

UFO

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Until the Grays land on the
White House lawn, "Ufology"
is unlikely to go mainstream

The Aliens Among Us

By John Dicker

Photos by Sean Cayton

This is not your father's UFO story. No single sighting, or close encounter of the second, third or 46th kind will be assessed or scrutinized.

Nowhere on these pages will a clean-cut Air Force retiree unearth three decades of "suppressed" evidence exposing the bizarre and tenuous connections between extraterrestrials, the Cosa Nostra, and the assassination of our 35th president.

This tale certainly won't illuminate the big honking question underlying all UFO-related media matter: Are we alone in the universe? Or the other more implicit question about those who claim to have contact — be it up close and personal or from afar — with interstellar visitors: *Are these people out of their gourds?*

In the 55 years since either an Army weather balloon or an alien spaceship crashed into a sheep farm outside Roswell, N.M., the fascination with UFOs has blossomed into a global cultural phenomenon.

The portrait of a Gray — the now proverbial bug-eyed, thin-lipped alien — has become nearly as ubiquitous as the Nike swoosh, serving as the de facto logo for all things paranormal.

To remain oblivious to stories of UFOs is tantamount to claiming ignorance of Elvis Presley. However, to know too much, to take the exploration of it too seriously, places you on another margin of American culture.

One does not have to look further than El Paso County to meet folks whose devotion to Ufology — the study of UFOs and related phenomena — has become a central part of their lives.

No leading questions

Twelve years ago, Colorado Springs resident Ed Burke's interest in UFOs was triggered when a friend began to experience "abduction problems."

Now a trained UFO field

investigator,

Burke serves as the assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the world's largest UFO research organization headquartered 60 miles north of the Springs in Littleton. MUFON studies UFO-related phenomenon, including sightings, abductions, animal mutilations and crop circles.

MUFON's stated purpose is to attract greater public awareness of and interest in Ufology as well as further the scientific study of UFO-related phenomena.

Headed by retired Boeing engineer John Schuessler, the 33-year-old organization hosts conferences and lectures and publishes a bimonthly journal. It also trains its members in the proper procedures for UFO investigations.

"The protocols for doing [a UFO investigation] is not to ask leading questions," said Burke, noting that he's currently working with several abduction cases in the Springs area. "We know that somewhere around 80 to 90 percent of these sightings will have natural explanations."

Other communions aren't as easy to rationalize. Roughly once a year, Divide resident Connie Isele wakes up with a swath of hair missing and her home filled with what she describes as a metallic, ozone-like aroma.

Isele, who moved to Colorado from Sacramento in 1994, is currently a psychology student at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. To better comprehend her experiences, she underwent hypnosis and participated in support groups for

abductees. "I had questions about my sanity," she said.

Isele claims UFO experiences have plagued her family for several generations and have included unexplained missing time, waking up with bruises and cuts — even a missing fetus.

"I wish they'd learn proper social behavior," she joked about her cosmic visitors. "They could use the front door, and I have a big front yard with plenty of room to land."

Benevolent or hostile?

Belief in UFOs is not as marginal as one might think. As part of the publicity push for *Taken* — Steven Spielberg's recently aired 10-part miniseries chronicling the UFO abductions in three different families over 50 years — the SCI FI cable channel sponsored a Roper poll.

The survey revealed that 72 percent of Americans believe the government knows more about UFOs and extraterrestrials than it's passing on to the public.

Still, UFOs, extraterrestrials and the people who love them often serve as stock straw men for the media. With a tone of orchestrated paranormality, sensational reports typically focus on accounts of sightings and abductions with speculation on the alien agenda.

Often missing are any reports on how diverse the world of UFO research actually is. As is the case in

just about any broad movement, Ufologists fall into numerous and often conflicting camps.

A few of the questions that divide Ufologists: Are extraterrestrials benevolent (as in *Alf* and *E.T.*) or hostile (as in *Signs* and *Independence Day*)? What, if anything, happened in Roswell, N.M., in 1947? Are humans routinely abducted into alien spacecraft? Are alien-human hybrids living among us? To what extent is the government covering up its knowledge of the phenomenon?

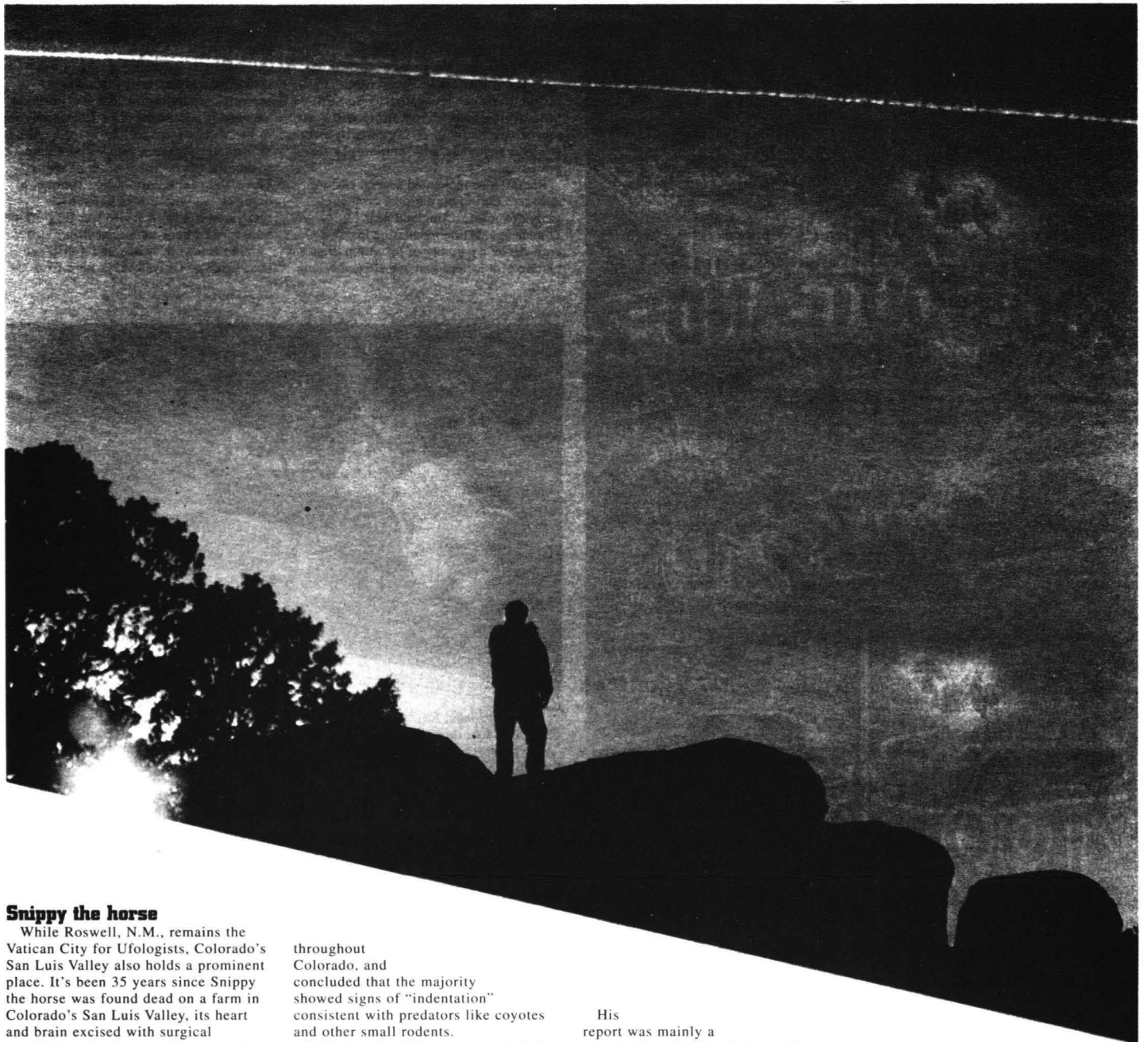
As the self-professed paranormal investigator and preacher Larry Resel of Las Animas, Colo. notes, "It's such an elusive field that no one has the corner on the truth."

Representatives of several different Ufological schools converged this past November at the first annual UFO Conference of Pueblo to probe these pressing questions.

Roughly 50 to 60 mostly white middle-aged earthlings composed the audience in Pueblo Community College's Fortino Ballroom. Attendees paid \$20 a pop to hear several speakers and watch their slides and videos.

With no lack of humor, conference organizer and emcee, Bill Winkler, opened by posing the following question to the crowd: "If you could have one question to ask the ETs, what would it be?"

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Snippy the horse

While Roswell, N.M., remains the Vatican City for Ufologists, Colorado's San Luis Valley also holds a prominent place. It's been 35 years since Snippy the horse was found dead on a farm in Colorado's San Luis Valley, its heart and brain excised with surgical precision and eviscerated corpse and a mystifying lack of blood. No evidence of human foul play or predator activity was found.

The phenomenon of animal mutilation originated here and was replicated in other parts of the West. The corpses were mostly calves, and the body parts expurgated typically reproductive organs.

What became a pattern of mutilated cattle reached critical mass in 1975 with more than 170 mutilations reported statewide. The state's national guard even flew helicopter sorties over the most afflicted regions.

Mool Verma, a forensic anthropologist who worked for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation during the scare, said he examined approximately 30 calf hides from

throughout Colorado, and concluded that the majority showed signs of "indentation" consistent with predators like coyotes and other small rodents.

Still, he said, "There was no definite conclusion I could arrive at."

"We were losing calves pretty regularly," said former Colorado Cattleman's Association president Freeman Lester. "We thought it was some kinda goofy cult."

Farmers increased patrols over their livestock in an effort to get to the bottom of things, and Lester recalled one incident where he fired three shots at an unmarked black helicopter flying above his ranch in Del Norte. "The ranchers was all armed. We were out for blood."

During November's UFO conference Larry Resel, a reverend from Las Animas who has studied the animal mutilation phenomena in southeastern Colorado and New Mexico, gave a presentation on the subject.

