem.

According to Vorilhon, the offspring (*Nephilim*) of *Elohim* fathers and human mothers are of prime importance. He was told he is such a person, as are all the major prophets, including Moses, Jesus, Buddha and Muhammad.

There is no God of salvation in Raelian belief. Rather, like Daoists, the 40,000 or so Raelians avow an immaterial God that is "a concept without identity, and without consciousness of our own existence."

Here's the kicker: Raelians believe we have souls only while we are alive. Eternal life, therefore, comes not through the soul but via the re-creation of a person from his DNA.

"Cloning is the key to eternal life," says Vorilhon.

Most mainstream religious figures

have denounced the Raelians and their human-engineering goals. For instance, William Devlin, head of the Philadelphia-based Urban Family Council, called the sect "perhaps the wackiest group around" and condemned their cloning work as "the rebirth of Frankenstein in biological medicine."

Beyond that, Bible scholars find the appropriation of sacred Scripture to be cockeyed.

Everett Fox, Bible professor at Clark University, acknowledges in his *The Five Books of Moses* commentary that Genesis 6 "seems difficult to reconcile with biblical ideas about God." Perhaps it was retained, he suggests, "to round out a picture familiar to ancient readers, and to recall the early closeness of the divine and human which, according to many cultures, later dissolved."

But Jeffrey H. Tigay, professor of Hebrew and Semitic languages at the University of Pennsylvania, and Robert Harris of the Jewish Theological Seminary, both reject the notion of *Elohim* being "visitors from the sky."

"Nowhere in the word *Elohim* is there anything that means sky," Harris told the Village Voice. "In Hebrew, the word

sky is either *Shamayim* or *Rakiah*."

Tigay, in an e-mail to *The Inquirer*, said *Elohim* "most commonly means god, both as a common noun and as a name of the Biblical God." Elsewhere in the Torah, *Elohim* "is sometimes used for angels (note *elohim* in Judges 13:22) ... and even spirits of the dead (1 Samuel 28:13)."

"If the word meant 'those who come from the sky,' it could not have been used for spirits of the dead, who were thought (even the righteous dead) to reside in the netherworld beneath the earth," Tigay said.

Vorilhon, the prophet Rael, scoffs at the critics.

"People are lost and misguided by primitive religions that are trying to slow down science," he said in an interview with the Miami Herald. "Nothing can stop science."

In his eyes, humans will one day be *B'nai Elohim* themselves, creating life and spreading it to other planets.

"The people we create will look at us as gods," he said.

Contact Faith Life editor Jim Remsen at 215-854-5621 or jremsen@phillynews.com.

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH
George D. Fawcett

■ **Age:** 73

■ **Hometown:** Lincolnton

■ **Background:** UFO enthusiast who has taught a college course, written two books and given more than 600 lectures on the subject. He spent Sunday in Statesville speaking to MUFON, a UFO enthusiast group, about his 59 years of investigating the paranormal.

Lecturer
offers UFO

Feb. 10, 2003 CR: G. Fawcett

insights

BY DONNA THORPE
RECORD & LANDMARK

What is MUFON?

It's the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, a nationwide group with a chapter in North Carolina that was founded in 1989.

We meet four times a year in different cities and hear speakers and watch videos and talk about our experiences.

Not all the members have seen UFOs; some are just interested in them.

Have you ever seen a UFO?

It was July 6, 1961, and I was a student at Lynchburg College. The day was clear; not a cloud in sight. There was a large orange shape like a globe that had been cut in half; flat in front and hooped in back. It

was about 30 feet across.

I watched for four and a half minutes as it hovered over the buildings but never made a sound. Then it moved up and down like a yo-yo and took off at a 45-degree angle toward the western sky.

Is that when your investigations began?

No, that was when I was 14 and I started keeping a scrapbook of reports made by pilots in Germany of near misses with aircraft. I have done 3,500 investigations since then. I have found explanations for all but 22 percent of reports I've looked at. A lot of sightings are really airplanes, helicopters, blimps, aurora borealis and other natural phenomena.

Why don't more people believe in UFOs?

There is plenty of secrecy

enforced. I gave a talk on an Army base in Panama and received a call that next week informing me that Army regulations provide for a \$10,000 fine and automatic court-martial for anyone reporting a UFO sighting while in uniform.

I also had a man-in-black encounter. It was in 1964 in Columbia, S.C., outside a theater. A man who looked Iranian came up to me and started asking me about my experiences. He asked me to sign a vow of secrecy, and I refused; he offered me a \$12,000 bribe, and I refused. He got abrupt and threatening but finally left.

Why didn't you take the money?

I wasn't raised that way. If I got all the answers I was looking for, I sure wouldn't sit on them.



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

TIMES, London, England - Feb. 5, 2003

REPORTAGE

SALUT, EARTHLINGS

IF THE TRUTH REALLY IS OUT THERE, THE FRENCH ARE TAKING SERIOUS STEPS TO FIND IT. ADAM SAGE INVESTIGATES



ON A cold Monday morning 22 years ago, Jean-Jacques Velasco was sitting in his office when a gendarme rang to tell him about a strange incident. Renato Nicolai, a retired technician, had been

working in his garden in Trans-en-Provence, near Nice, when he saw a dark, round object come down from the sky, settle on the ground and take off again, the gendarme said.

Over the years, Velasco has heard many such stories, and disproved most of them. But this one was different — this one was credible, he believes. Something seems to have landed in Trans-en-Provence, he says, and that something has never been identified.

But who is Velasco? Another crackpot determined to find a flying saucer? A follower of Claude Vorilhon, the Frenchman who founded the Raelian sect amid claims that he was the son of an extraterrestrial being? No, he is a scientist working for the state-run National French Centre for Space Studies (CNES), where he heads a department responsible for analysing what are commonly called unidentified flying objects (UFOs) but what are officially known as unidentified aerospace phenomena (UAP).

It is a unique department, the only permanent government-financed scientific project set up by a developed country to unravel fact from fiction in the debate about UFOs.

In an area that draws the deranged and the dreamers, this is a serious research programme. "We have shown that there is a category of events that are not part of the classical physical scheme of things," says Velasco. These may be a light, or an object moving across the sky on "an abnormal trajectory", sometimes noiselessly.

"In some cases, there is a feeling that the phenomenon is adapting its behaviour to the environment. In others, people claim to have seen small material objects very close to them, which may even land. In the most extreme cases, people claim to see objects with beings next to them."

A neatly-dressed, bespectacled man, Velasco talks with the careful precision of an academic who is keen to be understood. He is not saying that he has come across visitors from another planet; he is saying merely that events occur for which science has yet to find an explanation, and which merit further inquiry.

"Two hundred years ago, the French Academy of Science said meteorites did not fall to Earth, that the phenomenon did not exist," he says. "Now we know it does."

Velasco's department was set up in 1977, the year that *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was released amid a global UFO fever. Across the world people thought they saw strange figures, flying saucers and bright lights. Sects such as the Raelians claimed to be in contact with extraterrestrial life. And amateur associations pledged to shed light on the burning question: are we alone? But there were few serious attempts to probe the issue. The US authorities had studied it ten years earlier and concluded that it was a waste of taxpayers' money. Most other countries, including Britain, thought likewise. Only France took the matter seriously, partly because it has the centralised state apparatus necessary to do so, and partly, no doubt, because of a vainglorious belief that if a UFO is to be found, France should be the one to find it.

The CNES duly set up the Service for Expert

METEOROLOGIE NATIONALE



Clouded vision? In France, most alleged UFOs are spotted by the sober and sensible; only one witness in 1,000 is not credible because of alcohol

a luminous balloon, a cloud above the Pyrenees that is shaped like a flying saucer. In 24.9 per cent there is a probable explanation, and in 41.3 per cent the information is too-vague to be of use. But in 12.5 per cent of cases — about 750 sightings since 1977 — the evidence is precise, detailed and inexplicable, and is thus categorised as an unidentified phenomenon.

Before reaching such a conclusion, Velasco conducts an extensive investigation using a method dubbed exemplary by Peter Sturrock, a British academic who founded the Society for Scientific Exploration. It involves inquiring into the psychological and social background of the person claiming to have seen a UFO, checking the initial witness statement against all other available evidence and working with different branches of the French administration. For instance, Sepra has a formal procedure to be followed by every gendarmerie that deals with an alleged sighting. Officers seal off the area, take ground samples and ask pre-established questions to weed out the mad and the drunk.

But most alleged UFOs are spotted by the sober and sensible, says Velasco. "In all our statistics on the personalities of the people who see

these phenomena only one in 1,000 is not credible because of alcohol. People go to gendarmerie spontaneously; in 99 per cent of cases it is because they genuinely want to know what they have seen."



Yet a witness's good faith is not enough, and the story must be corroborated. "What interests the scientist is not so much the tale that is told, but to go further and check the tale against objective data, to measure these phenomena," says Velasco. So he has established links with laboratories that analyse samples found at the scene, and an agreement with the civil and military aviation authorities to provide radar details of any unidentified flights.

Consider, for instance, a case reported in 1994, when the crew of an Air France flight from Nice to London saw a dark, 300m (1,000ft) long object over the Paris region. The object disappeared before the aircraft had got near it, and the flight continued without difficulty. A few days later Velasco travelled from his office in Toulouse to the military aviation control centre outside Paris, where he was given a read-out of the radar information from the day in question. It revealed that an unknown object had indeed flown over the French capital.

Consider, too, the Trans-en-Provence case. Velasco went through the usual checks with the gendarme who had rung him. Was the witness, Nicolai, reeking of alcohol or babbling incoherently? The answer was no. Was there any evidence to back up his story? The apparent answer was yes, since there were marks in the grass where the object had supposedly landed.

Velasco drove to Trans-en-Provence and took ground samples. These showed that the area had been heated to between 300C and 600C, that it had been compressed by something weighing up to a tonne and that the plants there had been affected by a strong electromagnetic field. Velasco concluded that Nicolai had indeed witnessed a strange happening.

So should we conclude that little green men were taking a look at Provence from their spaceship? Velasco dismisses such ideas. "We cannot say whether there is a link between the question of extraterrestrial life and that of non-identified aerospace phenomena," he says adding: "But we can show that UFOs exist. The problem is interpreting them, and I hope that scientists, and other people, look at this question more seriously."

A GUIDE TO ALIEN FRENCH

Un OVNI (objet volant non identifié): a UFO (unidentified flying object).

Une soucoupe volante: a flying saucer.

Les extraterrestres sont parmi nous: the aliens are among us.

Rencontres Rapprochées du Troisième Type: Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

C'était un petit bonhomme vert: it was a little green man.

C'est quoi, cette étrange lumière dans le ciel?: what's that strange light in the sky?

Les extraterrestres essaient de communiquer avec nous: the aliens are trying to communicate with us.

Amenez-moi à votre chef: take me to your leader.



Appraisal of Atmospheric Re-entry Phenomena (Sepra). Based in Toulouse, the department is as pedantic as its title sounds: the staff are state-employed scientists, shaped by a prudent, rigorous and somewhat bureaucratic culture. In France such bureaucracy can often be cumbersome and painfully rigid. Yet in this domain at least, this rigidity offers a guarantee of impartiality that is rare as far as UFOs are concerned.

Last year, when the CNES was told to reduce its €1.3 billion (£853 million) budget, the organisation's president, Alain Bensoussan, ordered an audit into Sepra's work. A wide range of French scientists was asked whether it was worth continuing research; almost all said yes.

One reason is because, unlike most other

UFO-hunters, Sepra's staff are neither seeking publicity nor peddling an obscure belief in extraterrestrial civilisation. They say they do not know whether extraterrestrial beings exist or not, and look disparaging when you ask them to voice their hunches on the question.

They do not have hunches, only statistics. Yet the statistics that Velasco has made public are eloquent. Since 1977, Sepra has received some 6,000 reports of alleged UFO sightings. Of these, 110 are from civil or military aircraft crew, and the rest from ordinary French people who have almost invariably contacted their local gendarmerie. In 21.3 per cent of cases there is a clear, indisputable and banal explanation: a firework display, a novel lighting system involving

Proof UFOs are out there

A UFO expert reckons his neighbour has vital new evidence for the existence of aliens.

Author Timothy Good, 60, believes a mysterious circular object moving across the sky spotted by neighbour Chris Taylor, could be a genuine and important sighting.

Postman Mr Taylor, 41, saw the object from his bedroom in The Avenue, Beckenham.

He said: "I looked out of the window and saw this thing, like a light moving very quickly, going against the usual direction of air traffic."

"It was going way too fast to be a hot air balloon, and seemed very

high up. I couldn't say what it was.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life. I've seen unusual things but nothing like that."

Mr Good, who claims to have seen a UFO above Orpington back in 1980, is a world-renowned expert on UFOs.

He believes there are several different species of aliens living on earth and has been invited to The Pentagon to discuss his research.

He said: "It sounds like this could be a genuine sighting, and I was very interested in what Mr Taylor said."

● Have you seen an unfamiliar flying object? Email swarden@london.newsquest.co.uk

NEWS SHOPPER, Bromley, England - Jan. 29, 2003



● ALIEN EXPERT: Timothy Good believes the sighting proves UFOs are real

Restless native

It was only a matter of time, one supposes, before UFOs were spotted hovering above Loch Ness. The type of mind that can entertain the idea of little green men is by definition irrational and those who are irrational tend to see meaningful patterns where none exist. As demonstrated by Hitler's favoured blend of Aryanism, folk mythology and Wiccan occult, irrational ideas cluster together, but they only ever form nut clusters. It's for much the same reason that, when UFOs were allegedly appearing above Falkirk a number of years back, believers found a mysterious echo in the area's sudden crop of lottery winners; or similarly the belief that the town of Roslin contains not only a cloning clinic but a church thought to conceal the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy Grail and Christ's head in a satin bag. Amateur cameraman Ian Gresham last week captured footage of, well, of blurry lights at an immeasurable distance in the sky. "This is amazing," he said. "Definitely something out of

the ordinary. It spins and rotates." As does the head of anybody who believes Gresham captured anything other than the diffused lights of an aircraft. "It is a UFO because it is in the air and is unidentified," added Maarten de Vries of the Astronomical Society, displaying the trademark logical rigour for which all sky-watchers are famed. I appreciate that Prosaic Distant Light Spotted Near Floating Log isn't quite as thrilling a headline as UFOs Buzz Nessie, but it's certainly more accurate.