His report was mainly a compilation of video footage of bright lights in the sky around Las Animas, as well as mutilated cows and Apache Army helicopters hovering over southeastern Colorado.

At the time of the mutilations, Resel was a pastor of a fundamentalist congregation in Las Animas and found his interest in UFOs frowned on by church leaders. He has since established his own nondenominational congregation.

"People ask me, 'Do I believe?'" said Resel. "I say, 'I don't believe, but I have knowledge that there is something out there beyond what we can see and understand.'"

Several small men

Following Resel to the podium was Aurora-based crop circle researcher Ron Russell. A former Hollywood

consultant, Russell showed slides of crop circles from the Midwest, England and New Zealand.

The majority of crop circles have their origins in elaborate hoaxes, or simply the fancy of creative farmers. But research conducted by crop circle researcher Colin Andrews, funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Institute, shows that some of these circles are derived from a mysterious shift in the magnetic field, which creates a current that flattens crops.

Crop circles have been linked to Ufology based on the assumption that the patterns are coded messages from

extraterrestrials.

Russell describes them as "spiritual machines" that typically disrupt the magnetic field. According to Russell, birds flying near a crop circle will split their flock to avoid flying directly over it while airplanes will temporarily lose power.

Russell also recounted several curious instances during his summer crop circle tours of southeast England near Stonehenge. While meditating inside a crop circle, a member of his group drew a picture of a pattern that she alleged "came

to her." Three days later, Russell said, the same shape appeared in a nearby field.

The conference attendees received Russell's tales with a mixture of passive respect, shocking credulity and outright enthusiasm. Near the end of his presentation, Russell recounted how he sneaked into an English crop circle in the middle of the night. After meditating for a while, Russell left the circle to return to his car. While en route, he suddenly encountered several small men seated around a campfire speaking Chaucerian English. Russell surmised that the crop circles' spiritual energy creates disturbances in the space-time continuum.



Gary Young, pen name John Gee, claims to have summoned UFOs, but couldn't get on board.

"I have knowledge that there is something out there beyond what we can see and understand."

— Larry Resel

(continued from page 2 - INDEPENDENT, Colorado Springs, CO - Jan. 9, 2003)

Being probed

UFO and extraterrestrial phenomena might rest within a precarious toehold in science, but it has been clearly established within popular culture.

A 1996 Halloween episode of *The Simpsons*, for example, features Homer being abducted by the alien team of "Kang" and "Kodos." On board their ship, he immediately unbuttons his pants with resigned despair. "You probably want to probe me," Homer laments. Though Kang and Kodos look more like octopi than Grays, being probed is a common allegation of abductees.

Aliens also serve as nearly inexhaustible fodder for pseudo-scientific docudramas like the 1970s *In*

Search Of and prime-time television, as in the wildly popular *The X-Files*. And no summer movie season is complete without a *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* incarnation, last summer's being *Signs* where Mel Gibson recovered his faith while warding off hungry ETs bent on an earthling buffet.

Visit Roswell, N.M., and you'll see the visage of Grays everywhere from the Crash Down Café to the local Wal-Mart.

Roswell's International UFO Museum attracts nearly 200,000 visitors a year who, according to the city's chamber of commerce, generate \$1.2 million in revenues.

While Ufology can be marketed by both the entertainment and tourism

industries, its allure stems from its connection with the paranormal and the spiritual. Thus it often attracts individuals who are less interested in

nuts-and-bolts research — in provable claims — than situating UFO phenomenon into their own spiritual agendas.

Take Gary Young of Colorado Springs, a

Vietnam veteran, author (under the pseudonym John Gee) and facilitator of

workshops on New Age spirituality.

Young claims that 15 years ago he spent an evening at a Denny's restaurant with an older man, who he admits "was a bit crazy" but nevertheless instructed him in the art of contacting alien spacecraft.

After several years of UFO communions, Young and his nephew went to Carson Mountain in the Sangre de Cristo Range in southwestern Colorado with hopes of an intergalactic hitchhike. On the mountain, Young said he successfully summoned a UFO but the experience stopped there.

"I tried to get on board, but they wouldn't take me," Young said. Shortly thereafter, Young claimed to have

reached an intuitive understanding that further contact was not appropriate for him at that time.

"I'm interested in sharing what has been shared with me," he said. "I'm happy, healthy and live in a state of peace."

Getting some action

The stereotypical profile of a UFO devotee is that of a frumpy white, middle-aged man with a zealot's passion and a child's credulity.

Dwight Connelly, editor of *The MUFON Journal*, concedes that with the exception of the New Hampshire man Barney Hill — who claimed to have been abducted with his wife Betty in 1961 — African Americans have not been abducted as frequently as whites.

"It doesn't seem that blacks are abducted much, so perhaps that accounts for the relative lack of interest by blacks in being (UFO) investigators," Connelly said.

According to Robert Sheaffer, a writer for *The UFO Skeptical Inquirer* — a magazine that challenges claims made by Ufologists — the majority of cases involving UFO abductions have been reported by white women.

"There is evidence that abductees are among the 'sexually troubled,'" Sheaffer said, referencing an argument made in a book titled *The Abduction Enigma* by Russ Estes, Kevin Randle and William Cone. "It seems that what goes on in the saucer is the only 'action' most of these people get."

There is a widespread resignation

within Ufology that the field is beyond the pale of mainstream respectability. Talk to any experienced Ufologists and it won't be long before you hear the word "ridicule."

Similar to other subcultures fixated on conspiracies, there exists a palpable righteousness in UFO believers — many view themselves as persecuted purveyors of a systemically suppressed truth.

Charles Emmons, a sociology professor at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and author of *At the Threshold: UFOs, Science and the New Age*, notes, "Because they receive no institutional funding, Ufologists are increasingly dependent on conferences where anyone who pays can attend. This doesn't tend to improve your



Divide's Connie Isele has experienced missing time and missing hair.

respectability."

Temple University history professor Dr. David Jacobs, author of two popular books on UFO abductions, points out that "everybody who claims to be an expert is an expert simply because they claim to be an expert."

"One of the first things you learn in this area is that it's a minefield," said Jacobs,

who remains less than sanguine about the future of Ufology. "There's no standards, there's no course of study, there's no institutional backing for it, nothing."

"I wish they'd learn proper social behavior"
— Divide resident Connie Isele

Abductees typically report their stories many years after the event with details emerging

only through extensive hypnosis. Abductees frequently recount being

beamed through bedroom walls and automobiles into a sterile, laboratory-like spacecraft where they are telepathically communicated to by small gray aliens. Other common occurrences include unexplained cuts and bruises, brain implants, forced sexual experiences with other abductees, gynecological examinations, the taking of sperm samples, and anal probes.

Divide resident Connie Isele said her experience conforms to many other abduction accounts and that her 22-year-old daughter has similar experiences of missing time and unexplained bruises.

"It's scary, but because of it I learned a lot about myself, and the world, and in that sense I wouldn't wish that it didn't happen," Isele said. "Before, I'd find all these excuses, psychologically, for what's going on — now I'm looking at it as a reality."

While abductee researchers like Jacobs and Hopkins are more than aware of the fringe nature of their work, they repudiate charges that abductions are culturally or psychological induced delusions. They counter by mentioning how abductees cut across all racial, political, geographic and cultural lines.

"The only profile of an abductee," said Jacobs, "is that they are human."

However, Robert Schaeffer, a San Diego-based columnist for *UFO Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, said, "We can find all the major elements of contemporary UFO abductions in a 1930 comic adventure, *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*."

Schaeffer is one of several known

UFO debunkers, who through magazines and Web sites shoot down claims of the paranormal.

Yet others — including Pueblo resident and UFO conference organizer Winkler — are convinced that both negative and positive reports of alien abduction must be based in some kind of reality.

Winkler, like many Ufologists, is a retiree. During interviews with 91 Ufologists as part of research for his book, Gettysburg College professor Emmons noted that many didn't begin pursuing UFO research until retirement for fear of ridicule and other professional consequences.

David Jacobs has been an associate professor at Temple University for over 25 years. He has published four books and numerous articles. It is his conviction that his pursuit of UFO research explains why he has never been promoted to full professor.

Government secrets

Among the more controversial groups in search of answers to the extraterrestrial question is the Charlottesville, Va.-based Center for the Study of Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (CSETI).

CSETI has raised eyebrows with its "Disclosure Project," a campaign that calls for the federal government to release information pertaining to UFOs and what it calls "zero point energy" — an extraterrestrial-derived energy source, which the organization claims has the potential to eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels.

CSETI claims to have videotaped testimony of more than 500 active

military personnel who vow they have witnessed the government's covert involvement with UFOs, extraterrestrials and the suppression of technology gleaned from fallen spacecraft.

Don Daniels, an Evergreen, Colo.-based commercial airline pilot who spoke as a representative of CSETI at the Pueblo conference, said a majority of the taped testimony is in storage units across the country, and the identities of the informants cannot be shared for fear of retribution by the government.

In stark contrast to nearly every other school of Ufology, CSETI believes that the abduction phenomenon is part of a government-sponsored disinformation campaign using appropriated UFO technology to turn public sentiment against extraterrestrials.

"Covert groups that pull the strings have abducted some high-level government people and given these people a negative experience because they want them to react with fear," Daniels said. "Our feeling is that the real ETs are peaceful."

Several Ufologists and UFO skeptics, however, dismiss CSETI, claiming that it is not taken seriously by the majority of researchers. Still, Daniels is scheduled to speak at MUFON's upcoming state meeting in Littleton on Jan. 11.

"We used to really try and stay away from the New Age thing because it gives the impression of being on the fringe," said MUFON's acting state director Lin Simpson. Yet Simpson maintains that they want their organization to be as inclusive as possible.

At the UFO conference of Pueblo, Bill

Winkler and others lamented this summer's hit film *Signs* and the fact that Hollywood never makes enlightening films about UFOs. Sadly, the field of Ufology will continue to trail the bandwagon blazed by movies and miniseries.

The public fascination with the subject shows no sign of abating, but it is hardly a juggernaut capable of encroaching upon mainstream science. Ufologists are unlikely to receive any research grants from universities or foundations, or any institution concerned with its respectability.

"We're winning the war in terms of bringing the subject into mainstream consideration," said Budd Hopkins. "More scientists and mental health professionals are taking it seriously."

Yet without hard, irrefutable evidence, skeptics will continue to win the day-to-day battle to define reality. Naysayers may wish on a profound level to "believe," but government conspiracies notwithstanding, earthlings are locked into the age of reason that will not be abandoned for an uncertain cosmic future anytime soon.

"A lot of people ask the question, 'Why don't they just land on the White House lawn and come out and get it all over with?'" Daniels said at the close of the Pueblo conference.

"The problem with that is it would create a massive case of interplanetary codependency. We'd look to them as saviors and want them to solve all our problems for us."

"When we grow up enough," he deduced, "we'll get to meet the neighbors." □



Illustration by Mike Miller/The Salt Lake Tribune

Spirituality's OUTER LIMITS

If they exist, are extraterrestrials good or evil?

BY PEGGY FLETCHER STACK
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Joe Firmage's long-held, science-based skepticism shattered on a cold fall morning in 1997. One little alien encounter and the Silicon Valley wunderkind became a believer.

Firmage had just hit the snooze button on his alarm, he said, when he saw a shimmering being, clothed in brilliant white light, hovering over his bed. It seemed that an electric blue sphere, just smaller than a basketball, left its body, floated down and entered Firmage, he wrote in *The Truth*, a 600-page treatise about his experience that he posted online.

Suddenly, the idea of angels and aliens didn't seem so unbelievable to a guy who had made millions building an Internet company and had long ago rejected the Mormonism of his youth — and, indeed, all religious faith.

Now, seemingly miraculous events could be linked and eventually explained, Firmage came to believe. He

discovered a new kind of spirituality, an awakening to God and the universe.

"Supernatural is a phrase that I don't like to use," said Firmage, who was visiting relatives in Utah last week. "Everything is natural. It is just a question of human understanding."

But UFOs pose a problem for some Christians, who cannot reject the seemingly inexplicable. After all, their faith is based on believing in the unbelievable — such as a resurrected Christ.

So they must grapple with distinctions. What makes walking on water true and a spin in a spaceship a figment of the imagination?

They are both real, say Hugh Ross, Kenneth Samples and Mark Clark, authors of a new book, *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men: A Rational Christian Look at UFOs and Extraterrestrials*.

But, the authors say, UFOs are demonic. Earth is not being visited by aliens from another

planet, Ross writes in the book's concluding chapter. Those extraterrestrials are fallen angels disguised as beings from outer space.

Even if the experience is positive and uplifting, it can still be counterfeit spirituality, he says. "The apostle Paul warned his friends that a messenger of darkness often 'masquerades as an angel of light.' Such beings can perform convincing and deceptive 'miracles, signs and wonders.'"

These aliens also can be distinguished from angels by where they hang out and what they do, he says.

"Only one kind of being favors the dead of night and lonely roads. Only one is real but nonphysical, animate, powerful, deceptive, ubiquitous throughout human history, culture and geography, and bent on wreaking psychological and physical harm," Ross writes. "Demons."

UFO History: The flying-saucer age began in 1947, when businessman and pilot Kenneth Arnold, flying his plane near Washington's Mount Rainier, reported seeing nine bright objects traveling at incredible speeds. He described them as "boomerang-like and disc-shaped," moving "like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water," writes Kenneth Samples in *Lights in the Sky*.

By the 1950s and into the 1960s, UFO sightings became more common.

The U.S. Air Force investigated such reports until about 1970. In a

concluding report, military officials wrote that "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge."

Though up to half of all Americans today say they believe in alien encounters, more than 90 percent, perhaps as many as 95 percent, of UFO sightings can be explained as naturalistic or bogus, writes Samples.

They can be misidentified natural or human-made phenomena, false images produced by various kinds of scientific instruments, faulty human perception or straight-out hoaxes, pranks or frauds. A surprising number are simply the result of subjective assessments.

That still leaves a significant number of what are called "residual UFOs," or reported sightings that remain unexplained.

These RUFOs follow certain patterns, writes Ross.

They tend to make repeat visits to certain witnesses and sites, he concludes. They arouse disturbing emotions. They appear to be alive. They often cause bodily and psychological harm. They deceive their human contacts.

"RUFOs try mightily to portray themselves as advanced humanoids from a distant planet traveling to Earth in metallic crafts," Ross writes. "The messages forthcoming from close encounters of the fourth kind launch a two-pronged attack — one against naturalism, the other against

orthodox Christianity."

This is not the way God would do it, he writes.

"God never performs a miracle to dazzle, fascinate, or impress anyone," Ross writes. "The miracles are designed to engender humility, to turn people away from exalting anything or anyone above God."

Different Eyes: Not all Christians see a conflict between their own scriptures and otherworldly visitors.

They speculate that Moses on Mount Sinai, the parting of the Red Sea and the Apostle Paul's blinding vision on the road to Damascus were UFO encounters.

A natural phenomenon could not have stopped and pointed out where the baby Jesus was, writes Brian Boldman in "Extraterrestrial Links to Christianity," an essay posted on Web site The Devil's Advocate.

"What if the star was an alien ship?" Boldman writes. He proposes that some of the Virgin Mary apparitions might have been orchestrated by aliens.

"Beginning in 1915, and culminating with the miracle of the sun on October 13, 1917, in Fatima, Portugal, several children had ongoing visions on a monthly basis," Boldman writes. "Witnesses reported balls of light, buzzing sounds, clouds with rainbow colors, even skyquakes and underground explosions."

He notes with interest that "the

Vatican maintains one of the largest private telescopes in the world." The Vatican also is rumored to have a UFO research division at the Vatican University's Alfonsian Academy, he says.

Rather than attacking Christianity, Firmage's experience led him to re-embrace religious faith, including belief in the miracle of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

"The greatest truth I have learned in my life is that you [Jesus Christ] exist," Firmage wrote in *The Truth*.

He swears he has not seen the malevolent side of extraterrestrials.

"The empirical evidence suggests to me that these visitors are at worst neutral to humanity and at best, extremely important to our past and to our future," he says.

Firmage believes that such aliens are beings with superior knowledge who have been visiting Earth for centuries, offering insights and planting knowledge that has led to great technological advancements. He refers to them as "teachers."

"It has never been alleged that these objects are responsible for killings," Firmage says. "Many of the sightings point to the disabling of human weapons, including switching off the launch capabilities of nuclear silos."

That isn't the work of demons, he says.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4 - TRIBUNE,
Salt Lake City, UT - Jan. 4, 2003)

"Jesus speaks of himself and all of us as children of God, if you will, made of the same light-like force," Firmage says. "Perhaps these beings are trying to acclimate and slowly introduce human beings into a staggering, beautiful cosmic future."

Types of Close Encounters with Aliens:

First Kind: UFO sighted at close range (within 500 feet) but does not affect or interact with the witness or environment.

Second Kind: UFO leaves physical effects on the environment and may even cause power failures.

Third Kind: Living occupants of the craft are seen by witnesses but no communication or contact takes place.

Fourth Kind: Direct contact occurs between alien beings and the witness. Taken aboard a spacecraft, abducted witness interacts extensively with the spacecraft's occupants.

Fifth Kind: Observer suffers permanent physical injuries or death.

Source: *Sights in the Sky & Little Green Men: A Rational Christian Look at UFOs and Extraterrestrials*

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - July ?, 2002 CR: R. Timm

Tyhee crop circle amuses farming couple

By John O'Connell
Journal Writer

POCATELLO — A local farmer out harvesting grain Saturday morning telephoned his wife and told her he had found something amazing in his field.

When he asked her to bring the camera, she thought there was probably another moose in the field. Instead, he showed her the perfectly-formed 60-square-foot crop circle he discovered.

The farming couple from the Tyhee area made the unusual discovery the morning after the box office premier of the movie *Signs*, which stars actor Mel Gibson. The movie deals with cosmic phenomena, including crop circles. But the couple, who asked not to be identified for fear of harassment, are sure their crop circle is not a sign of extra terrestrial intelligence, but rather an indication that local youths are extremely artistic — and have a lot of time on their hands.

"It was a perfect circle with a line up the middle and then half circles on each side. Then it had four swirls coming out of each end, almost the shape of an antenna coming out," she said. "I'd like to shake the hands of whoever did it, because they really did a good job."

The creators of the crop circle, which her husband

"I'd like to shake the hands of whoever did it, because they really did a good job."

— Tyhee area resident

plowed over Saturday afternoon, pressed wheat down in the same direction without breaking the stems. Like the crop circle she witnessed in her field, the one she saw in the preview for the movie also has a line up the middle.

"My daughter went out and walked through it, and she was mentioning how dimensional, how symmetric everything was," she said. "Obviously, a group of kids did this, but they did a good job."

She said she was also impressed the pranksters left no visible trails from the road to the crop circle, especially since there is no easy access route to the location.

She thought it was a shame her husband had to harvest the crop circle, but leaving it would have been a waste of grain.



Journal photo by Heather Ainsworth

A Tyhee farmer discovered a mysterious crop circle in his wheat field Saturday morning. The farmer believes local youths were inspired to make the circle after watching the movie "Signs," which opened Friday night.

MORNING CALL, Allentown, PA - Jan. 22, 2003

ASK FRANK

Valley residents have reported UFOs

Newspaper articles from 1940s, '50s and '60s describe sightings.



History

FRANK WHELAN

Q: It was on the very hot night in August 1968 when I was working in Bethlehem across the Lehigh River from Bethlehem Steel that I saw an unusual shiny, spinning flying object in the sky hovering over the steel plant. I have no idea what it was, but I have often wondered.