Police probe UFO sightings

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - Jan. 31, 2003

BY HOWARD WILLIAMSON

POLICE are quizzing UFO hunters over several incidents of lights in the sky off the east coast.

Full-time researcher Russell Kellett has been interviewed by officers after a strange incident near Filey Brigg.

And he claims fellow UFO enthusiasts have also been quizzed by officers.

"It is all very strange," said Mr Kellett at his Filey home. "Two officers interviewed me after I reported an experience I had at Filey Brigg last summer."

"I was looking out to sea when I suddenly saw five saucer-shaped objects flying in a row. I turned away to get my camera and the objects were gone, but then I heard a bang and saw a flash and an RAF plane came flying over the area."

"I phoned RAF Leeming about it and they sent the police officers round to interview me. They told me I had seen and heard a heat-seeking flare.

Demise

"But they are usually fired to ward off incoming missiles. And this was over a built-up area."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, which is produced at Stourton, Leeds, said: "We have information that many police forces are now told to take all UFO sightings seriously."

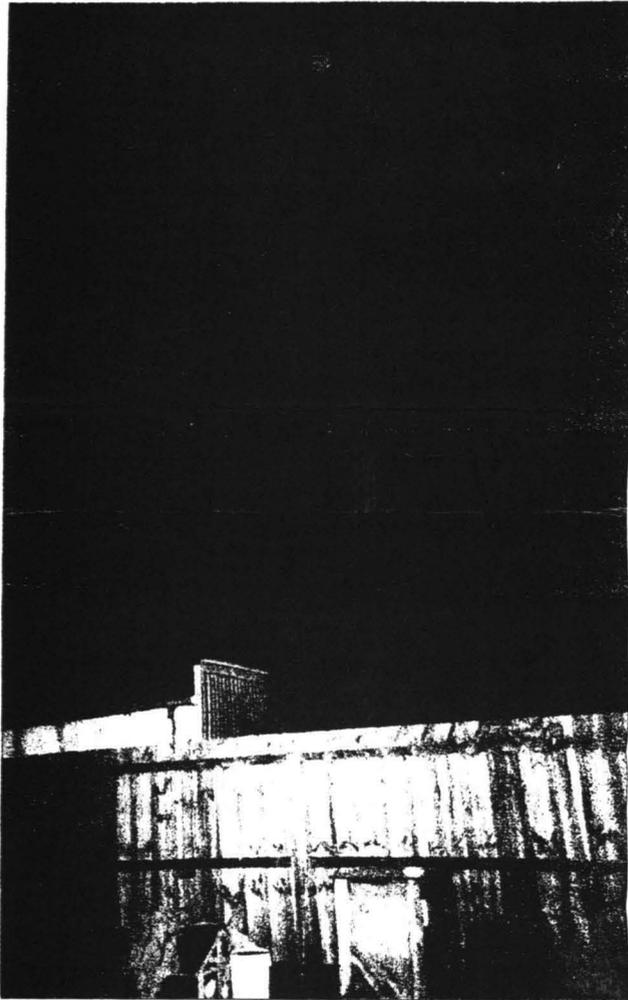
"Since the demise of the Royal Observer Corps, the UFO people who watch the skies are the eyes and ears of the nation and can alert the authorities to anything suspicious. This is particularly important at a time of heightened security."

A spokesman for North Yorkshire Police said: "If someone reports an incident which could impinge on public safety then we take it seriously. If something looks worrying, it is our job to do something about it."

Sky watches have been planned at Filey, Whitby and Scarborough. Anyone interested can phone 07901 597743.

howard.williamson@ypri.co.uk

● WHAT ARE THEY?: Flying saucers, or a natural phenomenon



MYSTERY OBJECT: A supplied photo shows a bright orange ball that hovered in Geelong's western sky on Saturday. The object is being investigated by UFO researchers.

Mysterious object seen in Geelong's night sky

GARRY COTTON

A BRIGHT orange ball which appeared in Geelong's western sky is under investigation by UFO researchers.

It was captured on film by a Hamlyn Heights family who said the speed and size of the object was frightening.

Logan Street resident Yvonne McLachlan said her daughters had been lying on a trampoline looking at the stars about 10.30pm Saturday when they noticed a small orange ball in the sky.

She said it appeared to rush towards them growing larger in the sky, and the children became so scared the ran inside screaming.

Two photographs were taken seconds apart, one showing a pinprick of light, the next a large glowing ball. Mrs McLachlan said the clarity of the images had been affected by their porch light.

Mrs McLachlan said the orange light hovered in the sky, turned on its axis to become a white light, then began to rise with the light getting dimmer.

She said it reappeared at 11 pm slightly to the southwest of its original position, then disappeared.

Mrs McLachlan said at first she thought it was an asteroid, until it accelerated towards them, stopped, hovered, then rose back into the sky.

"It was absolutely spectacular and it's a pity the photographs did not show more detail," she said.

The Victorian UFO Research Society said the incident was similar to ones experienced for some time in The Grampians and in Western Australia.

LICHFIELD POST, Staffordshire, England - Feb. 6, 2003

More sky 'triangles' reported Stealth bombers over the Chase?

by Mike Lockley

The X-Files mystery of what's flying over our skies deepened this week with news there have been a flood of sightings of triangular-shaped craft.

Staffordshire UFO Group has received info from Shenstone, Burntwood and Rugeley.

Chairman Graham Allen told The Post: "Each give a similar description of two triangular-shaped craft flying low, silent and straight at around 6.30pm on January 16."

Only last week a Post reader told of her close encounter with the triangular craft at Pottal Pool - an area that has become a hotbed of UFO activity.

However, evidence the answer to the riddle may not be in the stars has gathered strength.

With war clouds gathering, new special shelters have been constructed at one Home Counties RAF base to house US Stealth bombers has appeared in the daily

press.

And yesterday a Ministry of Defence spokesman refused to be drawn on whether the sci-fi looking aircraft are carrying out manoeuvres over

crossing, the ley lines, the former RAF Hedgesford camp nearby."

There are two alternative theories for the triangular craft being put forward by



■ The profile of a US Stealth bomber

our area. She said: "I cannot comment on what the US are doing regarding exercises and movements."

Acclaimed UFO researcher Irene Bott still thinks the triangular objects could be from another world.

She said: "On past research there is evidence to say it is not something of ours."

And Irene is not surprised there's been a glut of unexplained activity in the Pottal Pool area. Two years ago, a petrified woman motorist, claimed two large green balls of light seemed to be playing 'catch-up' with her vehicle.

Irene added: "Pottal Pool fits all the criteria for paranormal activity. There's the

UFO spotters: ■ It is the latest technology to be developed at the aero research centre in Wharton, Blackpool.

■ It is the result of 'back engineering': a claim that governments are constructing their own crafts from UFO debris.

■ The UFO group is currently interviewing the latest rash of UFO spotters. If you've seen something strange in the skies contact The Post on 01543 258523.

Derek James



Contact Derek James at derek.james@archant.co.uk or call (01603) 772420

Your tales of the night we all saw strange objects in the sky

UFO fever takes the city by storm

NEARLY half a century ago, Norwich was the centre of worldwide attention — buzzing with spooky tales of strange objects flying over the city and county.

Dozens of people reported seeing a Flying Saucer, or maybe it was a whole flock of them, flitting around the night skies.

And the matter was even raised in the House of Commons.

An image of the visitor on the front page of the Evening News of 1953 prompted numerous calls and was followed up by national papers in this country and across the world.

And when the co-author of the book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, Desmond Leslie, landed in Norwich a couple of weeks later, 400 people turned up to hear him speak at Blackfriars Hall.

Reports of strange lighted objects whizzing across the night sky came in thick and fast during 1953 and that encouraged members of the Norwich Astronomical Society to "up telescopes".

Then, in the October, one member, F W Potter, of South Park Avenue, made this drawing of a very bright object he saw which made a "yellow light of great size".

Mr Potter said later: "The rays or beams of light could be seen distinctly from the dome and attached directly beneath it was a much larger and flattened dome with a protruding band running in a circumference around its edge."

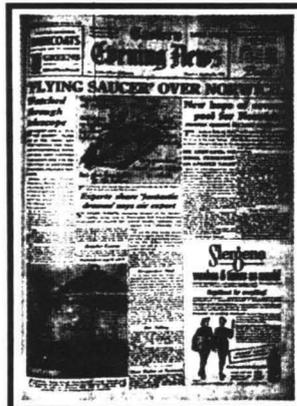
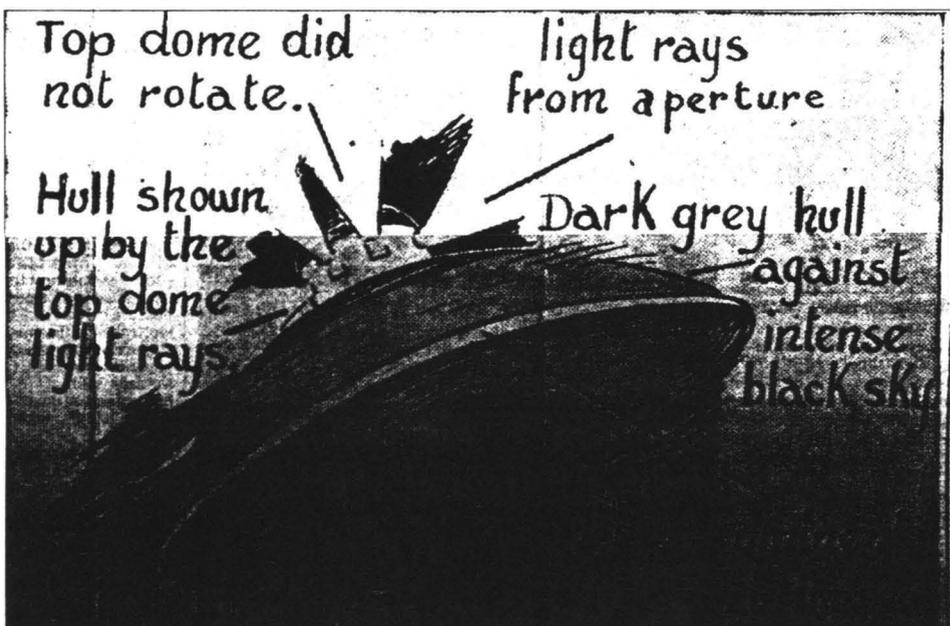
He told the Evening News that he watched the object that made no noise for more than three minutes on a very clear night.

Others who saw it included Mr F Dewing, of Lloyd Road, Norwich. He spotted it when he was near Plumstead Road Library.

And Mr E Small, of Alexandra Mansions in Prince of Wales Road, watched it through a telescope and estimated its height to be at least 10,000ft. Scout J H Gosling, of Motum Road, said he and five others also saw what appeared to be a yellow disc moving across the sky.

And W Mace, of Vincent Road, also said his 14-year-old son had reported seeing a "white smudgy object with a faint red glow underneath".

Other sightings flooded in from



STRANGE OBJECT: Above, a sketch of the flying saucer which readers said they had spotted over Norwich. Left, the front page of the Evening News on Thursday, October 8, 1953.

'The rays or beams of light could be seen distinctly from the dome and attached beneath it was a much larger and flattened dome'

Mr F W Potter

the "phenomenon" — others said he was heading off towards Yarmouth.

Phew!
Last week our readers and listeners to Radio Norfolk called to say they recalled reports of flying saucers in the 1950s and wondered if anyone else did.

I did some investigating and discovered this... I also saw that a few

weeks afterwards, MPs were also getting hot under the collar as sightings came pouring in from around the country.

Lt-Col W Schofield, the Tory member for Rochdale, asked Nigel Birch, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, if he had heard of reports from members of the Norwich Astronomical Society claiming to have seen a dome-shaped object over the city and county.

"I am afraid I am not very closely in touch with the Norwich Astronomical Society," he told the Commons.

Others said what people had seen were experimental weather balloons and dismissed reports of flying saucers as "all balloney".

Mind you, that didn't stop the toy makers cashing in — and come Christmas 1953 every boy and girl was asking Santa for their own little flying saucer.

across the city and the rest of Norfolk. Patrick Kearney, of Cley; Keith Watts, of Blofield; and David Coley of Attleborough, all said they had seen

Don't miss Derek James on the internet. Check out our website at www.eveningnews24.co.uk for the latest features and archived stories

Mother and daughter spot UFO in sky

A WIDNES woman and her daughter are wondering if they have witnessed an alien spacecraft after spotting a mysterious object hovering high in the sky over Widnes.

Rita Fletcher, who was visiting her mum Agnes Hughes at her Laurel Bank home, told her mum when she spotted an unusual shape high up with green lights emanating from it.

Rita, who likes to stargaze during the dark nights at her home in Hertfordshire, said she was so taken aback by the sight that she considered phoning Jodrell Bank observatory to ask the experts what it might be.

The pair estimate the object was there on Sunday for at

least one to two hours and believe they may have seen something similar earlier in the week.

Recently, seven workers at O2 in Preston Brook reported seeing a cigar-shaped object hovering spookily in the sky before it descended.

They said the object had moved left and right for about seven minutes before disappearing from view. The sighting prompted Cheshire UFO expert Eric Morris to look into the case.

Rita told the *Herald & Post*: "We haven't got a telescope and at first I thought it might just be a star but, after looking at it for a while I thought it was a bit odd.

"It was definitely not an aeroplane and it appeared to

be static. It had green lights on it and when you focused on the object it appeared to be cone shaped. It must have been quite big.

"I like to look at the stars where I live in Hertfordshire but I have never seen anything like that before."

Agnes said: "It appeared like a star at the first sighting until I realised that it was not distant enough. We realised it wasn't a plane because there was no movement.

"When our eyes adjusted it appeared to be cone shaped, wider at the top and narrowing at the bottom and one could more or less see at least two green lights.

"We watched it all that time, including breaks, while the weather was clear.