My question is are there any documented UFO sightings from that time about people seeing objects in the sky in this area? Whatever it was, it was there and I saw it.

Donald W. Parks
Allentown

A: After reading your letter I went immediately to The Morning Call's flying saucer file. You knew we had to have one, right?

The file begins with an Evening Chronicle story from July 8, 1947. The first known UFO sighting recorded locally was credited to Bethlehem resident Edna Lynn of 36 W. Laurel St., who said she saw an unidentified flying object on July 6, 1947.

Over the years the articles came thick and fast, including one with a photograph purported as a high-flying UFO taken July 9, 1952, by Berks County farmer John Mittl over his family's 300-acre farm near Kutztown. It ran in the Evening Chronicle on July 30, 1952.

To answer your question, on Aug. 4, 1968, there was an article in The Morning Call about the sighting of a UFO over the Lehigh Valley the day

before. An unidentified man in West Catasauqua reported seeing "a red light in the sky."

Through his binoculars he saw "a bright, round object. ... It was red and had no tail or any flames following it." The weather station at Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport said they had not seen anything but reported a call from a young man asking for information about temperature and visibility. "Sounded as though this might tie in with the UFO report," a meteorologist said.

The article noted there had been many previous sightings that spring and summer. On May 27, 1968, a former Navy corpsman reported a brightly lit object hovered over his car as he drove on Third Avenue in Hellertown.

"On last Monday [July 29, 1968], four Bethlehem policemen responding to a call from Richard Sedler of 508 Hess St., who reported a UFO sighting, confirmed that they too had spotted the object," The Morning Call said.

"Officers John Ladics and Vincent Carrodo reported that the round object had greenish-white and revolving lights with a red glow coming from its tail." They saw it about 1:21 a.m., it disappeared for a half-hour and "then returned briefly for an encore."

Ask Frank appears on Wednesdays. Have a question about Lehigh Valley history? E-mail questions to frank.whean@mcall.com or write to Frank Whelan, The Morning Call, 101 N. Sixth St. Allentown 18105.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Nov. 29, 2002

NORAD scrambles fighter jets to attempt to intercept reported contrail

By ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The military command responsible for the defense of North American airspace scrambled fighter jets in response to unverified reports of an airborne condensation trail, or contrail, moving from the Caribbean to the United States, defense officials said Thursday.

Lt. Col. Michael Humm, a Pentagon spokesman, said the incident happened Wednesday and that the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., was continuing to investigate.

The reported contrail stirred concern because of the possibility that it could have indicated the presence of an unauthorized jet aircraft in or approaching American airspace. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the Pentagon has taken greater precautions to monitor U.S. airspace.

A contrail is created by vapor from a jet engine in the presence of cold air.

The jets that were scrambled to attempt to intercept and identify the source of the contrail found nothing, said Lt. Cmdr. Curtis Jenkins, a NORAD spokesman. He said NORAD had developed no new information since the initial report at 3 p.m. CST on Wednesday. NORAD is reviewing data from its tracking radars in search of evidence, he said.

A Pentagon statement said NORAD received unverified reports of "what appeared to be a contrail of unknown origin," originally in the vicinity of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean.

"Initially, it was reported to be heading northwestward toward the United States," the statement said. "Commercial airline pilots later reported the contrail over Florida and later over Indiana. Thereafter, no other sightings were reported."

The reported contrail was never verified by visual or radar contact, the Pentagon statement said.

At the Federal Aviation

Administration, spokesman Paul Turk said, "I'm aware of the reports." He referred all questions to NORAD.

Jenkins said he was not sure who reported the initial sighting over the Caribbean. He also was unsure who requested NORAD to launch fighter jets or from which military bases they were scrambled.

"We don't necessarily judge or second-guess when a request comes to us to investigate" a contrail, he said.

Meanwhile, reports of a ball of fire streaking across the sky early Thursday had people throughout the Northwest flooding radio and television stations with calls reporting a meteor shower.

It was believed that the light came from a Russian rocket body re-entering the Earth's atmosphere about 6:15 a.m. The U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Neb., and the North American Aerospace Defense Command confirmed a Russian rocket fell back to Earth, but gave no further details.

Noted Author, Lecturer Speaks At Flatwoods Monster Festival

Noted author, nuclear physicist and lecturer Stanton T. Friedman will be lecturing at the Monster Museum in Flatwoods during the Towns celebration of the 50th anniversary of the appearance of the Flatwoods Monster and the 100th anniversary of the town's incorporation, Thursday-Saturday, September 12-14.

Friedman was born in New Jersey on July 29, 1934, was valedictorian of his 1951 Linden, New Jersey high school class and spent two years at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey before switching to the University of Chicago in 1953. He received his BSc and MSc degrees in physics from the University of Chicago in 1955 and 1956. Carl Sagan was a classmate there. He worked for 14 years as a nuclear physicist for such companies as General Electric, General Motors, Westinghouse, TRW Systems, Aerojet General Nucleonics and McDonnell Douglas on such advanced, highly classified projects as nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets, and nuclear power plants for space.

Since 1967 he has lectured on the topic "Flying Saucers ARE Real" at more than 600 colleges and over 100 professional groups in 50 states, 9 Canadian provinces, 12 cities in England, 11 cities of Australia, as well as in Italy, Germany, Holland, France, Finland, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Korea and Israel. He has published more than 70 papers on UFOs besides his dozens of conventional articles, and appeared on hundreds of radio and TV shows. These include TNT Larry King UFO special on October 1, 1994. Nightline, Sally Jesse Raphael, Unsolved Mysteries, Entertainment Tonight, Leesa, Sightings, Canada AM, Art Bell and many more. He is the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident, co-authored Crash at Corona and instigated the Unsolved Mysteries Roswell program.

He was heavily involved in both the 1979 documentary UFOs ARE REAL and the 1993, 1993 videos Flying Saucers ARE REAL. His interactive CD-ROM UFOs: THE REAL STORY was published in 1996. TOP SECRET/MAJIC (Marlowe & Company, New York), his explosive book about the Majestic 12 group established in 1947 by President Truman to deal with crashed saucers, was published in 1996. It includes classified documents never before published and is in its sixth printing.

Stan anchored the affirmative team in an October 1995 debate at Oxford University: "This house believes that intelligent alien life has visited planet Earth," garnering 60% of the member vote. On June 27, 1997, his debate team got 92% of 100,000 votes called into ITV in London, England: "Are aliens visiting Earth?" He has provided testimony to Congressional Hearings, appeared twice at the United Nations, and been a pioneer in many aspects of ufology including the Betty Hill star map work, crashed saucers, analysis of Delphos physical trace case, and

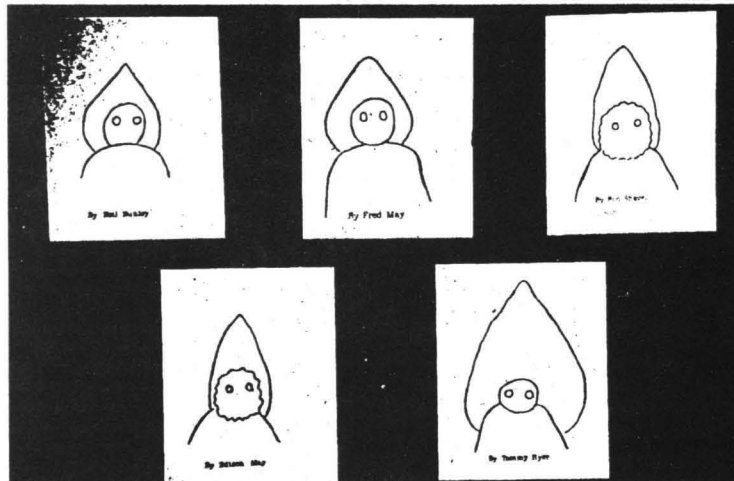


STANTON FRIEDMAN

challenges to S.E.T.I. (Silly Effort To Investigate) cultists. He takes a clear-cut unambiguous stand that SOME UFOs are alien spacecraft, that the subject of flying saucers represents a kind of cosmic

Watergate, that none of the anti-UFO arguments stand up to careful scrutiny, and that we are dealing with the biggest story of the past millennium. This scandal mainly being visits to planet Earth by alien spacecraft and the successful cover-up by governments of the best data, the alien wreckage and bodies recovered in New Mexico for 55 years. He has spent many weeks in a total of 19 document archives. He has also been involved in numerous scientific research and development projects since moving to Canada in 1980.

Stan is a dual citizen of the United States and Canada. He is at Fspshys@brunnet.net; www.v-j-enterprises.com/sfpage.html on the Internet.



DRAMATICALLY ALIKE. Hand drawings done in separate rooms by witnesses (top left to bottom right) Neil Nunley, Fred May, Ron Shaver, Eddie May and Tommy Hyer.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Nov. 6, 2002 CR: S. Gordon



S.C. Spangler/Tribune-Review

Investigative reporter Leslie Kean (right) talks to Stan Gordon, of Greensburg, at the site where an unidentified flying object is said to have landed near Kecksburg, Mt. Pleasant Township, in 1965. Kean is helping cable's Sci Fi

Channel investigate the incident with the help of Gordon, who said he has devoted "years and years" to the case.

UFO case back in spotlight

Sci Fi Channel looks into Kecksburg incident

By Ann Saul Dudurich
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

On Dec. 9, 1965, a fiery orange object was observed streaking across the evening sky. Witnesses in Westmoreland County said the object appeared to bank and turn before gliding into a wooded ravine near Kecksburg, Mt. Pleasant Township. Military personnel arrived a short time later, purportedly keeping curious onlookers at bay while the area was searched.

Several eyewitnesses stated they saw a large, acorn-shaped object being removed from the area on a tarp-covered flatbed truck. Yet the Air Force has never confirmed anything was found. The official explanation: A meteorite.