"At first I was convinced I was seeing the North Star but on closer observation I realised — and we both agreed — that it was something that neither of us had previously witnessed.

"My daughter was convinced that this was something unusual because of the shape."

Eric Morris is asking people who believe they have seen strange objects in the sky to contact him on 01606 330567.

Visitors, but not from the West Riding!

Special report by Alan Brook

AMATEUR video footage of a brilliant white shining object hovering over Bridlington has put the town on the world map as a UFO hot-spot.

Shot by a couple on holiday in Skipsea on an overcast August evening, it shows the dazzling light making rapid movements across the sky. At one point it is joined by smaller, triangular shaped objects, then a second bright light and later a reddish light, before it zooms down much lower, hovering for a while before disappearing to earth near Danes Dyke.

Immediately after-

wards the Bridlington coastline looks like it has been lit by dozens of spotlights.

The sighting is reported in the current issue of UFO Magazine, a spotter's bible with over 100,000 readers across 43 countries.

Editor, Graham Birdsall, describes the Bridlington film as 'nothing short of sensational'.

"In its own right it warrants a place in any serious documentary on unidentified flying objects," said Mr Birdsall, who has examined thousands of UFO videos in 34 years of studying the phenomena.

It was brought to

light by UFO investigator of 12 years, Russell Kellett, 39, who has featured on local and national radio and on regional TV in connection with UFO sightings.

He moved to Filey from Bradford two years ago and believes the East Coast is definitely a UFO zone.

His collection of reports and videos include sightings up and down the coast and in North Yorkshire, including several in Bridlington.

They include mysterious balls of light at Carnaby and near Bridlington Town Hall, a fairground carousel shaped object hovering off the Bridlington to Filey road, and a strange glowing oblong shape hanging over a field near Sledmere.

Just up the coast have been a dolphin

shaped object which appeared over Filey, it vanished, then came back three hours later during this year's Edwardian Festival celebrations, and what could have been a jet-

of the most important pieces of video evidence ever taken, not only for the East Coast, but anywhere."

Well known as a training area for RAF and the American Air

points out, the object was below heavy cloud and was much larger and brighter than Flamborough lighthouse, which can also be seen. Throughout the 50-minute film there is no sign of any form of navigation or anti-collision lights which a conventional aircraft would have.

The sighting was made by Paul Smith and his partner who live in the West Riding and were staying on a Skipsea caravan site on Thursday, August 25, this year.

Just before 9pm they spotted the mystery light over Bridlington and set the camera rolling. Later, they contacted Mr Kellett as the local UFO investigator.

Strangely enough, only three days after the Skipsea film, the Free Press reported on two local men who had seen a 'very big' white glowing oblong hovering over a field near Sledmere. Two days after that, dozens of people reported three circular lights moving across the night sky

over Cloughton near Scarborough.

There is, as they say, something out there - but exactly what, no one really seems to know.

The curious can try to work it out for themselves for Mr Kellett plans to show his previously unseen video collection of UFO sightings - including the Skipsea video - at a free evening session at Filey's Evron Centre between 7pm and 10pm on Friday, November 22.

Free Press reporter Alan Brook has seen the Skipsea video, and his verdict?

"There is a large, very bright object hovering over the bay and making the kind of rapid movements an aircraft

would be unlikely to achieve. The couple who can be heard on the film soundtrack sound genuinely surprised and fascinated by what they are watching.

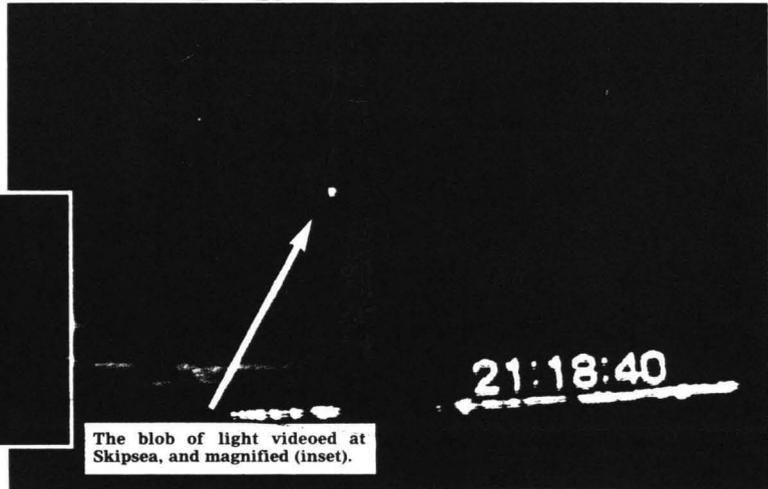
"It is hard to imagine, even if it was an aircraft, what it was doing below dense, low cloud for the best part of an hour over Bridlington bay."

The Free Press would like to hear from any of our readers who saw this incident or have experienced any other UFO sightings in the area.

You should write to UFOs, Bridlington Free Press, Prospect Street, Bridlington, YO15 2AQ, or email: newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk



The blob of light videoed at Skipsea, and magnified (inset).



UFO investigator Russell Kellett. (PA0245-b)

fighter having a close encounter with a group of five mystery objects over Filey Brigg.

But the Skipsea video is, he says, "One

Force planes, not to mention police or rescue helicopter activity, sceptics will say it is a helicopter or some other kind of aircraft.

But, as Mr Kellett

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

TADPOLES ~ An amazing account of his encounter with a UFO by Eric Trodd

During 1958 I was doing my National Service with the R.A.F and being trained as a radar operator. I had been posted to a radar station in a quiet corner of the UK where we could never expect to be in the 'front line' to deal with an attack from the East or over the North Pole, as seemed the most likely in those days. The station was nevertheless a fully equipped unit, monitoring air movements within its range. It could also, if needed, control interception by fighter aircraft. The station was also used by our partners in NATO for exercise and training purposes. To someone with no experience of radar whatsoever, imagine that it would still be quite obvious that to locate an aircraft accurately we need to plot their position on a plan or map, and then ascertain at what height the object was flying and in what direction. I am sure that after half a century of film and tv images the reader is probably more than aware that radar images are produced on equipment similar to television tubes. The repeated echoes of targets are 'painted' on the tube over a period of time. As the older echoes fade, its direction and movement give the image a

tail so that it resembles a tadpole! I should point out that while the equipment was not actually in use it was still maintained and in a condition for immediate action should the need arise.

Such high voltage equipment could naturally produce considerable amounts of heat and thus fire was often a risk. As a precaution, a watch was kept at all times when the system was not manned by a person known as a fire picket. If you have understood all of this we can now proceed with the story! I was detailed to the above duty around four o'clock one morning. We had been advised never to become absorbed in a book or allow ourselves to become relaxed that we might inadvertently drop off. We were under strict military orders and I always made sure that I was alert and not too comfortable. I am rather glad that I did! I noticed that there were very few 'tadpoles' about at that time of night and my attention was caught by a particular echo, which was making itself conspicuous by its lack of movement. It was a very strong signal located somewhere over the middle of England, probably

Derbyshire. Idly, I aimed the height equipment at this echo and to my amazement, discovered it was flying around 60,000 feet! No ordinary aircraft would travel at this altitude yet it was not moving in a way that suggested aggressive or hostile action. Fascinated, I watched this object on the height equipment for the next half an hour, it slowly descended to about 15-20,000 feet where it stopped. It was now well below the anticipated altitude for a conventional attack aircraft and yet it was not low enough to be trying to get under radar cover to launch a sneak attack. However, it had still not noticeably moved from its plan position! Then gradually, I could see that it was starting to rise once more. I think as it did so, it increased its rate of ascent. It rose to 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and then to a staggering 90,000 feet (over 17 miles above the Earth)! And on the uncalibrated part of the radar, off the top and out of sight. When I was relieved by my fellow watch worker, I asked the NCO in charge what he thought it was. He did not seem to doubt my observations in any way, yet refused to be drawn into the

subject. I later spoke to the officer in charge of monitoring general air movements and he said, "Oh yes, we get those sometimes." Yet he refused to elaborate further.

In the rest room, I began to think. We were at the forefront of rapid technical development of defence equipment, fully prepared because of the cold war to meet any potential enemy. We were also one of Her Majesty's forces and probably the primary one to protect our country, yet we were powerless to prevent such intrusive observation from above. I began to feel strangely vulnerable and to really wonder what good I was doing there. Perhaps I would have been happier if I did not know about these things or had not witnessed the apparent apathy of my superiors. Yet as I thought more I began to realise (or perhaps was wishing it to be the case) that any intelligence, that was so vastly superior to us in terms of science and technology, that simply wished to observe us without

manifest hostility and alarm are likely to be a good way beyond our weaknesses. Perhaps they do not wish to destroy all that is alien or all that they fear or don't understand. Perhaps, in other words they are not like us! They have no wish to exploit us as we would no doubt do to them. What we could learn from them may even transcend the realm of the scientific and touch on the spiritual.

In the meantime let's just hope that they are more decent than we are! Of course, dear old Patrick Moore will have a simple stock answer for all this. Something involving weather balloons no doubt. But ultimately, I think the reader should be the judge.

Strange but true...

LAST month the National Air Traffic Services issued warnings to air traffic controllers at the new Swanwick air traffic centre that garbled radar data, especially for one part of the North Sea air space sector had led to some of the centre's computers showing signs of non-existent 'ghost' aircraft which appeared to shadow real planes. They didn't specify which part of the North Sea.

Help is out there - on a database drawn up by a West student

Abducted by aliens?

Contact James for support and counselling

By Ruth Wood
r.wood@bepp.co.uk

SEEING little green men or been taken on a flight in a space ship? Then help is at hand.

West student James Basil has set up a support group for all those who have been abducted by aliens.

And yesterday he called on all "paranormal witnesses", particularly those who are suffering in silence, to come forward.

Set up in 2001, the group has a database of counsellors, psychotherapists, witnesses, investigators and researchers who are open to paranormal and psychic phenomena.

And they are on standby, just waiting to help.

James was inspired to form the Foundation For The Research Of Extraordinary Trauma And Support For Abductees (FRETSA) after his own paranormal experiences.

But the 23-year-old from Bristol learned at an early age that telling stories of being whisked off by "little men" was more likely to get him whisked off by big men in white coats.

So he stopped talking.

'Healthy, sane young man'

He told only the psychologists about the humanoid lizards, alien night school, UFOs over Bristol and white men with big teardrop heads and almond eyes.

Eventually, they concluded that James was a perfectly healthy, sane young man and advised him to find people with similar experiences.

The Bristol college student then decided to set up a national support, research and information group for abductees and witnesses of paranormal phenomena. And now he is eager to share his experiences in the hope that fellow abductees will get in touch.

"I'm not saying there are these tin-can space ships from another planet taking me away for experiments," said James. "It could be something else. All I know is I've seen things that I can't easily explain.

"There must be other people out there who feel the same but can't talk about it because of the social stigma."

FRETSA's founding director has been having paranormal ex-



Database of helpers: James Basil, who set up a foundation to listen to "paranormal witnesses". Inset: Two UFOs Picture: Paul Gillis



A UFO report in Fortean Times

periences since his childhood. He said: "From the age of four I used to complain to my mum about the little men or goblins that I saw at night.

"But I managed to convince myself it was all dreams. Then when I was 12 I had my first major flash-

back. I was five and I'd woken up in the middle of the night to find myself sitting up in bed.

"It was as if someone had moved me. There was a big lump under the duvet at the bottom of my bed and it was moving as if a cat was trapped under there.

"I wasn't frightened, just curious. Then it got out and there was a dark shadow at the end of my bed.

"In the light coming through under the door, I saw the thing was standing on my bedpost.

"It was about 3ft tall and I can only describe it as a lizard with a humanoid form. It had scaly cobalt grey skin, quite a big head and long arms down to the knees with three or four fingers.

"It had a pug nose and big eyes, like a cat's, staring at me. And then I noticed its feet. It had three feet, each of them with nails that were gripping the bedpost.

"At this point I started freaking out and screamed for my Mum. The thing jumped off the bedpost

and floated to the top of the wardrobe."

James's mother ran upstairs and coaxed her son back to sleep, telling him he'd had a nightmare.

But James claims that the next day, while getting him dressed, his mother found an inch-long scar on his belly button and another on his leg, four inches long.

Throughout his childhood and teenage years, James continued to have surreal experiences.

Sometimes he would wake up to find his house in Withywood, Bristol, filled with light. Other times he would find himself outside or in a sitting room with no windows, surrounded by other children.

"I never remember being taken on a spaceship," he said. "But once I woke up and I was in what looked like the bottom of a ship. I looked through a window and saw the Earth and lots of stars."

For more information visit the website <http://groups.msn.com/frets4witnesses> or e-mail James at frets4witnesses@hotmail.com.

YORK EVENING PRESS,
Yorkshire, England
Feb. 4, 2003

New sighting of strange light in sky

MORE sightings of a strange light in the skies above York were reported today.

Phyllis Moody, 87, contacted the Evening Press to say she had seen lights in the Acomb area last night.

Phyllis, of Front Street, said: "It is star coloured, a brilliant light, but it moves. It is not a plane but I can't imagine what it could be."

Mrs Moody has ruled out UFOs or visitors from outer space.

"I'm too old to believe in all that," she laughed.

Meanwhile, Second World War veteran John Boughton, of Barmby Moor, near Pocklington, also said he had seen the mysterious light.

Mr Boughton, 84, said: "It was a brightish yellow colour, came from behind a cloud above Barmby Moor then vanished."

The latest sightings follow a story in Friday's Evening Press, in which Jane Skelton said she had seen a light above Strensall.

If anyone knows what the light was, please phone Richard Edwards at the Evening Press on 01904 653051 (extension 310).

YORK EVENING PRESS,
Yorkshire, England
Jan. 31, 2003

Light in the sky

CALL Mulder and Scully - a UFO has reportedly been sighted in the skies above York.

Evening Press reader Julie Skelton contacted the paper to say she had spotted "a bright light in the sky" while driving along the A64 between Hull Road and the Hopgrove roundabout.

She said: "It hovered there for about one minute and just disappeared like a light turning out."