Nearly 37 years later, Kecksburg is once again in the national spotlight.

During a recent news conference, the Sci Fi Channel challenged government secrecy, calling for declassification of records concerning unidentified aerial phenomena, commonly known as UFOs. To help the cause, Sci Fi joined forces with John Podesta, former White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton, and his public relations firm, PodestaMattoon. Together, they are backing a Freedom of Infor-

Roper Poll results

- 56 percent of Americans believe UFOs exist
- 72 percent of Americans believe the government isn't telling everything it knows about UFO activity
- Detailed results available on CFI's Web site: www.freedomofinfo.org

mation Act initiative aimed at cases involving the retrieval of objects of unknown origin.

Sci Fi has obtained the services of Lobel, Novins and Lamont, a Washington, D.C., law firm, and has commissioned California-based investigative reporter Leslie Kean to document the Freedom of Information Act request. It has also formed the Coalition for Freedom of Information to generate public support.

The Kecksburg case is cited in the group's request for documents through the Freedom of Information Act, the 1966 law that grants the right to request access to federal agency records or information.

According to Larry Landsman, Sci Fi's director of special projects, the cable channel is lending its resources in an effort to "figure out what's going on in our skies," and, more specifically, what happened that night in Kecksburg.

"It's a real mystery; a fascinating story," he said. "And we just want to know what's going on."

On Sci Fi's behalf, Kean made the trip Tuesday to western Pennsylvania to interview witnesses, and tour the crash site area.

"I know there have been other requests in the past that haven't gone anywhere," Kean said. "But, this is the first time an effort is being made which has some resources and legal power behind it. ... There is a consensus here to take this as far as we possibly can and really demand and insist that people get this information because it's their right to have it. And, if that means going to court, or whatever it takes, we're really going to go for it."

According to Kean, the Kecksburg case is a "natural," in part because of a large number of witnesses and the reported recovery of a physical object.

"Another reason we looked at this case is all the work done by Stan Gordon," she said. "We're not starting from ground zero here."

Gordon, a Greensburg resident who was 16 years old in 1965, has devoted "years and years" to solving the mystery. His efforts to obtain top-secret records, however, have failed.

"Will these documents ever be declassified? I have my doubts," Gordon said with a smile. "But I am always hopeful. It's very important that anyone connected with this case come forward now and tell what they know."

Ann Saul Dudurich can be reached at adudurich@tribweb.com or 724-837-4378.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Welsh holiday hotspot a hotbed of alien activity, claims expert

IT'S COAST ENCOUNTERS



By KATE JACKSON

THE truth is out there...in Pembrokeshire!

Hot on the heels of Steven Spielberg's latest offering on alien encounters, one UFO expert reckons the ET director's out-of-this-world drama is not so far from reality.

Investigator Phil Hoyle says West Wales is a hot-bed of extra-terrestrial activity.

And just like Spielberg's 10-part TV series Taken, Mr Hoyle claims he has found people who have been abducted by aliens in Wales.

He believes St Brides Bay may have an underground or under-sea alien base because so many people have seen disc-shaped UFOs leaving or entering the sea.

He has also interviewed people who have seen disks over Stack Rocks.

And he is currently working with one woman who may have been abducted by little green men.

Mr Hoyle said alien activity was first reported in Pembrokeshire in 1977 when a group of school children claimed to have seen a cigar-shaped spaceship.

And he claims to have had several unusual experiences while on holiday in West Wales.

In March 2000, Phil was on holiday in Haroldston Wood when he saw a bright light moving slowly across the sky.

He said: "I could see a bright white sphere, then suddenly a small red object shot out of the bottom left-hand side of the sphere."

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

"It then darted horizontally over an approximate distance of 500 feet, it moved in a zig-zag erratic manner from left to right."

Phil works at the UFO Investigations and Research Unit, based in Shrewsbury, which researches the phenomena.

He puts adverts in local shops asking if anyone has had any unusual experiences.

When someone reports a sighting, investigators check with astronomy charts, military data and flight paths to make sure there isn't a reasonable explanation.

The main obstacle Mr Hoyle encounters is the British and American

'UFO sighting changed my life'

TWENTY-FOUR years ago, Allison Richards claims she encountered aliens in St Brides.

Allison, 62, from Kidderminster, is still haunted by her experience.

She said: "We went for a walk up to the cliff top. I looked up and there was the biggest thing above us. It was like walking out of your front door and seeing a jumbo jet hovering above you - but there was no sound at all."

"We hadn't even seen it coming."

"I was absolutely terrified - I just grabbed my daughter Jan, and ran."

"Ten minutes later, my husband Derek saw a man standing on the other side of the beach watching us."

"He was about 6ft tall and looked like a hippy."

"He was stood by our car when we

ALLISON'S STORY

got back and that's when I knew he wasn't like us. You could see right through his eyes.

"I couldn't take my eyes off him, but he wasn't saying anything - just staring."

"I could just hear a voice in my

TELL US YOUR STORY

Have you had a close encounter? We'd love to hear your stories. Call the newsdesk on 029 2058 3733 or write to us at the usual address



HOYLE: 'Government cover-up'

governments, who he believes are guilty of covering up essential information.

"There's a lot of evidence deliberately suppressed," he said.

"People in Government prefer us to think we are alone, so that we still worship them."

"Most of the evidence I get is from members of the military and police."

"It's from people who have nothing to gain and a lot to lose," he said.

According to Mr Hoyle, the majority of people who have been abducted don't remember what happened.

He said: "You might drive along at night and see an object that lands in a field and takes off again, but it's actually been there 20 minutes or more."

"Think of your memory as a video - they can put a screen memory over yours, so you go away not knowing what's happened."

"But usually there's some sort of mark on their body that would indicate something much more serious had taken place."

"What we know from the hundreds of abduction/contact cases we work with is the profound change people have after an encounter."

"Many people obviously feel fear, anxiety and isolation, but large proportions also feel a great spiritual awareness."

TOP 5 ALIEN FILMS

WE'VE dug up a list of the top five classic Welsh space movies:

1. *The Empire Strikes Back*: Intergalactic classic which opens with the words "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... we had a great rugby team."

2. *Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave*: A group from West Wales are chased around the suffocating confines of a National Express bus by a gun-toting Sigmund the dog.

3. *Merthyr Girls Are Easy*: Six-hour pub crawl shot entirely on hand-held camera. Widely believed to have been Orson Welles' favourite film.

4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*: Captain James T. Kirk and his crew dress in super-light Welsh football tops and - carrying phaser guns - chase each other along a South Wales beach.

5. *Independence Day*: When a massive space craft hovers over Cardiff's County Hall, city residents suspect an alien take-over. Their fears are confirmed when the city streets are cleared of litter and Lord Mayor Russell Goodway announces a reduction in his annual allowance.

CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton, England - March 6, 2003

Astronomer's UFO shock



A leading Chase astronomer has joined the UFO clamour in our area after spotting a baffling craft.

College lecturer John Armitage, pictured, witnessed the disc shaped craft while viewing the sun at daylight from his Cannock observatory. Mr Armitage, who says he has an open-mind about UFOs, told The Post he'd never seen anything like it before.

He said: "I'm used to seeing aircraft and birds - in fact, a 737 passed across just minutes later."

"I can't see it being orbiting space junk, because it would not have been circular and I don't think it would be big enough to show-up."

"With most UFO sightings, there is something peculiar about the circumstances or the people."

"This didn't fall into either category."

Mr Armitage added he could not tell how high the craft was travelling and was, therefore, unable to estimate its size.

EVENING GAZETTE, Colchester, England - March 5, 2003

Family claim a UFO followed them home

A FAMILY today claimed a UFO followed them through the Bardfields.

A police spokeswoman said the parents and two children reported the sighting on Saturday night as they were returning to their home after a visit to the Halstead area.

They said they saw a flashing circular object with an outer ring of lights.

And the family claimed every time they stopped their vehicle, the UFO stopped and went on its side.

"The two children were scared by the experience," said the spokeswoman.

A similar sighting was reported at Bannister Green, Felsted, ten miles away on the same night.

BRIGHT

The last time someone claimed spotting a UFO in the area was November, 2001.

On that occasion a Witham woman said she saw a bright blue and green light move across the sky.

19 'close encounters' in Fife being probed

An appeal for witnesses to a string of alleged 'close encounters' in North East Fife has led to a "massive public response" with UFO investigators currently looking into 19 reports in Fife and a string of unexplained sightings across Central Scotland.

Ex-navy submariner Lee Close, who is chief investigator with the Anglo Scottish UFO Research Agency (ASUFORA), revealed today that since the local Press highlighted alleged UFO sightings last year, the number of calls and emails to him continued flooding in.

He remained open minded as to whether many of these reports could be explained by astronomical or aircraft factors. It was also his team's job to sift out any potential hoaxes.

Encouraged

But he was encouraged that people seeking answers were still prepared to come forward and share what they had seen — especially when many individuals often felt embarrassed to do so.

Speaking from West Lothian, Mr Close said, "The reports keep coming in and some go back many years. They include a 'small gold sphere' seen from Dundee about five miles off RAF Leuchars, and a man who said that on two or three occasions he saw several large, cigar-shaped objects hovering and then disappearing in the Ladybank area when he travelled daily between Dundee and Glenrothes between 1989 and 2002.

"We are also looking at an astonishing case from Ballygry in 1958. A lady, now 80, can recollect the event like it happened yesterday.

Aliens

"She said an orange, long, cigar-shaped object followed a jogger called John Hodge. It was witnessed by several 12 year-olds."

Seven years ago two local women made headlines around the world after claiming they encountered aliens at Drummy Wood, Freuchie.

UFO enthusiasts are now being drawn to the area in renewed numbers following a new "sighting" by a retired US army captain and his family during a visit to the area last summer.

Mr Close said this was still being investigated, but he was also intrigued by the number of other alleged unexplained sightings in the area.

a glow emanating from below and he estimated that its altitude was around 30,000 feet.