"The sky was very dark and overcast so it showed up so brightly. It was directly in the eyeline, so I presume everyone else travelling in the same direction will have seen this as well."

The "sighting" happened at about 11.20am on Monday. If anyone else saw the light, or knows what it was, phone Richard Edwards at the Evening Press on 01904 653051 (extension 310).

Documents give credence to UFOs

SIR - It is amusing, but pleasing, to see the media's sudden interest in the Government's recently released documents (although censored) confirming a UFO incident at a nuclear armed RAF/USAF base in Suffolk at the end of 1980.

There were no surprises for people who follow and take an interest in this subject.

This case is well known, and was reported at length in a Sunday newspaper soon after the event.

There were too many witnesses outside the control of the civil and military police (who both sealed off the area) to contain it.

As usual in these cases, the newspaper could not resist adding a few wacky embellishments of its own to undermine the credibility of the whole story.

Will the release of these documents now persuade the press and other media to report these sightings in a fair, open and balanced way? We shall see.

In the past 50 years, there has been a concerted effort from all branches of the establishment to ridicule and condemn anyone who reports such incidents. Tens of thousands of perfectly credible eyewitnesses - mostly from our most skilled and highly-trained civil and military aircrew - have been treated as fools and their abilities called into question.



Airbase: Where UFOs were spotted

These are the very same people whose dedication and skill we had unquestioned faith in during the Cold War years and to date.

Yet suddenly they lose that faith when the unexplained is reported.

Anyone interested in the Rendlesham Forest incident should read Georgina Bruni's book, You Can't Tell The People.

The title is taken from Margaret Thatcher's remarks when questioned by the author about the 1980 incident.

P G Croft
Nailsea
Somerset

CANNOCK CHASE MERCURY, Staffordshire, England - Oct. 3, 2002

Oh baby! New dad spots giant UFO over the Chase

AN EAGLE-EYED dad has started to believe the truth really is out there after spotting a gigantic UFO hovering over the Chase.

Winston Wilding was driving back to his house in Trent Road, Cannock, at 11.30pm on Monday when he saw what describes as a 'ginormous' unidentified flying object off Stafford Road.

"It was massive," the 38-year-old exclusively told the Mercury.

"It was shaped like an aircraft carrier, it was at least three times as big as a Jumbo Jet and

there were lights all around it. It was like a massive floating piece of street.

"It hovered over the woods at Brocton - it made no noise at all and by the time I had pulled over it had disappeared."

Mr Wilding was driving back from Staffordshire General Hospital, where he had been visiting his girlfriend Emma who had recently given birth to their son, Tommy.

Two of his friends were with him and also saw the object - they were too terrified to get out of the car.

Mr Wilding confessed that before Monday he did not believe in 'little green men', but has now changed his mind.

"People can laugh as much as they like but I know what I saw," he said.

Ironically, he even usually keeps a camera in his car but on this one occasion did not have it as it was with Emma at the hospital, after taking pictures of Tommy.

Staffordshire UFO Group's co-ordinator, Graham Allen, said he had not had any other reports of the sighting.

"It was a clear night," he said.

"The Chase area is notorious for strange sightings and there have been a number of reports and well-documented cases on Cannock Chase in the past."

RAF Cosford Squadron Leader Vic Kinnin said: "We have had no reports of any unidentified flying objects and that is unusual because if anybody sees anything we usually get several calls."

UFO sightings over quarry

Matthew Smith continues his series on local myths and legends.

Myths And Legends

Sightings of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, are surprisingly common these days.

People have always had a fascination with the idea of mysterious beings from other worlds visiting our planet, and the last few decades have seen ever-increasing numbers of alleged extra-terrestrial encounters.

The fact is that anyone with access to a camera, some paper plates and a decent throwing arm can fake a photo of a UFO, and there are quite often perfectly rational explanations for supposedly unearthly experiences.

Even so, there are still a large number of UFOs which

remain unidentified, and they are not all restricted to obscure towns in Mexico.

One such case took place near Shepton Mallet 25 years ago, at Foster Yeoman's Merehead Quarry to the east of Cranmore.

Best known today as the biggest quarry in Europe, the site achieved some measure of fame for a different reason in the January of 1978.

For some months previously, night workers had reported catching sight of bizarre lights in the sky above the quarry at seemingly random intervals.

Nothing unusual was ever seen by more than one person at the same time, yet several different workers said they had spotted the same thing - a bright red glow filtering

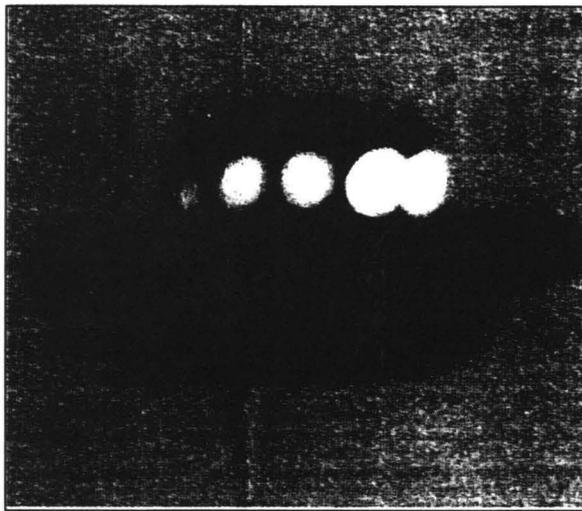
through the clouds, which would suddenly move at speed before vanishing.

A variety of strange things began to happen when the lights made their appearances, such as electrical equipment on the site shorting out for no apparent reason.

Stranger still were the claims of one witness who said that since catching sight of the glow, just before the Christmas of 1977, he had begun having precognitive dreams.

No one at the quarry had any explanation for the odd goings-on, and news of the weird nocturnal phenomena began to spread, with articles appearing in the local press.

It was as a result of the media coverage that the case came to the attention of the



When people think of UFOs, blurry images of saucer-shaped spacecraft usually spring to mind, but it seems this is far from the only form they take

UFO Information Exchange Library in Trowbridge, at that time one of the biggest UFO organisations in Britain.

The group arranged to investigate the sightings, and for the next month carried out a series of tests and late-night vigils to try and uncover the truth.

Despite sitting out for several evenings in the hope of get-

ting photos of the lights, the team never caught so much as a glimpse of the phenomenon itself.

However, the investigation did reveal some other evidence which added to the mystery surrounding the case.

The team's research elsewhere had shown the majority of truly inexplicable UFO activ-

ity took place near large areas of water - and the quarry was located near two reservoirs in Asham Woods.

Also, an examination of the damaged electrical items showed the wiring had melted inside them, tying in with their theory that the presence of UFOs could affect power supplies.

UFO hunter seeks reports of sightings in Wales

A TOP UFO hunter in Britain has turned his sights to Wales and is appealing for help in his research.

Phil Hoyle, of the UFO Investigations and Research Unit, has been investigating reports of UFO sightings for 20 years and wants to hear from anyone who has seen anything strange in the night, or even daytime, sky.

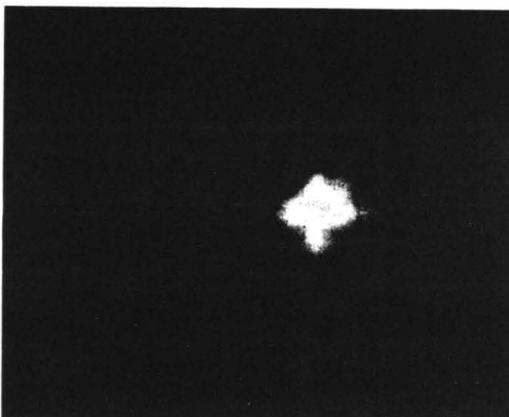
Wales has a rich "history" of UFO sightings, from the Roswell-type alleged crash of a flying saucer in the Berwyn Mountains in January 1974 to the more recent sighting by scores of people of two unknown objects flying over Swansea and the Gower in 1998.

Pembrokeshire, in particular, is considered a UFO hot spot with a rash of strange sightings in the mid-to-late 1970s.

Although a Milford Haven businessman, Glyn Edwards, has since admitted to taking a stroll in a silver suit at the time, many strange sightings are still unexplained, including a saucer-shaped object hovering near a school at Broad Haven.

Since the heady days of the mid-to-late 1970s, Pembrokeshire sightings, which some believe are linked to top secret defence bases in the county, has declined - as, of course, has its military role.

However, only a few years ago in 1997 there were several sightings



PROOF? This image was taken from a spacecraft studying the sun

of a mysterious triangular craft and unexplained balls of light over Cardigan Bay.

Mr Hoyle, who holidays regularly in Pembrokeshire, is convinced that there is something out there and that governments know all about it.

He had his own UFO experience one evening while staying at Har-oldston Wood in March 2000, when he and his wife saw a bright light about the same size and

luminosity of the star Sirius moving slowly across the sky from west to east.

"I looked at the object through my binoculars and I could see a bright white sphere; then suddenly a small red object shot out of the bottom left-hand side of the white sphere," he said.

"The sphere carried on slowly towards Haverfordwest and disappeared below the horizon, but the red small object seemed to stay

in the same place as it was ejected from. The small object darted horizontally over an approximate distance of 500 feet; it moved in a zig-zag erratic manner from left to right."

He said too many people had similar experiences of UFOs and alien encounters for them to be dismissed out of hand.

"There's a lot of things happening but they do need to be looked at scientifically," he said.

"The powers that be are well aware that there is something out there. They also know that they have a technology beyond what we can only dream of."

Retired vet Randall Jones Pugh, who wrote a book called *The Dyfed Enigma* about the Pembrokeshire sightings of the 1970s, said he too was convinced of the existence of UFOs.

"Apart from the human factor you also have to take the experience of animals into account," he said.

"Such things induce great terror among animals so it's not just a question of hallucinations or imagination. It's a phenomenon."

But Martin Griffiths, senior lecturer in earth and space sciences at the University of Glamorgan, dismissed the UFO business as a modern mythology created by the media, which did not stand up to rigorous scientific scrutiny.

"It's full of vivid imagery and

imagination, and there's nothing wrong in that, but when we want to do scientific tests on these things there's nothing behind them," he said. "They can be explained away very easily in most cases."

"Whereas people in the past believed in angels they have passed into beings from another planet."

He said it was no coincidence that 89.6% of all sightings in the United States took place in close proximity to airbases.

"There may be something going on, but it's human rather than alien," he said.

The famous Pembrokeshire sighting took place in February 1977, when 14 pupils at a Broad Haven primary school claimed to have seen a cigar-shaped spaceship land in a field next to their playground just after lunch time.

Some of the children even claimed to have seen spacemen around the aircraft dressed in silvery grey.

When the headmaster asked them to draw what they had seen, he was astonished to find that the drawings were almost identical.

Further sightings in the county of glowing lights and spacemen poured in over the following months.

If any one has had strange sightings or encounters they can write to Mr Hoyle at PO Box 11, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1WD.

UFO spotted

A GARGRAVE resident thinks he has spotted a UFO.

Neil Brotherton responded to an appeal by UFO researcher Donald Cooper after sightings in the night sky over Skyrholme.

It prompted Mr Brotherton to phone Mr Cooper because he had seen a strange object over Sharpshaw on October 3.

"It seemed quite high up and looked like an illuminated bowl," he said. "All I can say is that I had never seen anything like it before."

Fishy tale of Margate UFOs

FIFTY years ago this week Margate was in the grip of UFO fever after four objects were spotted in the sky above the jetty.

An angler said he saw four saucers flash across the sky in perfect formation at 7.30pm one Sunday evening.

Tony Higgins (36) had just landed a 2lb bass when he saw the "UFOs".

Clearly engrossed in his fishing, he waited until midnight

to report the matter to police, asking: "Do you have to report flying saucers?"

He told the Isle of Thanet Gazette: "They looked more like flying dinner plates than saucers and were completely surrounded by a luminous glow."

"The objects were flying from Broadstairs to Whitstable and kept in a perfect square formation."

"By the way they were fly-

ing, I am sure they were controlled. Their speed was so great that they would have left any jet aircraft standing."

Mr Higgins was a teetotaler who once unsuccessfully stood as a Conservative candidate for Margate council.

Margate coastguards did not receive any reports of flying saucers. US airmen based at Manston said they did not have any planes in the sky at the time of the sighting.

What did they see?

AS close encounters go it might not have been of the Third Kind - or even the First.

But what a Downhead Park man and his friends saw as they enjoyed a late night drink and chill-out on Saturday was probably not of this world.

It was just before 10pm.

"We were just sitting there in the garden chatting when I saw this orange glow in the sky - and then everyone saw it," said the 38-year-old who did not wish to be identified.

"It seemed to be boomerang-shaped at the front with a tail of fire behind."

"We all watched it for about five or six seconds."

By Steve Larner

He said the mystery object was travelling at least 10 times faster than any jet at an extreme altitude and completely silently.

He was so concerned he called the telephone operator and asked if there was a 'UFO-Line' to report such things.

"All I got was a Ministry of Defence answering machine for reporting low-flying military aircraft."

"This was no aircraft - but what did I see?" he asked.

This week the Citizen came

up with a possible answer.

Asteroid 2002 NY40 passed Earth late Saturday/early Sunday.

It was just 330,000 miles away, which is slightly further away than the moon, but according to astronomers it would have been less bright than the faintest star, and even with a small telescope would have been hard to spot.

But our sky-watcher will have to wait a while to confirm it was his mystery object... 2002 NY40 will not be this way again for another 50 years!

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.]

August 9, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincial*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — RANCHER CLAIMS BEING PARALYZED BY UNKNOWN OBJECT — **Reports on strange cases emerge** — The events involving mutilated animals, which re-emerged in recent days, and the UFO sightings at Punta Alta, are now joined by the strange story by a rancher from [the town] of Jacinto Arauz, who claims having been only a meter and a half away from a "flat, three-legged apparatus"--a contact which left him immobilized for an undetermined span of time.