While the jets had left vapour trails behind them in the clear sky, there was no sign of any turbulence caused by the sphere's passing.

Mr Close had revealed that one of the sightings reported to researchers had been of a small gold sphere spotted by someone in Dundee and appearing to be several miles off RAF Leuchars.

Although that suggests some similarity with what he saw, Mr Meyer reckoned his gray sphere was a substantial size, although he has no idea what it was.

483 UFO sightings make 2002 banner year in Canada

White cylinders among 176 cases in B.C. — Canada's busiest viewing spot again

By SCOTT EDMONDS
CANADIAN PRESS

WINNIPEG — From white cylinders in British Columbia to an object with windows and flashing lights near Inkerman, N.B., last year was a banner one for sightings of unidentified flying objects over Canada.

"In 2002 we had the largest number of separate events for a single year in the history of collecting UFO data for Canada," Chris Rutkowski of Ufology Research of Manitoba said Wednesday.

"We have some extraordinary cases in Canada last year reported literally from one end of the country to the other."

Since 1989 his group has been compiling reports from across Canada.

There were 483 UFO sightings reported in 2002 — almost 30 per cent more than in 2001 and a 250-per-cent increase since 1998.

That's a record if 1993 is excluded when one celestial fireball contributed to a high of 489 reports that year, said Rutkowski, who added that 154 of them were easily explained because of the fireball.

"Over all it's fascinating to see that the number of cases in Canada rose so dramatically last year," he said.

There is no easy explanation for the increase, he added.

Rutkowski said one of the strangest unexplained sightings occurred in January 2002 near the tiny community of Inkerman, N.B.



CANADIAN PRESS FILES

Nova Scotian Lawrence Smith was a 34-year-old fisherman in 1967 when Shag Harbour residents claim to have seen a glowing orange object land in the water.

ings occurred in January 2002 near the tiny community of Inkerman, N.B.

"A large object with flashing lights and brightly lit windows flew slowly and fairly silently over a highway," he said.

"A couple stopped their car and watched it as it moved down behind some trees."

Reported UFO sightings by Canadians in 2002

Jan. 12, 2002, 9:40 p.m., Inkerman, N.B. — A couple in a car watch a large object with flashing lights and brightly lit windows fly slowly and silently over a highway. Dozens report sightings about the same time.

March 28, 2002, 10:30 p.m., Hamilton, Ont. — A pale-coloured light rises from a mountain, then disappears. It repeats this performance several times.

April 7, 2002, 1:57 a.m., Hudson's Bay, Nunavut — The aircrew of a cargo plane watch a small light grow in size to become a jagged ball, then fizzle out.

May 7, 2002, 11:23 p.m., Winnipeg — A fuzzy patch of light is seen and photographed near the Big Dipper by an experienced astronomer and physicist. It was not a comet, cloud, or any other known phenomenon.

May 26, 2002, 11:44 p.m., Winnipeg — Three people watch a dark object with three red circles on its underside silently glide across the sky.

July 28, 2002, 10:00 p.m., Smithers, B.C. — A barrel-shaped silver object flies across the sky toward the southwest.

Aug. 13, 2002, 1:00 a.m., Waterville, N.S. — Twelve witnesses watch two luminous silver objects fly silently over an RV park, then one of the objects angles sharply away and is lost to sight.

Aug. 13, 2002, 2:15 a.m., Cow Bay, N.S. — A huge, slow-moving black triangular object appears to block out the sky. Inquiries with radar operators confirm a large unknown object had flown over the area at that time.

Aug. 23, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Houston, B.C. — A shiny white cylindrical object flies overhead and is videotaped.

Sept. 1, 2002, 8:47 p.m., Moleg Lake, N.S. — Two witnesses watch an object with rectangular slit-like lights and a large red flashing light fly slowly eastward.

Sept. 22, 2002, 3:13 p.m., Vancouver — A small orange object moves slowly in the sky, changes direction and shape, and is observed for hours by more than a dozen people.

Oct. 22, 2002, 10:25 p.m., Granisle, B.C. — An orange disc-shaped object hovers over a mine, then slowly rises and flies north.

It was one of the sightings he looked into personally.

Over all, British Columbia was once again the place to be in 2002 to see a UFO. The province produced 176 sightings, more than Ontario and Quebec combined and from 123 in 2001.

B.C.'s numbers represent a third of all UFO sightings in Canada. Rutkowski said part of the reason is likely due to two UFO organizations in the province which have done a good job encouraging reports, although he suggested that doesn't tell the whole story.

"I don't think that the increase can be ascribed completely to the fact people are looking up a little more or know where to report."

Many of the reports from British Columbia come from the north of the province, not the densely populated south.

"In the Yukon there (also) still seems to be an extraordinarily high number of cases," he noted.

The Yukon produced 20 reports last year and has consistently produced about that many or more since 1998.

Ontario produced 128 reports last year, Alberta 51, Manitoba 36, Quebec 34, Nova Scotia 23, Saskatchewan six, New Brunswick four, Newfoundland three and Nunavut two. Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories were UFO-free zones in 2002.

In general, more UFOs were reported in late summer than any other time of the year, although February also produced a peak.

About 18 per cent of all UFO reports remained unexplained but only about seven per cent were what researchers consider high-quality cases. Most sightings involved at least two witnesses and lasted approximately 15 minutes.

Rutkowski and the other researchers who helped compile the report don't draw any conclusions from the sightings.

"As with previous studies, the 2002 Canadian UFO survey does not offer any positive proof that UFOs are either alien spacecraft or a specific natural phenomenon," notes the report.

Leuchars man adds to UFO mystery

A GUARDBRIDGE man has added to the growing tally of reported sightings of mystery objects in the skies over north-east Fife.

Mr Raymond Meyer, who works in maintenance at RAF Leuchars, saw a strange sphere with a glowing underside heading north over the sea on Monday last week.

The Anglo-Scottish UFO Research Agency announced earlier this week that an appeal for local sightings had prompted 19 people to come forward.

They recalled incidents going back as far as 1958 and agency chief investigator Lee Close said they would be investigated to see if any genuine UFOs remained after sifting out aircraft, weather and astronomical effects.

Mr Meyer explained that he had been watching jets overhead around 3 pm when he spotted the sphere. He was able to keep it in view in his binoculars for around 10 minutes as it travelled in a straight line north.

He explained that the sphere appeared gray with

INDEPENDENT, London, England - Dec. 3, 2002

MoD attacked for denying access to UFO details

THE MINISTRY OF Defence was criticised yesterday for repeatedly withholding information, including documents concerning one of Britain's celebrated UFO sightings.

Ann Abraham, the parliamentary ombudsman, found the MoD broke rules on access to information three times in four months. Complaints about

DEFENCE

By BEN RUSSELL

the MoD's refusal to list countries given priority for arms sales or reveal details of an armed services survey were also upheld.

Details of the infamous UFO scare in Rendlesham Forest,

Norfolk, more than 20 years ago have been released. Until last week the document had only been seen by about 20 people, who had requested access to it through the US Freedom of Information Act.

It describes the sighting of a triangular "strange glowing object" near RAF Woodbridge in the early hours of 27 De-

cember 1980. A number of US Air Force men witnessed the object hover in the darkness, transmitting blue pulsating lights and sending nearby farm animals into a "frenzy".

The ombudsman's quarterly report said: "Given their age and the fact that these documents contained no information not already in the

public domain, the Ombudsman saw no reason why they could not be disclosed."

Peter Kilfoyle, a former Labour defence minister, said: "The MoD is bedevilled by a culture of secrecy ... It is one of those departments that are not very attuned to what is required in a modern, open and accountable government."



JESSICA KERR/WEEKEND EDITION STAFF

The Centre of the Universe's Julie Bolduc-Duval has never seen a UFO but says the Saanich-based centre gets calls every week reporting unidentified flying objects. That is not surprising considering stats on UFO sighting reports indicate British Columbia is Canada's UFO capital. Believe it or not.

UFOs: Are they really out there?

■ Did you know that B.C. is the UFO capital of Canada when it comes to reported sightings of unidentified flying objects? Most of us take UFO sightings with a grain of salt, but there are some true believers who claim alien abductions do happen and UFOs are indeed really out there.

Tarina White
Weekend Edition staff

Perhaps it's B.C.'s reputation for having some of the most potent marijuana in the world or the fact that the *X-Files* were once filmed here. Maybe it's just that British Columbians are "tuned into a different wavelength", as one B.C. man who insists they really do exist says. Who knows.

But one thing is for sure, while B.C. is well known for its natural beauty and moderate climate, the province can now boast one more feature — it's the UFO capital of Canada.

If some of our fellow residents in this province are to be believed, there's all kinds of weird things float-

ing about high above us, according to stats compiled in the 2002 Canadian UFO Survey.

If you've noticed mysterious objects floating in the sky above Victoria, you're likely not alone. More than 170 UFO sightings were reported in B.C. last year — a third of all UFO sightings in Canada. This figure is up by more than 50 sightings over 2001 and is the highest number in more than a decade.

Thirty-one UFO sightings were recorded in Vancouver last year,

"I'm going to venture that there might be a similar psychic component in being able to see UFOs. I can honestly say to you I watch the sky all the time. I even watch the sky when I'm driving."

— Graham Conway, UFO BC president

more than any other urban area except Toronto, which reported 34.

Julie Bolduc-Duval, an interpreter at The Centre of the Universe observatory in Saanich, says the centre receives several calls each week —

yes, each week — about UFO sightings.

"We get a lot of phone calls," she says. "When people see something in the sky they usually think about calling us." Bolduc-Duval says it's usually hard for staff at the centre to decipher exactly what people are looking at in the sky when they phone in about what they suspect may be a UFO.

"So many UFO reports, unfortunately, are just things in the sky that people don't know about or are nor-

mal," she says, pointing out that Venus is very bright in the morning at the moment.

She adds that people often mistake meteors, shooting stars, planets and satellites for UFOs.