Claims of strange lights crossing the skies at night and even the account of a rancher who claims having had a close encounter in broad daylight have joined the mutilations in this locality, which began in early June (2002). This is the case of Raul Dorado, owner of a field near this location, who was the protagonist of the startling event, which took place as he toured his field, which he does on a daily basis. According to his story, everything began with a noise similar to that of a "whirlwind" and he later saw how a strange craft descended over him, whisking away his cellphone and leaving him momentarily speechless. The rancher was born and lived in the countryside until ten years ago.

Today, a resident of this Pampan community, he visits the place every day. The site covers only a few hectares located 4 km north of the city, on the sides of Route 35, with groves of trees and reeds growing at the edge of a stream crossing the pasture field. "As I was heading back toward the farmhouse, where I'd left the car, was when that thing appeared," he recalls.

"It was a dim green-colored circumference--although in daylight, I wasn't able to note its luminosity. It had three legs and was barely a meter or meter and a half away from me," he maintained.

"When I saw it," he continued, "I felt something like an electrical charge. I fell to the ground on my knees, paralyzed, unable to do anything, with my shotgun leaning on the ground. I was also carrying binoculars and had a cell phone in my left hand, which was sucked up by the green circle. I saw it rising and disappearing."

The following is a segment of the interview between *La Nueva Provincial's* reporter and Raul Dorado:

--What was the object like? -- Given that I could only see the bottom part, it was a smooth surface with three legs. At no time did it make contact with the ground. I don't know how many minutes it was there, because I lost all notion of time.

-- Did you see any figures or persons descending from the craft? -- No, all I saw was my cell phone "traveling" toward the craft. The same did not happen to my weapon or my binoculars.

--How did the object vanish? -- It took off toward the west with a muted sound, as though from a strong wind, a whirlwind that occurred instantly and at high speed.

--How did you get back into town? -- It was roughly 17:00 hrs. when the event occurred, and it took a lot [of effort] to reach the farmhouse and the car. I left, and came back home at more or less 19:00 hrs...I tried telling my wife but I couldn't speak.....

"I always tell him to come back by daylight," added his wife, Elda, who stated that she was starting to get concerned since her husband wasn't home yet.

"I was about to dial the cell phone when he turned up. He tried to speak but couldn't, and he hugged me and started to cry. I called my neighbor to take him to the hospital, and then he scribbled what happened to him on a piece of paper, which was later taken by the police."

He was attended by physician Ana Maria Lazaric at the hospital, whose examination found nothing abnormal except for a puncture mark in the left ring finger, between the nail and the flesh of the cuticle. How it occurred could not be determined. "He was in a severe state of shock and the doctor gave him a sedative. He wanted to come home and as soon as he woke up the next morning he was able to speak," explained his wife.

Dorado said that the puncture was not on his finger prior to the event, but was unable to explain when the injury occurred. "The ring and middle fingers of the hand in which I held the cell phone still hurt. My jaws, shoulder and legs also hurt. I always wanted to see something like that, but nothing like this had ever happened to me."

While no mutilated animals were found on his property, he explained that a mutilated cow was found 200 meters from his field last week. "A few meters away from the site there's another [mutilated cow] and some 300 meters southeast, they recently found one a few days ago. Now I'm more convinced than ever that these mutilations are not caused by mice or other animals."

Senior officer Marcelo Alarcon--in charge of the Jacinto Arauz sheriff's office due to Deputy Sheriff Hector Rosane's furlough--reported that the events at Dorado's field are still being researched. He also noted that he has toured the location in search of tracks or the missing cell phone, although without any results.

Regarding the cell phone, police researchers placed phone calls to it on the same night the incident took place to see if anyone answered. On two tries, it would ring and then cut off, and on a third attempt, a sort of breathing could be heard, and then the sound of the keypad being dialed. Follow-up efforts--constant until the following evening--aimed at finding out who was answering the phone indicated that the cell phone was either off or beyond the coverage area. —

CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 9, 2002 — *Telam News Agency*, Argentina — MUTILATED BOVINE FOUND IN CATAMARCA — A mutilated bovine, missing its genitals, tongue, ears and eyes was found in recent hours at the El Penon location in Catamarca near the El Rodeo summer village, 38 km from the provincial seat, according to the National Health and Agro-Alimentary Quality Service (SENASA)

This agency confirmed that a commission is working in the area to reliably determine the appearance of a mutilated bovine. According to the police report, it presents characteristics similar to those of other bovines found in other Argentine provinces.

The discovery occurred at Cerro Ambato, according to the owner of the mutilated cow--Carlos Sosa--who later made the corresponding claim at the El Rodeo deputy sheriff's office for the alleged crime of "damages". Police confirmed that, according to Sosa, the animal in question is a cow missing its genitals, eyes, tongue, and ears, and has a hole in the area of the knee, yet shows no signs of decomposing.

Specialized personnel from the National Institute of Livestock Technology (INTA) and SENASA-Catamarca decided to transfer the rest of the mutilated cow to the Catamarcan capital to have them analyzed in a lab.

With the three burros found this week in the province of Jujuy, the number of animal species being mutilated rises to seven. Aside from bovines, which are involved in 90 per cent of the events, horses, pigs, sheep, guanacos and wild boar have also been mutilated. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 22, 2002 — *Servicio Informativo Ovnologico*, Rio Cuarto, Argentina — U.N.R.C. HAS YET TO SOLVE BULL MUTILATION AT BERROTARAN — Knowledgeable sources informed this service that in spite of the best efforts made in the agencies of the School of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine of the National University of Rio Cuarto, the case involving the dead male bovine mutilated in the vicinity of Berrotaran, 75 km north of Rio Cuarto on Rt. 36, has yet to be solved.

As will be remembered, this was the first mutilation case in which the center of higher learning of Rio Cuarto became involved, with the Vice Dean of said school heading a team that analyzed the animal on the spot and later transferred it to Rio Cuarto for the respective analyses. Dr. Bessone had said at the time that "the necropsy had shed contradictory information" among which can be highlighted:

- *The animal had subcutaneous lesions in its thorax and ribs.
- * Had lesions around the extracted eye, as though a device had been rested on it.
- * Its rumen did not contain remains of corn chaff, the type of nourishment found in the lot where the animal was discovered.
- * The internal organs were absorbed through the rectum and cut, apparently in a single motion and using the same tool.
- * There was no blood in the heart. The animal did not die from a heart attack or from electric shock.

The fact that the situation has not been resolved should not be construed as impugning the capabilities of local scientists. They simply found themselves in an apparent dead end--a similar experience to that of hundreds of their colleagues in the great Argentinean region affected by these manifestations. Unfortunately, the scientists--in spite of their advanced methods and devices--are unable to unlock "mysteries", and can merely "investigate methodically." And that is what they are doing these days, without forgetting that this is not the only case under study at the School of Agronomy of Rio Cuarto. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

August 27, 2002 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — VIDEO CONFIRMS UFO PRESENCE AT FIDAE 2002 — **Phenomenon captured on video during roll-out of the Chilean Air Force's Mirage Pantera fighter** — SANTIAGO (Aug.16) -- The appearance of a series of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in two recordings made during the last International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE, in Spanish) caused great expectations and surprise. The luminous phenomena appear to monitor the maneuvers of a fighter plane.

On April 6, Claudia Cabezas and her brother visited FIDAE 2002 at the Los Cerrillos Airport. As in previous years, they were equipped with video cameras. Both Claudia and her brother carried their own instruments.

Shortly after 15:00 hours, the fair's loudspeakers announced the presentation of the FAC's Mirage Pantera fighter. Immediately, hundreds of camera lenses were pointed at the runway to record this new aircraft.

"I have always enjoyed the UFO phenomenon since I was young. My first sighting occurred at around 10 years of age. I knew that strange things are always seen at these air shows, and that's why I brought my camera. My brother doesn't believe much [in UFOs] but brought his along all the same," explained Claudia Cabezas.

Seconds after the fighter's take off, a strange sheen drew the young woman's attention. "Did you see that?," I asked my brother. He said no, and I kept on recording." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August ?, 2002 — *Vox Populi Diario Digital*, Argentina — THE CATTLE MUTILATIONS RETURN — As occurs in these cases, in which logical explanations appear not to fit, the city of Curuzu Cuatia in Corrientes and its environs are shaken by the recent appearance of a cow with clear incisions on its vital parts. This discovery does nothing but feed the certainty that we are facing another cattle mutilation event.

Personnel from SENASA (National Health and Agroalimentary Quality Service) reached the San Antonio ranch on Sunday morning. The ranch is located 5 km from Curuzu Cuatia, in the Third Section of the Department of Mercedes. The ranch's owner, cattleman Miguel Caseroto, 68, found the lifeless bovine in a pasture field late Saturday. He informed the authorities, who ascertained the animal's presence and requested the intervention of SENASA authorities, who subjected the animal to a more thorough study to reach an official explanation suitable to the circumstances.

According to police sources, the health-control agency said that the animal "was four years old, and the death had occurred 4 to 5 days previous, and there were no signs of natural incisions or violence."

They further added that the bovine was found lying on its right side. The experts noted the absence of muscles from the left maxillary, as well as the absence of an eye and ear on the same side, along with part of the tongue. They explained that the animal had no nipples and showed an enlargement of the anal region.

No sooner did this information become known than the concern among cattle ranchers was immediately spread to the cities of southern Corrientes province, which were trying to find a satisfactory explanation. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

September 4, 2002 — *Cronica*, Chile — The Mystery of a "Strange Visitor" in the Chilean Sky — The UFO recorded on Monday night by a reporter from *Cronica* in the Los Lirios de Concepcion sector, which was also witnessed from various other locations, is thought-provoking. The video recording was achieved with an ordinary Samsung camcorder, and it clearly shows a solid-looking object which remained suspended several meters over the crest of Cerro Caracol for a number of minutes.

The object was first seen at around 21:25 hours (the time shown in the recording is incorrect, since it is two hours fast), and remained at the site for some 10 minutes. The object was somewhat larger than a star and smaller than the bulb of a light source, and was at 20 degrees elevation.

The night was completely clear and it was indeed possible to see the stars. Even Venus, the planet habitually mistaken for a UFO, was slightly visible--on the opposite side of the celestial dome. A light layer of fog, however, covered the sky above the phenomenon recorded by the camera, but below the mean elevation at which the stars can be clearly seen. It is very likely that humidity may have played a role in the optical effect of what was being seen--enlarging it--but

without a doubt something produced that image.

The alleged object remained static throughout the time it remained at the location, giving the impression of brushing against the treetops, but it later diminished gradually in size, creating the effect of a candle being blown out. Oddly enough, when it was no longer visible at Los Lirios, it remained visible from the Los Carrera avenue, where it was seen for a few minutes more.

What was it? We do not know. But we can state that it wasn't an airplane, not only because it didn't move (no comment) but because the camera recorded precisely the crossing of one of two jets flying in the vicinity of Carriel Sur at that time. The intermittent lights issued were not even visible when the image was frozen, and as is obvious, it was an object in motion.

The Carriel Sur airport records practically no information regarding strange or unexplained objects in the sky under its custody, and this did not change with Monday night's sighting. According to Juan Gomez, the airport's director of operations, at the time when the startling event was recorded--at around 21:00 hours--there was commercial air traffic from the south, specifically from Temuco, which could account for the presence of an intense light brighter than that of a star, for example.

In spite of this, the metal birds do move, and according to eyewitness accounts--among them, that of the author of this article--the phenomenon a few nights ago remained static for nearly an hour. The control tower picked up nothing, said the expert, and it operates 24 hours a day. Nor did the air traffic controller leave any record of this event, and when there are sightings of this kind and phone calls are received from people, the radar is usually alerted to find out if anything has been picked up, which did not occur on this occasion.

Consulted about a reasonable explanation, the air traffic controller argued that he could only think of some heavenly body. He dismissed the possibility of any weather balloons, since those devices are not launched from the area and would not be launched at night, in any event.

"We aren't experts on the subject either. Generally when such cases emerge, we forward them to the *Comite de Estudios de Fenomenos Aereos Anomalos (CEFAA)*," he noted. Juan Gomez has worked for 12 years in this field and came to Carriel Sur early this year. His experience with such things is minimal, he said yesterday. He is also ignorant of any background information on strange sightings at Carriel Sur--only one which took place a few years ago, when two commercial airliners reported seeing something strange, but nothing aside from that.

The boys concerned with studying UFOs in our area have put forth a wide array of ideas and hypotheses to explain the strange lights which appeared in the skies earlier this week. We provided some visual evidence to the experts, so they could issue an opinion on what was seen. Cautioning that it was only an initial hypothesis, Hector Mendez of AIFOC (*Agrupacion de Investigacion Cientifica del Fenomeno Ovni*), remarked that the object has a temperature greater than that of a star.

He juggled two options: the first was related to the refraction of a planet, like Jupiter and Venus, a situation which is caused by the ambient temperature this time of year. "The spectrum we note is generated by the lens of the camera which recorded the object. It is a spectrum different from the one left by an airplane, which is red, compared to the one seen here, which is green," he noted.

The other alternative--which is rather difficult given the season of the year-- is that it could be an ionization trail, produced by airliner turbulence. He also dismissed the possibility that it could have been seen by radar, since under extreme conditions, had it been some kind of alien object, which is believed to remain suspended by means of electromagnetism, it would have eluded radar (sic).

He remarked that it was necessary to study the recording in greater detail, comparing the stars visible at the time in question, conduct a site visit and forward the evidence to CEFAA.

On the other hand, Leonardo Torres of MUFON noted that "the initial impression is that we are dealing with a solid body that doesn't reflect light--it generates it, like the headlights of a car."

Since the object was seen several hours after sunset, he adds that it could not have reflected sunlight. "To me, it's a UFO. An astronomical phenomenon cannot be ruled out, but it's difficult to say it was a star, given its greater brilliance," he stated.

Torres, sharing the same opinion as Mendez, pointed out that further studies of the recording were needed, along with analyzing the camera's zoom lens and the conditions existing on that day.

The object drew the attention of other locals, each of whom provided his or her own version about the body which flew over our heads.

Erika Vasquez was one of the people who saw the suggestive light. According to this resident of the Collao sector, her daughter called her by phone, asking her to look at the object through the window. "I went up to the second storey of my house and saw it to the left of some new buildings around nine o'clock at night," said the woman, who went back upstairs after a while to continue her observations, but on this occasion could only see part of the object, since some trees covered part of the object. "I was dumbfounded when I saw it," she remarked.

A resident of the Santa Sabina neighborhood--who chose to remain anonymous--also witnessed the shining object at around 21:30 hours, as he noted, when he went out to buy a drink at a store close to his home, some minutes away. As he walked, he saw an intense source of light to the southwest which under no circumstances could be mistaken for a star, he said, noting that the body's luminosity and size was larger than that of a star, believing that it could be some planet visible during the early hours of the evening. However, he paid no further mind. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

September 7, 2002 — *Terra.cl* and *Gran Diario Regional El Mexicano*, Mexico — UFO SEEN OVER TIJUANA, MEXICO — ** Strange craft's maneuvers were seen by a large number of people** — September 7 — Dozens of residents of Avenida Porticos in San Antonio de Los Buenos (Tijuana, Mexico) claim having seen a UFO in the early morning hours of September 1st. It had a diameter of approximately 50 meters and it remained suspended over this area at low altitude, even while covered by a cloud.

Our sources, who spoke to us via telephone at the newsroom, said that the time was approximately 02:15 hours when they noticed a powerful light in the sky. Those who were the first in detecting it looked to the sky to see what this large object might prove to be, and they say it was not a helicopter.

They state that they woke up other neighbors and friends, since they were afraid that they were suffering from a strange collective hallucination, having been at a party and consumed alcohol earlier. However, this was not the case, since those who were awakened and roused from their beds and had not consumed liquor saw exactly the same thing: a highly luminous object. What is most curious, according to our sources, is that the object in question was noiseless, even when it rose higher into the air, before vanishing from sight.

They do not know if others saw this strange flying object, but from the moment that the entire community of this

section of Tijuana saw the object, they have not dismissed the possibility of having seen a UFO.

"Grupo Xendra de Mexico" is gleaning more information to see if any video recordings or photographs of the phenomenon exist, so as to incorporate them into the wave that has been recorded in recent months in the land of the Aztecs. — CREDIT: Ing. David Triay Lucatero, Grupo CAFR (Mexico)

September 16, 2002 — *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense* (C.O.R.), Argentina — UFO PURSUIT IN SOUTHERN CORDOBA — **UFOs reappear in Cordoba's southern reaches** — RIO CUARTO, Cordoba, Argentina — Less than 48 hours have elapsed between the events on Saturday, September 7th, when Cordoba is once again the site of another event allegedly related to the UFO phenomenon.

On this occasion, a family traveling in a pickup truck between the localities of Achiras and Sampachoy were in the vicinity of the Cerro Aspero when they began noticing a "very intense red light in the sky" which originated from the southwest, as their vehicle headed northward from the south along provincial route 24. The time was approximately 22:30 hours. The head of the family preferred not to disclose his identity, but told the news media that "this is the first time it's happened to us," going on to relate that at no time did his family feel fear, nor was there any nervousness on his part. "If that thing wanted to hurt us, it could have clearly done so."

When asked by researchers about the characteristics of the object witnessed, he explained: "It was like an intense red beam... there were other flashes of great brightness behind it and what drew our attention the most is that the front section of the luminous object had something resembling an arch of light, as though it were a circle of energy." The younger members of the group of nocturnal travelers stated that "they were very impressed."

The sighting lasted for several minutes and the head of the family added: "At a given moment, the object gave the impression that it was about to fall on top of us, but it changed course at the last moment and headed toward the hills of Sampacho and Suco," further relating that, "we passed by the Chanaritos region always, looking at it toward the southwest. Then we crossed the "ancias" area and by the time we reached the crossroads of the highway leading toward Laguna de Suco, it was as though the light had become lost in the sky."

For some years now, this region of southern Cordoba province has been the source of anomalous nocturnal manifestations, but such phenomena have intensified greatly as far south as the province of San Luis (to the west). But southern Cordoba has witnessed an intensification of alleged UFO manifestations in an area that includes regions and communities such as Adelia Maria, Carolina, Punta del Agua, San Basilio, Suco, Sampacho, Chajan, Achiras, Rio Cuarto, Cuatro Vientos, Las Albahacas, Villa El Chacay, Alpa Corral, Las Vertientes, Pavin, Huinca Renanco, General Cabrera, Elena, etc., and which not only occupies an area to the southeast and west of Rio Cuarto, but rather, extends northward toward the northern reaches of this last city, as is the case with General Cabrera and Elena.

This incident can be added to the ones already known, although there is still the question of various different versions [of the experience]. It is currently being investigated by *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense*, headquartered in the city of Rio Cuarto, Cordoba. At least three significant cases have been reported: Moine, in Adelia Maria (CE-2), Chajan (CE-2 or CE-3?), Barrios (CE-2 or CE-3?). The second of these cases is the one in which the witness claims having stood "some 10 to 12 meters" away from an object which he reckons "was 200 meters long." — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

October 7, 2002 — *Primera Hora*, Puerto Rico — ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS ATTACK: CHUPACABRAS RETURNS by Sara M. Justicia Doll for *Primera Hora* — Only two weeks after being blamed for the deaths of several domestic animals in Ponce, the enigmatic Chupacabras reappeared this time in the Caguitas Centro sector of Aguas Buenas.

"When I got home, I looked at the cage and did not see the rabbits. I went downstairs quickly and saw the scene. I had a nervous attack and had to take some pills," said Amarillis Flores, who returned home yesterday morning after having spent the weekend at her daughter's house.

Amarillis, who was in charge of the residence, was alarmed when she saw that her grandchildren's pets--two white rabbits, a black duck, a rooster and a hen--lay petrified at the bottom of their cages, located at the rear of the backyard. Neighbor Salvador Rosario said that on Sunday night he noticed that the dogs were very restless, but dismissed the possibility that the canines could have been the cause of the animal deaths, as the cage would require a strength greater than a dog's to tear through the screen.

"Two dogs have been missing since Saturday--a dachshund named Oreja and a poodle named Negri," added Rosario, a retired schoolteacher. The scene was macabre: a duck, still agonizing, displayed two holes on its back through which its blood was apparently extracted. The equidistant holes could also be seen on the rooster's back and on that of the hen. The rabbits' front paws had been severed; two geese and another duck survived the carnage. "They couldn't have been dogs, because they would have dragged the animals away. "It was a two-legged chupacabras," said Flores, meaning that it was either the mythical creature that no one has been able to identify, or it was a human being.

Inside the cage, where the smell of decomposition prevailed, there was no trace of blood and its gate had not been forced. The wire fencing had been pierced or ripped by something with considerable strength, according to the affected parties.

When interviewed by *Primera Hora*, veterinarian and zoologist Pedro Nunez noted that the incidents ascribed to the "Chupacabras"--a character believed by many to have wings, to fly swiftly and to have nocturnal habits--could be the work of stray dogs, apes or exotic animals not native to Puerto Rico. The specialist in exotic wildlife stated that during the drought season, some types of rats and mice tend to suck the blood of others to survive. — CREDIT: Luiseppi Quinones

October 9, 2002 — <http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar> (Argentina) — REPORT FROM POLICE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING COLLISION OF OBJECT IN SUSQUES by Mariana Choquevilca — With a laconic "we found nothing," the police investigation sent out to look into the curious claim of a resident of Susques appears to have ended. The woman claimed having seen a shiny object fall from the sky and produce a small tremor and a loud report.

Now, faced with new claims from settlements far removed from Susques, a new group of police investigators has been commissioned. Following a new hypothesis, they are tracing a triangle between Susques, San Juan de Quillaques and El Toro--the area in which they will search for the mysterious object that upset the quiet community. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi



OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Jan. 6, 2003

Desperately seeking Sasquatch

Bigfoot buff Ray Crowe continues his quest to find the beast, despite reports it may never have existed

By DAVID R. ANDERSON
THE OREGONIAN

HILLSBORO—

Ray Crowe knows Bigfoot exists and he has a fist-sized piece of poop to prove it.

He also has the red hair, plaster casts of tracks and plenty of eyewitnesses. He has heard the piercing cries and seen the tree branches broken off too high to be snapped by a human.

All he needs is a body.

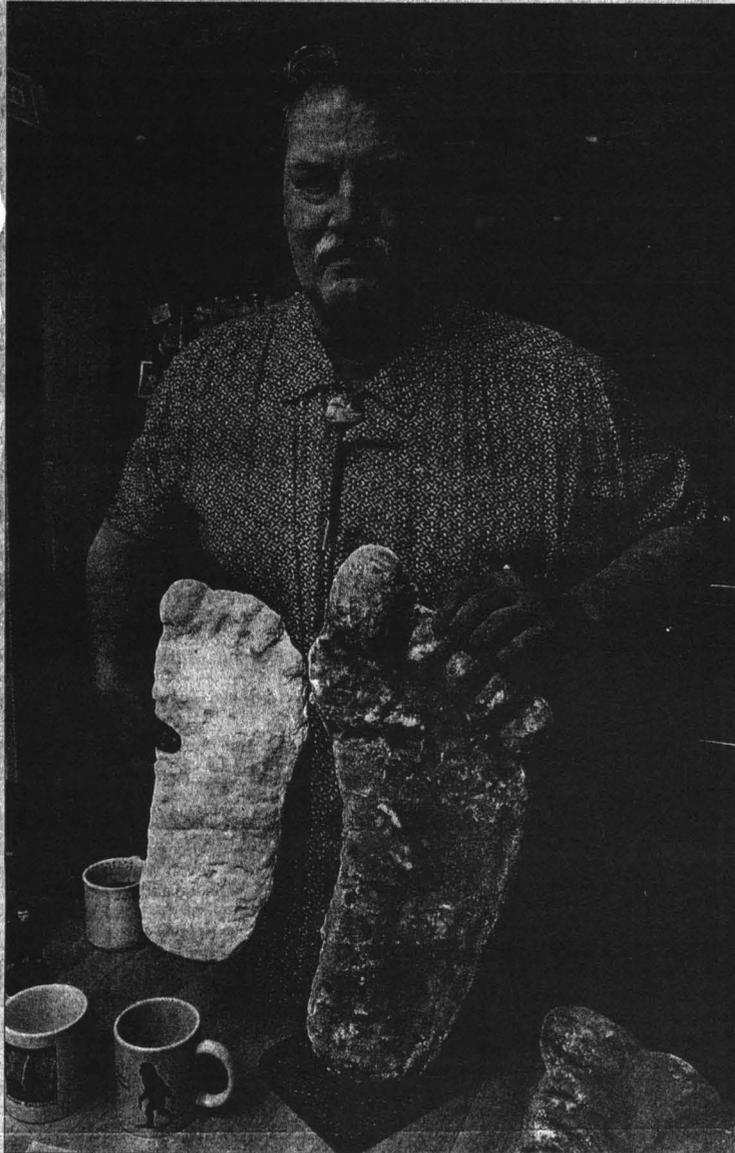
Crowe, who runs the International Bigfoot Society out of his Hillsboro ranch house and holds an annual Bigfoot conference at the Washington County Fair Complex that draws about 200, is that close, *that close*, to proving the existence of the legendary Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch.

But the latest news doesn't help.

When Ray Wallace died in late November in a Centralia, Wash., nursing home, his family and friends came forward to say Bigfoot died with him.

In 1958, Wallace used a pair of 16-inch wooden feet to fake huge prints in the forest of Humboldt County, Calif. The term Bigfoot was coined and became part of popular culture.

Crowe, 64, says the news doesn't call into question his own 11-year search for Bigfoot. He claims Wallace's hoax was no secret among Bigfooters who pride themselves on sniffing out the wannabes. Just look at Wallace's amateurish attempt, Crowe says. The foot folds aren't even in the right place, for



heaven's sake.

"Wallace is a phony," Crowe says. "We've known it all along. He was a nice old guy, but we considered him a dotty old man."

Instead, Crowe is concerned the news about Wallace will make people who see Bigfoot — or even someone who finds a body — scared to come forward for fear of being labeled a kook.

Still, with Crowe, it's not a matter of if: "When we find it, it will be all over then."

People have found bodies, from Happy Camp, Calif., to Penticton, B.C. But somehow the remains always disappeared. Maybe wild animals pick apart the bodies before people can return. Nature cleans up after itself pretty fast, Crowe points out.

He also theorizes that Bigfoot's relatives carry off and bury their dead.

Since Wallace's death, Crowe has been interviewed about a dozen times. A Sydney radio station wanted him to talk about Australia's version of Bigfoot, the Yowie.

Crowe says he is a big fish in the society's small pond of 250 members worldwide. There are about 50 in this area, with an "inner core" of about 25, Crowe says. Those are the folks who can be counted on to go into the woods and investigate a sighting.

Crowe produces a 20-page newsletter, *The Track Record*, 10 times a year. He warns readers in each edition to keep their "skepticals" on as they read it. The latest edition includes a review of a book by a woman whose grandfather befriended a Bigfoot in Tennessee. The book includes a CD with the spelling and pronunciation of 200 Bigfoot vocalizations she and her grandfather used to communicate with Bigfoot.

"I'm willing to give everybody a fair chance," Crowe says.

He first became interested in Bigfoot in 1991, when he owned a bookstore in the St. Johns neighborhood of Portland.

A Native American friend told him about the legend. Crowe was dubious, but it sounded as if it might make for a good short story. And it didn't hurt that a Vancouver group of Bigfoot hunters had a charismatic leader and several pretty girls as members, Crowe says.

He joined them to look for Bigfoot near the Yale Reservoir in Southwest Washington but was put off by the military clothes, the racing up and down the backroads and the blaring tape recording of what was supposed to be a Bigfoot call.

"Actually, these weren't my kind of people," Crowe says. "It wasn't my style of studying things."

Crowe is all about the science. Although he has no college degree, Crowe collected fritillary butterflies, studied the Missoula flood and presided over the Geological Society of the Oregon Country.

And when he found tracks, broken trees and 8½-inch red hair on his first Bigfoot hunt, he decided to apply scientific method to his madness.