As for herself, Bolduc-Duval says she is yet to witness a UFO.

"I've never seen anything in the sky that I couldn't explain," she says, adding quickly that this doesn't mean UFOs don't exist.

Graham Conway, the president of UFO BC, has had a fascination with UFOs for the past 56 years and claims to have personally seen as many as 30 unidentified flying objects.

When pressed for his explanation

Flashes of light in the sky give UFO fans plenty to think about

STRANGE flashes of light have been spotted shooting across the night skies over Portsmouth.

And a crop circle suddenly appeared on the side of a busy motorway between junction nine and ten of the M27 at Fareham.

Members of a UFO group which has been gathering regularly on Portsdown Hill believe there is a lot of activity in outer space now.

Balls and streaks of light have been illuminating the sky and the crop circle appeared in a field visible from the motorway.

Civilian policeman Steve Gerrard is chairman of a UFO group based in Southampton, which investigates sightings across Hampshire.

Mr Gerrard, 39, said: "There has been a lot of activity in the skies recently. We believe without a doubt that there is something out

by Cathy Caws
The News

there in outer space but we are not sure what.

"We have seen lights in a variety of shapes looking like lanterns and cigars as well as balls of light ranging from the size of a pea to clusters of half a dozen."

Mr Gerrard added: "Some people dismiss the lights as coming from the dockyard but we don't think they are anything to do with the naval base."

"The lights are not consistent. Some zigzag across the sky and others appear and disappear suddenly."

Anyone who has seen anything unusual can write to Mr Gerrard at 25 Western Grove Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 9ZE.

as to why he has witnessed so many UFOs, while most people have never seen even one, Conway says that some people are "tuned into a different wavelength". He points to a paranormal connection between twins, as an example of what he means by this viewpoint that some people are just more attuned to seeing them.

"I'm going to venture that there might be a similar psychic component in being able to see UFOs," he says. "I can honestly say to you I watch the sky all the time. I even watch the sky when I'm driving."

Conway doesn't agree that the majority of sightings can be easily explained, as Bolduc-Duval says.

"Clearly, this is not Venus, which is offered frequently by arm chair experts as an expla-

nation," he says. "It doesn't make it a flying saucer, but it's something that they have never previously seen."

And Conway is quick to add that "well over 300 people" in B.C. have claimed alien abductions.

"And by that I mean where they are waking up in a state of immobility, they claim to be paralyzed (and) they have these little people who come into the room and they take them away onto a craft and examine them," he says.

In a statement released by BC Stats about the large number of UFO sightings in the province, it is noted that "it is possible that B.C. residents are just more susceptible to seeing things high in the sky."

Tourism Victoria CEO Lorne Whyte isn't about to use the high number of UFO sight-

ings in B.C. as a new way to attract tourists.

"I don't think we'll make it our byline," he says with a laugh. "I think we'll stick with 'Victoria and the Islands: Always in season'."

But he jokingly says he might try and squeeze in a "subliminal" message.

Whyte says one reason for all the sightings could be recent clear skies.

"People see things when there's a clear sky and we're certainly known for our blue sky."

However, Whyte isn't about to dismiss a potential tourism market if Victoria is indeed visited by aliens from time to time. Whyte hopes that if aliens do drop in they choose to stay overnight, "or else they would be a statistical non-entity".

An alien encounter

Despite a conference of the world's leading scientists being told this week that the real explanation behind alien abductions is sleep paralysis in the victims, more US citizens than ever are convinced that they have been kidnapped by crews of UFOs. Travis Walton is one of them. Almost 30 years on, his story remains controversial

THE seven men in the logging company's truck were heading home and looking forward to some cold beers and a hot supper after a day working in the mountains of Arizona.

It was early evening on November 5, 1975 - the night 22-year-old Travis Walton claims his life changed forever.

As the truck cruised alongside the border of the national forest, the seven loggers noticed a strange, burning light in the sky directly overhead.

According to Walton, a powerful compulsion made him jump from the still moving truck and run directly toward the strange light.

As he approached it, a bolt of pure energy struck, knocking him off his feet and blasting him back some 10 feet.

The sight of this was enough to terrify Walton's companions, who turned the truck around and fled.

And this is where the true believers of Travis and the scornful sceptics of his strange tale diverge.

On the one hand, there is Travis and his believers, including, apparently, Paramount film studios, which released a dramatised version of the Walton abduction entitled *Fire In The Sky* and billed it as a "true account".

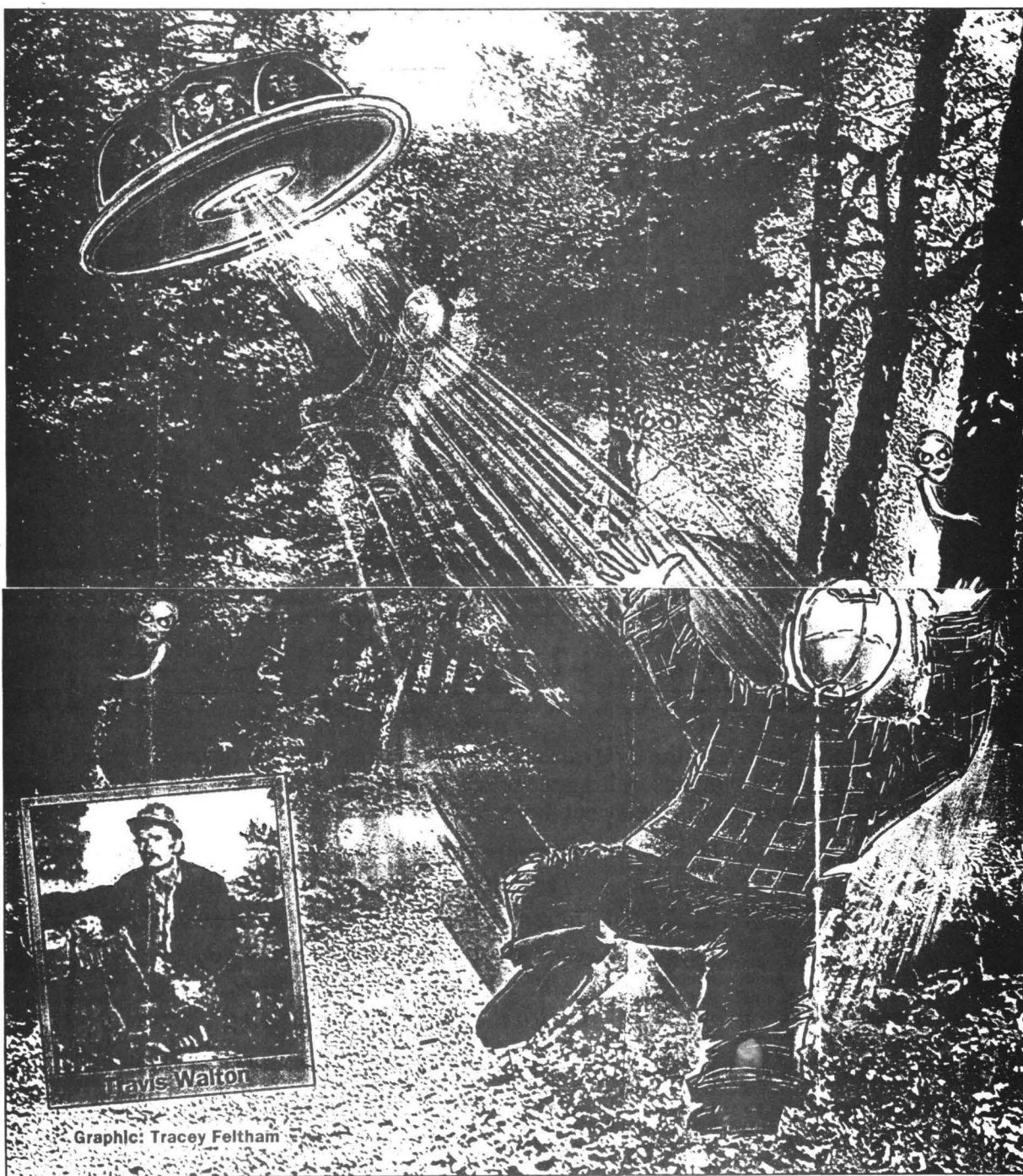
And on the other side of the fence, there are those who are convinced that Travis Walton is and was a glib liar, motivated solely by financial greed.

The craft made no sound

Travis himself has said, "When I made that fateful choice to leave the truck, I was leaving behind more than just my six fellow workmen. I was leaving behind forever all semblance of a normal life, running headlong toward an experience so overwhelmingly mind-rending in its effects, so devastating in its aftermath, that my life would never - could never - be the same again."

Yeah, yeah, reply his detractors, but what about the failed lie detector tests, the many incidents of intentional deception uncovered or the fact that Travis's mother was oddly calm when told of her son's 'abduction' by forces not of this world?

According to Travis Walton, he came to lying beneath the shiny hull of an alien craft which then departed with him on board. He claims that the utter silence is what sticks in his mind. The craft made no sound whatsoever as it took off at great speed.



Walton describes an encounter with alien types who differ from descriptions of previous abductees in one important area - their eyes. Traditional UFO aliens are almost always said to be grey in appearance and small, with translucent eyes, but Walton's abductors were more colourful and their eyes had pupils.

The abduction takes on a different perspective when, he claims, he found himself in a 'planetarium' area of the craft and a strange, silent humanoid man appeared, clad in blue and wearing a space helmet.

He then recalls lying on his back and being confronted with another

humanoid-type man and woman, who were both extremely attractive.

Again, Walton insisted that there was something not quite right about their eyes, although he was again unable to pinpoint what this might be. The woman was carrying some sort of small surgical mask, which she used to render Walton unconscious.

And that, according to Walton, was that - until he found himself calling his sister from a gas station at midnight on November 10, miles away from the original abduction sight and five full days later.