Crowe's theory is that Bigfoot is crepuscular — active at twilight and just before sunrise. His latest study sets out to find whether Bigfoot is more morning person or night owl. It also involves weather patterns and moon phases.

Crowe also has experts who examine hair and dung. Bigfoot's hair, unlike that of other wild animals, doesn't have a central hollow chamber, he says.

As for the feces, well, that's a matter of fascination because it might reveal a parasite unique to Bigfoot. So far it's just full of garden-variety worms.

At the society's next conference in May, Crowe planned a memorial to Wallace. But that was before the "Bigfoot is dead" hoopla. Now he probably won't honor Wallace.

"Because," Crowe says, "I'll probably end up looking foolish."

ON BIGFOOT'S TRAIL

Ray Crowe of Hillsboro has spent years on the trail of Bigfoot.

Bigfoot hot spots: Crowe gets news of about a half-dozen sightings a month from all over the world. In this area, most sightings come from along the Molalla River, Estacada, Saddle Mountain in the Coast Range, and Skamania County, Wash. The most recent local sighting was in September by a hiker along Ruckel Creek Trail in the Columbia River Gorge. "It was the typical fuzzy photograph," Crowe says.

A point of pride: Crowe's wife of 25 years, Theata, is slowly changing her mind about Bigfoot. "At first she was all 'pooh-pooh,'" he says. "We would argue back and forth, forth and back. But she's changing her tune."

Truly nonprofit: The International Bigfoot Society, which Crowe runs, sold coffee cups, books, plaster casts of footprints, T-shirts and bumper stickers on its Web site until the person running it grew bored and let it fade away. The group doesn't have money to get it back online. "We run in the red," Crowe says.

Personal theories: Crowe has his own theories about the origins of Bigfoot: He believes they are left-over cavemen who unsuccessfully tried to compete with early modern man and were driven into the hills. At one time, maybe they used fire and stone tools. But as they tried to avoid detection by humans driving them toward extinction, they lost those abilities.

Ray Crowe compares a Bigfoot cast print (left) that he considers authentic with one faked by Ray Wallace in the forest of Humboldt County, Calif.

DOUG BEGHEL
THE OREGONIAN

UNION-BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - Sept. 12, 2002

Local author to sign new Bigfoot book

Walla Wallan Vance Orchard, a longtime journalist retired from the Union-Bulletin, will sign copies of his new paperback book from 4-6 p.m. Sept. 20.

He will be at Earthlight Books, 321 E. Main St., to autograph "The Walla Walla Bigfoot."

The book is \$14.95. Call the book store at 525-4983 for more information.

EDITOR'S NOTES:
Something was out there

Boyhood memory recalled as 'starter' of Bigfoot dies

When I was a teen, about 14 years old, I took a family vacation to an isolated campground on Hood Canal on the Olympic Peninsula, where the saltwater was warmed on the shallow rocks.

I went with a friend. I remember a sunny summer day. We walked to the beach along an abandoned road. Hours later, as we walked back, something started following us. We heard crashing footsteps in the woods paralleling the road we were walking along. When we stopped, the loud stomping in the woods stopped. When we continued, the animal, or whatever it was, started walking along with us. It scared us. We ran all the way to the campsite. It wasn't a deer or a bear. It was stalking us, mimicking our forward movement, and it was large. The only explanation was it was a person who was trying to scare us. I always suspected, being a bit dramatic and hopeful, that it was a Bigfoot experience.

Fast forward almost three decades, and I'm living in Lewis County, specifically in the hills above Mayfield Lake.

This is, according to some believers, Bigfoot country.

Last week The Chronicle wrote about how Ray Wallace, a Toledo man who recently died, had started the Bigfoot phenomena. Wallace, according to reports in a story by Chronicle reporter Sharyn L. Decker, was attempting to protect his construction company equipment in Northern California in the late 1950s when he came up with the idea of the fake big feet. The ploy worked, and the vandalism and theft of his equipment stopped.

A local newspaper reported the fake feet as real, and the legend spread. John Auman, of Glenoma and now 71 years old, was a logger who rebuilt roads and a contemporary of Wallace in Northern California. Auman said after the media publicized the "prank," Wallace didn't step forward because he was fearful of getting in trouble with the local sheriff.

Chronicle reporter Amy Emerson wrote last week about Kevin Lindley, a Mossyrock man and a Morton school teacher who is a believer in Bigfoot. He is a member of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization. They go out on field trips looking for evidence of the massive hairy beast.

Lindley says he knew of Wallace's fakery, that it was well known among serious students of the Sasquatch.

Lindley talks of Bigfoot footprint markings, similar to fingerprints, that have been consistent with earlier, non-Wallace foot casts. He talks of finding hair in the woods and having it tested for DNA.

"We have gotten DNA from hair samples after Bigfoot sightings, and scientists conclude that the DNA is from a higher ape, but an ape that can't be identified as any of the apes known in the world today," Lindley says.

He has several compelling proofs pointing to the reality of Bigfoot. He is sure there is a Bigfoot clan living near Morton. I went to his house last week. He is not a kook. He is an intelligent, normal family man. He is also a believer. And he made me hope.

The Chronicle wouldn't mind breaking the story that Bigfoot is real. I volunteered to go along with Lindley this spring or summer when his group embarks on another outing in the hills outside of Morton.

Late last week I went to the biggest source of outdoor knowledge I've ever known: The Chronicle's Russ Mohny, who writes the best weekly outdoors section any paper puts out in the Northwest.

Russ says no way is there such an animal as Bigfoot. He says if there was an animal out there that weighed 600 pounds, there would be evidence of the animal's scat, as well as evidence of foraging.

Russ spends a lot of time in the woods of East Lewis County. He is as sure Sasquatch doesn't exist as Lindley is with his beliefs.

Michael Wagar is executive editor of The Chronicle. His column appears each Monday. He may be reached at 807-8224, or by e-mail at mwagar@chronline.com.



BY MICHAEL WAGAR



Calgary Herald Archive

Frogs falling from the sky is only one of the unusual weather phenomena featured in the 2003 Weather Trivia calendar.

It was a dark and froggy night ...

SEAN MYERS
CALGARY HERALD

Calgarians went to bed the night of Aug. 4, 1921, with a storm brewing above.

The wind picked up and rain began to fall under darkening skies.

There was nothing particularly strange about a mid-summer rain storm in southern Alberta.

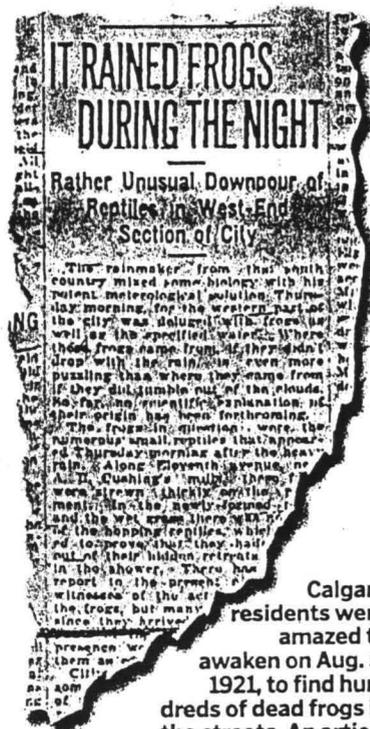
So the next day citizens went about their business as usual only to find water wasn't the only thing that came down during the night.

Along 11th Avenue they were amazed to find the dead carcasses of frogs "strewn thickly on the pavement," according to the Aug. 5, 1921, edition of the Calgary Herald.

Local cats had found the amphibians first and onlookers were left scratching their heads (as in the recent movie *Magnolia*) until they discovered the nearby wetlands and ponds had been emptied of the frogs by powerful winds.

"That is one of my favourite all-time stories," says David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada. "Normally things falling from the sky are flukes, but this is an authentic story. I've always said my only problem with the end of *Magnolia* is the frogs were too big."

Frogs falling over Calgary is just one of the weather related oddities Phillips recounts in his 2003 Weather Trivia calendar.



Calgary residents were amazed to awaken on Aug. 5, 1921, to find hundreds of dead frogs in the streets. An article in the Calgary Herald told the story.

Bigfoot hoax isn't an end to the enigma

"Bigfoot" reads the headline of a small newspaper from Humboldt County, Calif., in 1958. One morning while working on an isolated northern California road, Jerry Crew, a local laborer, discovered several large footprints around his bulldozer. ...

Now family members of a Washington man named Ray Wallace, who recently passed away at the age of 84, say he faked the footprints. ... Now it looks as though Wallace has gotten his final laugh, as his family's recent reflections have brought many to the conclusion that Bigfoot is dead and that he died the brainchild of a good-natured joker. ...

In December of 2001, I embarked on what would be over a year's worth of production work on a documentary by independent director Blake Eckard. ... Evidence has been examined, and several sites well-known to Bigfooters,

**ALEC JENNINGS
GUEST OPINION**

have been revisited including Bluff Creek, the site of Wallace's road-building team, and of the controversial Patterson film, which would be shot nine years later in 1967.

... One thing is certain, the Sasquatch enigma started well before 1958. The earliest written record of large, hairy giants in North America comes from an English paper dated 1785. As for footprints, the earliest known plaster cast of a track was poured in British Columbia in 1941. ...

None of this proves anything. However, during my time working on Eckard's film there was one instance that, to say the least, broadened my

thinking. While on a location scout one dreary March day, Eckard, myself and another production assistant, by pure happenstance, came onto a series of 12 imprints in a most remote area of the Oregon coastal mountain range. Were they Sasquatch tracks? I don't know. ...

For the true disbelievers, and I am open to all theories, this must be said: For centuries the Native Americans of the Northwest have spoken of large apes in the mountains. ...

Ray Wallace ... was a man who enjoyed a grand sense of tomfoolery. Perhaps it is oddly admirable that he was able to cause such a stir posthumously by simply letting his family say he created Bigfoot. But many people will assure you, dear reader, that our barefoot friends (Trapper Steve term) are alive and well in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. I'm eager to hear what these people have to say next.

Alec Jennings lives in Missouri.

India's Mystery Booms

Explosive sounds in India's western city of Rajkot are being investigated by seismologists from the Indian Meteorological Department after some experts suggested that seismic activity may be the source. Local residents have reported that the "blasts" are strong enough to shake their homes and cause roofs to collapse. Some have described the noises as sounding like sonic booms. The sounds have plagued the area in Gujarat during the past two months. The region suffered a devastating temblor two years ago that killed an estimated 30,000 people and left more than a million others homeless. Rajkot is near the city of Bhuj where the quake was centered.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 4, 2003

CR: G. CONWAY

Rethinking thinking

By Karen S. Peterson
USA TODAY

New research is probing powers of the human mind that have yet to be fully explained. Some of the work is controversial, challenging the boundaries of mainstream science. Other researchers caution that what we think we know by intuition can harm us: Intuitive "hunches" can lead to faulty, even dangerous, decisions.

Paranormal is normal, controversial scientist says

Are these situations familiar? You are in an elevator and have a strong sense someone is staring at you. Or you are thinking about somebody and the phone rings: That person is on the line. Or your long-time partner routinely finishes your sentences, seeming to know what you are about to say.

Such unexplained abilities, including telepathy, premonitions and the sense of being stared at, are not paranormal; they are normal, Rupert Sheldrake says.

He is the controversial biologist, trained at Cambridge and Harvard who wants to change scientists' understanding of the human mind. "The powers of the mind, hitherto ignored by physics, are the new scientific frontier," Sheldrake says. He lives in London and teaches biology at Schumacher College, Dartington, Devon, and is the author of 60 scientific papers.

Peers call Sheldrake everything from cutting-edge to crackpot.

His 1999 best seller, *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home*, says dogs have telepathic abilities and are able to sense everything from when they are about to be taken to the vet to when their master is in danger.

His new book arrives March 3. In *The Sense of Being Stared At: And Other Aspects of the Extended Mind*, Sheldrake says his surveys show that 70% to 90% of adults have sensed when they were being looked at from behind.

To support his theories, which include telephone telepathy, he uses a database of 4,000 case histories, 1,500 phone interviews and a decade of experiments.

Colleagues debate both his theories and his experiments.

"We have tried to replicate on a small scale his research on the feeling of being stared at, and we get results close to his," says Dean Radin, senior scientist with the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Petaluma, Calif. Noetic refers to "intuitive knowing." The group "questions the conventional assumptions about the limitations of the mind," Radin says.

Sheldrake's gift, Radin says, is "taking ideas that are very popular — the majority of people worldwide believe in extrasensory perception — and devising theories and experiments to explain them."

Radin is less enthusiastic about Sheldrake's explanation for telepathy, which is quite literally far out. Sheldrake believes the mind does not just exist in the brain but "extends in space, and stretches out into the world around you" in mental or "morphic" fields. Similar morphic fields can interconnect and trade information.

Sheldrake's concept of morphic fields provokes scorn among critics. Sheldrake "has never met a goofy idea he didn't like," says Michael Shermer, publisher of *Skeptic* magazine. The events Sheldrake describes don't "require a theory and are perfectly explainable by normal means."

St. John Maddox, a physicist and editor emeritus of the journal *Nature*, said of Sheldrake's first book in 1981: "This infuriating tract... is the best candidate for burning there has been for many years." Sheldrake calls Maddox his "longest-standing critic."

Some are "evangelical" in their attacks, Sheldrake says. "But I think most can appreciate these are questions that have to be explored scientifically."

There's a gut feeling about this whole intuition thing

Intuition is being touted by a phalanx of popular writers, counselors and workshop leaders who tell clients to harness their inner wisdom and unlock the powers of their unconscious minds when making decisions.

"Intuition is hot," social psychologist and researcher David Myers says. "There is an explosion of research on how unconscious, automatic, out-of-sight thinking guides our lives." There are courses on "intuitive learning, healing, investing, selling and managing." Intuition, he says, is "an effortless, immediate, unreasoned (not thought about) sense of truth." It is a good thing: It feeds creativity, expertise and spirituality, he says.

"Scientists, writers and artists have all marveled at the outcroppings of their unconscious, intuitive minds. In times of relaxation, creative insights and impulses often appear like Web site pop-up ads."

Everyone makes use of information that seems to bubble up from the subconscious, from presidents on down, he says. Intuition shapes what we fear, our impressions of people, what politicians do in times of crisis, what hunches gamblers play, what decisions are made by those hiring applicants for jobs.

But there is a definite downside to going with one's gut, Myers says in *Intuition: Its Powers and Perils*. "Smart thinkers will also want to check their intuitions against avail-

able evidence. Our gut intuitions are terrific at some things, such as instantly reading emotions in others' faces, but not so good at others, such as guessing about the stock market, assessing risks and predicting football outcomes."

Myers, a psychology professor at Hope College in Holland, Mich., says intuition could be a poor servant for many reasons.

A hunch might be the result of overconfidence in our own abilities or knowledge, a faulty or reconstructed memory of the past, hindsight that convinces us we "knew it all along" when we did not, misjudging the intensity of our emotions or reactions to events, or miscalculating our own behavior.

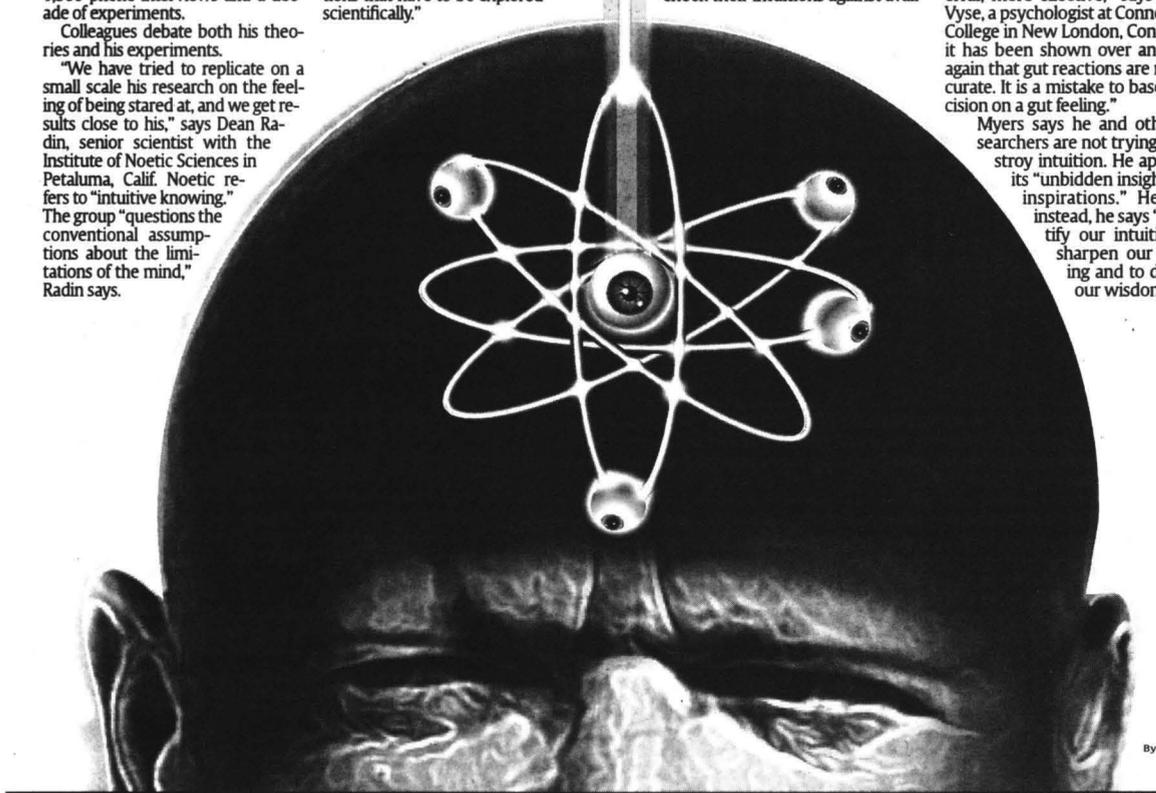
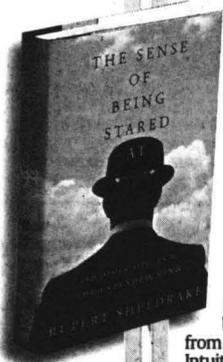
Myers marshals the latest research to document when everyday intuition can be wrong, ranging from judgments made in courtrooms to hunches played in the stock market.

One of the most enduring intuitive myths he uses research to debunk is that of the "hot hand" in basketball. Coaches often believe that because a player has sunk several baskets, he will make the next one. Statistically that is simply not true, he says.

Intuition has the endorsement of many heavyweights. Pioneering psychologist Carl Jung called it one of the four ways people function, along with feeling, thinking and sensing. Psychologist Marcia Emery, author of three books on intuition, calls it "the deepest wisdom of the human soul."

But many urge caution. "Intuition makes people feel more powerful, more effective," says Stuart Vyse, a psychologist at Connecticut College in New London, Conn. "But it has been shown over and over again that gut reactions are not accurate. It is a mistake to base a decision on a gut feeling."

Myers says he and other researchers are not trying to destroy intuition. He applauds its "unbidden insights and inspirations." He aims instead, he says "to fortify our intuition, to sharpen our thinking and to deepen our wisdom."



By Suzy Parker, USA TODAY

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - Aug. 9, 2002 CR: R. Heiden

Seeking Sasquatch: Man hunts north woods for Bigfoot



Associated Press

Dennis Murphy, a Bigfoot hunter, showed recently what he said is a large footprint cast in Plymouth, Minn. Despite the naysayers, Murphy wanders northwestern Wisconsin in search of the creature.

By The Associated Press

DANBURY — Despite the naysayers, a Minnesota hunter is wandering northwestern Wisconsin in search of a creature no one has managed to bag.

Armed with a camera and a supply of plaster of Paris, Dennis Murphy, hunts for Sasquatch, aka Bigfoot, who has been a part of Indian legends for centuries. The name is the English version of the Salish Tribe's word for wild man, or hairy man.

Murphy, 54, of Plymouth, Minn., said he believes he spotted two aging Bigfoots 30 years ago while searching for a fishing spot, but he kept the sightings to himself for fear of ridicule.

Murphy said he captured the image of Bigfoot with his camera during a recent foray into the woods near Danbury and discovered it only after he developed his film.

Murphy isn't the only person in pursuit of the creature.

The Big Foot Research Project was launched 10 years ago with a \$1 million grant from an anonymous benefactor.

The hunt for Bigfoot has involved a little bit of science and a great deal of bluster about supposed encounters with a North American ape.

Reported Sightings

Washington state: 253.

California: 194.

Oregon: 111.

Minnesota: 17. Most of Minnesota's sightings, seven, have taken place in St. Louis County, the state's largest in area.

Wisconsin: 15. No county has more than two sightings. Wisconsin sightings over the years have included two sightings in Barron County and two in Clark County.

Source: The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization

According to The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, there are between 2,000 and 6,000 Bigfoots living in North America. And while the Pacific Northwest gets much attention, there are many other prime homelands, including the Upper Midwest.

John Bindernagel, a British Columbia-based wildlife biologist, agrees on both counts.

"It's been treated as a joke or a hoax, but increasingly there is serious study," said Bindernagel, who has a Ph.D. in veterinary

science from UW-Madison.

Bindernagel, who is writing a book on Bigfoot, said Sasquatch is most often reduced to native folklore or regional myth, but he believes it exists.

Although there have been hoaxes and practical jokers, Bindernagel said there is also credible evidence, including the footprints he has found. But until more people overcome their fear of ridicule and report what they see, sightings won't be taken seriously.

According to Bindernagel and others, Bigfoot tends to live where there is water and wooded high grounds. Based on eyewitness accounts and footprint casts, Bigfoot, is, well, big, standing up to 10 feet tall and weighing more than 800 pounds. At times, reports say, the creature can be rather pungent.

Put those characteristics together, and it would seem that Bigfoot would have a difficult time playing hide-and-seek.

Not so, said Murphy and others. Bigfoot is shy, smart and nocturnal, thus the creature is good at avoiding detection.

Murphy did not want to disclose the exact location of his sighting three decades ago, fearing others would come looking. For bait, he said he prefers apples and a few bananas.

"It was unbelievable, an eye-opening experience," he said of that first sighting. "They were old. They were pure white. He was 9 feet tall."

Murphy said he was sane and sober when he saw them and remained so earlier this summer when, with renewed interest, he began searching for Bigfoot in the oak and jack pine forests around Danbury.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources officials remain unconvinced that there is a huge, undiscovered mammal stalking the north woods.

"We've not had anyone, to the best of my recollection, claim to have seen Bigfoot," said Jim Bishop, public affairs officer for the DNR's northern region.

There is a large bear population in the area, he said, and bears can weigh in at more than 500 pounds.

"It could be a bear track," Bishop said of footprint evidence collected by Bigfoot hunters. "A bear track can look very much like a human footprint."

Murphy, who has a plaster of Paris cast of a 17-inch footprint, said it was not made by a bear. Skeptics, he said, tend to dismiss Bigfoot sightings as large bears.

Although he didn't see the creature this summer, the footprints and the sounds he heard from the woods reassured him that Bigfoot is real.

"I heard him following me. And I heard what sounded like a horse whinnying. I wasn't afraid. This is not a creature to be afraid of," he said. "With all the changes and all the growth, I was very happy to realize they were still out there and not extinct."

Since April, Murphy has ventured out about 20 times in search of Bigfoot. He remains confident and optimistic.

"The anticipation is always there," he said. "I think I can find this creature."

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - Jan. 9, 2003

Local Sasquatch expert featured on Discovery Channel program

POCATELLO — Idaho State University associate professor of anatomy, Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum will be featured in a Discovery Channel Science Mystery Series presentation, "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science."

According to a press release from University Relations, it premieres nationally at 7 p.m. Jan. 9.

The program will also show at 9 p.m. the same night and will repeat in upcoming weeks.

Meldrum, known internationally for his research on Sasquatch, or "Bigfoot" and "Yeti," has been quoted extensively in the national and international media, including in recent stories in The New York Times and The Denver Post.

"My footprint research features prominently in the Discovery program, and I was pleased to be joined by Andrew Nelson, physical therapy clinical coordinator in the ISU College of Technology, in an evaluation of the gait of a Sasquatch purportedly

depicted in the famous Paterson film," Meldrum said.

Program producer Douglas Hajicek and a Discovery Channel camera crew spent several days at ISU last summer interviewing Meldrum and examining items in his laboratory.

Among others featured on the documentary are naturalist George Schaller, author of "The Mountain Gorilla;" Dr. Daris Swindler, professor of anatomy at the University of Washington, Seattle; and Esteban Sarmiento, research associate with the American Museum of Natural History.

The film is a co-production of White Wolf Entertainment (Hajicek's company) and The Discovery Channel.

In addition to being interviewed in the film, Meldrum had a minor role in the project's development, coordinated the animation of Sasquatch movement, and was involved in some aspects of evidence presentation.

"I think the public will find this documentary a fascinating and objective look into the topic of Sasquatch," Meldrum said. "The active involvement of such respected scientists should promote a more serious look at the question."

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Jan. 30, 2003

Quantum science 'beams up' matter

Physicists prove they are able to teleport things, but not humans

BY MARGARET MUNRO

Scientists have made matter seemingly disappear down a telephone line in one laboratory and reappear in another, proving that teleportation over long distances is possible.

The experiment by a Swiss team, which is described today in the journal *Nature*, has the physics world buzzing. But scientists caution there is no way they will be teleporting humans from one location to another, Star-Trek style, anytime soon.

Teleportation occurs when something disappears from one place as an exact replica appears somewhere else. Science-fiction writers used it to create the "Beam me up,

Scotty" transporters in *Star Trek*.

And the concept was put to horrifying effect in *The Fly*, the movie where David Hedison (and, in the remake, Jeff Goldblum) climbed into a teleportation machine and got his genes mixed up with those of an errant bug while the two of them travelled at the speed of light.

Scientists have insisted for decades that teleportation was a fantasy. But recent experiments have shown it is possible, under very controlled conditions in the quantum world.

Since 1997, scientists in Britain and Europe have been teleporting information that dictates the structure of subatomic particles from one end of a laboratory table to another.

The Swiss team, led by Nicolas Gisin at University of Geneva, has taken quantum teleportation a significant step further. They have made quantum bits, or "qubits," seem to disappear at one end of the telephone line and instantly

reappear at the other end.

In the process, they transferred characteristics carried by photons of one wavelength on to photons of another wavelength in another lab. The two labs were 55 metres apart, but the information was teleported over two kilometres of standard telecommunications fibre.

"It is amazing, they way information from one photon suddenly appears in another photon," says Raymond Laflamme, a quantum physicist at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, a private think-tank in Waterloo, Ont.

Scientists explain quantum teleportation using a concept known as "entanglement," in which photons behave differently when in an "entangled" state — an area Albert Einstein referred to as "spooky action at a distance."

"I would say it's spooky if we put on our everyday glasses," says Dr. Laflamme. "But if we try to understand it with the set of rules of quantum mechanics then it is perfectly understandable."

"It's just very unfamiliar."

Dr. Laflamme sees the Swiss experiments as the latest evidence of new, exciting territory. "We are really at the border of the quantum world. That is what makes this field so incredibly exciting. We are learning how to tame a new force of nature which is quantum mechanics and to take advantage of it."

Scientists foresee plenty of practical application in computers and cryptography "There are lots of possibilities," says Dr. LaFlamme, who likens the state of quantum computing today to where classical computers were about 1945.

The cryptography applications are intriguing since it is believed that quantum teleportation is instantaneous and the structures being sent never exist on the communication line on which they travel. The process is said to destroy the original and send only information that allows a duplicate to be assembled elsewhere by reorganizing matter.

Scientists do not envision living objects, such as human beings, ever disappearing in one place and reappearing in another using quantum teleportation.

"Unimaginable," says Dr. LaFlamme. "Quantum teleportation doesn't teleport the atoms themselves, it teleports the information which is encoded in the system."

National Post
mmunro@nationalpost.com



CR: G. Conway

Star Trek crew in the transporter.