Travis Walton was shaking and visibly distressed, but apart from a

small puncture mark in the crook of his left elbow - as might be caused by the taking of a blood sample - he was unharmed.

From the beginning, there were plenty of people who refused to believe the story. But what reasons would he have to lie? Er, quite a few, according to his detractors.

For a start, if he'd sprung a hoax, it might have been to collect the annual National Enquirer \$100,000 prize for the Best UFO case of the year offering 'positive proof' of their existence. Almost as soon as Walton got back, he was in negotiations with the magazine and he and other members

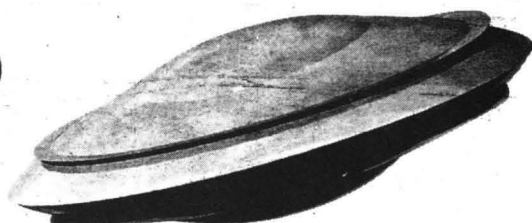
of the logging crew eventually divided a \$5,000 prize between them.

Then there was the penalty clause about to be invoked through one of his boss Mike Rogers' logging contracts. Rogers stood to forfeit \$2,500 in penalty clauses for failing to clear the area where Travis claimed to have been snatched in time. An alien abduction would have given them all some breathing space and kept Travis in a job.

In the final analysis, only Travis Walton and the aliens know what really happened on November 5, 1975 - and one of the parties can't be contacted.

As fans of The X Files settle down for the final ever episode, it seems that some of its wilder storylines may not quite be the science fiction that we all first thought

Is the truth still out there?



FOR ALMOST 10 years on television's most paranoid and paranormal show, The X Files, FBI special agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully have diligently pursued UFOs, vampires, lake monsters, ghosts, aliens, dark and sinister conspiracies, biblical mysteries, werewolves and more.

They have also been responsible for the passing into common

By Nick Redfern

parance of two magnificent catchphrases - "The truth is out there" and "Trust no one".

But now the final episode of the series that brought international fame for its stars, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson, is about to be broadcast.

It has already been shown in the United States, sparking a flurry of

debate on X Files-related Internet sites as to whether the show's demise was due to the actions of dark and sinister manipulators within the corridors of power or, as they are faithfully known to conspiracy theorists everywhere, "them".

Sadly, and somewhat inappropriately for The X Files, the truth is a little more mundane. With the departure of Duchovny several seasons ago and the introduction of

new characters and storylines that many of the show's faithful fans felt were not up to par with those of previous years, the end has more to do with audience ratings and changing attitudes and tastes than it does with the activities of the men in black.

The good news for devoted viewers, however, is that they will be in for a treat when their hero, Mulder, returns for the final episode and, with Scully by his side, does battle in a final feature-length

showdown with the forces of evil. And at least some of the questions concerning the "Will they or won't they?" relationship of the intrepid pair will be answered.

The X Files would not be the show it is without a few surprises, however; and, without spoiling the fun, I can safely say that in true X Files-style, the audience will be left with as many questions as answers and even an open door for future adventures into the unknown.

But The X Files was, and still is, merely an entertaining work of fiction and the idea that government, military and intelligence agencies around the world would take an interest in out-of-this-world controversies such as those seen on the show is absurd. Isn't it?

Perhaps not. The British Government's 30-year ruling and the American government's Freedom of Information Act show that on numerous occasions, and for at least two centuries, the worlds of officialdom and the unexplained have regularly crossed paths.

A classic example, of this came last year when the Central Intelligence Agency - arguably the world's most secretive investigative body - declassified into the public domain a file pertaining to its knowledge of something known as the "Ararat Anomaly".

Allegedly the remains of Noah's Ark, as described in the Bible, the Anomaly sits on the harsh, snow-covered peaks of Mount Ararat, Turkey. As the file reveals, it was the subject of much debate within the CIA during the Seventies as to whether it was what it appeared to be.

WHILE allegations have long suggested that the CIA has discovered a dark and terrifying secret about the Anomaly that would sit comfortably in any X Files episode, publicly, at least, it still remains precisely that: an anomaly.

Montague Keen, a psychical researcher and author, says those involved in studying the paranormal as a scientific area became uncomfortable about its association with Mulder and Scully's fictional exploits, because scriptwriters were forced to exaggerate the subject in order to popularise it.

"However, I do think that the programme's premise, that the Government knows more about certain subjects, especially ufology, than it is prepared to admit, is very valid," he says. "Certainly in America it has been proved that the government has withheld information. And here in the UK, where there is so much information about UFOs, for example, and yet so little from the Government, I think it is also the case."

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO Magazine, agrees: "You only have to look at the massive amount of classified documents that exist in the archives of the governments of the UK and the USA on all sorts of subjects, including UFOs, to see that, while to a degree official secrecy has eased in some areas, in others it's quite clear that we are not being told the truth. And The X Files made that point time and again."

A glance at British Government wartime files could have kept The X Files writers in stylelines for years. At the height of hostilities, police personnel with dowsing skills were secretly employed to locate bodies buried under

the rubble created by German bombing raids; MI5 stealthily investigated crop circle-style phenomena that had appeared in the fields of battle-scarred Britain; and British Intelligence undertook studies to determine the full extent of the Nazi fascination with the occult.

EVEN MORE bizarre is the British Admiralty's "sea serpent" file, which was created in the 19th century and details terrifying and dramatic accounts of encounters between Her Majesty's Navy and Jurassic Park-like monsters of the deep.

In a file now held at the Public Records Office in Kew, Captain James Stockdale of the Rob Roy told the Admiralty what had occurred on Sunday May 9, 1830: "I was walking on the poop [and] my attention was drawn to the water on the port bow by a scuffling noise. I have killed snakes 24ft long in the straits of Malacca but they would go in his mouth. My ship is 171ft long, which would make the monster about 129ft long. He carried his head about 6ft out of the water - with a fin between the shoulders about two feet long. I hope never to see him more. It is enough to frighten the strong at heart."

Perhaps the most grisly and macabre mystery ever investigated at an official level, however, fell into the category of "cattle mutilation". As dozens of records declassified by the FBI show, on many occasions in the Seventies, numerous cattle were found dead throughout New Mexico under shocking and disturbing circumstances.

According to official police reports that can be found in the FBI's files, animals were found drained of blood, with organs removed in a fashion that suggested advanced surgical knowledge on the part of the mutilators, and with broken and dislocated limbs - which implied to some that the animals had been dropped to the ground from a considerable height.

As the files make clear, the controversy raged for years and opinions as to who was responsible ranged from predators to Satanic cults and from UFOs to secret biological warfare experiments. To this day, the mutilations persist and the mutilators remain unknown. And still the worlds of officialdom and the mysterious continue to cross.

One of the unexpected results of the success of The X Files was that it forced people to take seriously things that they would previously have dismissed as the domain of cranks or nerds.

David Sutton, editor of The Fortean

Times, the monthly journal that covers strange phenomena, says: "The X Files got lots of people interested in the paranormal, particularly at its peak in the mid-Nineties. There has always been an enthusiastic subculture of obsessive interest in the paranormal and conspiracy theories about government cover-ups and the like but, for a while, the subculture merged with the mainstream."

"Where The X Files was valuable was in exposing people to a huge

range of strange and unexplained phenomena. Obviously, alien abduction was central to the programme but there was a breadth of "real" stories which it looked into: weird stuff such as fish falls, strange weather, werewolves and so on, which many people had not given much thought to before and there was an explosion of interest and debate in forteana."

The X Files is almost over. But it is entirely possible that, within the bowels of a cavernous, secret gov-

ernment archive somewhere, there are real-life X Files just waiting to be investigated.

Mulder and Scully may be gone but the truth, it seems, is still out there.

● The final episode of The X Files goes out on March 23 on BBC2 at 10.45pm. Nick Redfern is the co-author with Andy Roberts of the forthcoming book, *Strange Secrets: Real Government Files On The Unknown* (Pocket Books).

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Jan. 16, 2003 CR: G. Conway

'60s UFO craze diverted even beleaguered Pearson

BY IAN MACLEOD

In the spring of 1966, in the midst of one of his government's biggest crises, then-prime minister Lester Pearson's attention was on flying saucers.

Cabinet meeting documents from the time reveal the embattled Liberal prime minister was intrigued by repeated reports of unidentified flying objects in the night skies over southern Ontario, Michigan and other Great Lakes states.

The UFO sighting craze reached new heights when heavyweight boxer George Chuvalo, fresh from his famous "Battle of Toronto" match against Muhammed Ali, told reporters he and his wife saw unexplainable objects over Toronto the night after his March 29, 1966 loss to the world heavyweight boxing champion, then known as Cassius Clay.

At the time, Mr. Pearson and his government were licking their

own wounds from a rancorous debate with John Diefenbaker's Conservatives over Soviet spy scandals and the death penalty.

The opposition had been attacking Mr. Pearson's Liberals over the government's handling of the case of George Victor Spencer, a Vancouver postal clerk accused of being a low-level Soviet spy.

Under relentless questioning in the House, Lucien Cardin, then justice minister, revealed the previously secret case of Gerda Munzinger, a German prostitute who had an affair with an associate defence minister under the earlier Diefenbaker government.

The resulting parliamentary battles nearly brought the government to collapse. The era is considered by some historians to be one of the most destructive periods in modern Canadian parliamentary history.

At the same time, the government was juggling the issue of the death penalty, also a hot subject

as two Quebec separatists were on death row.

But on the morning of April 5, 1966, Mr. Pearson met with his Cabinet to discuss the UFO phenomenon, according to newly uncovered Cabinet meeting minutes at the National Archives.

"The Prime Minister said that, in view of the interest being shown in Parliament and the press concerning reports of unidentified flying objects, he would ask the minister or ministers responsible to provide him with reports on what had been done over recent years in connection with such reports."

Paul Hellyer, the Defence Minister at the time, said in an interview yesterday he did not recall the UFO directive.

"It would have been the air force that was keeping tabs on them," he said. "It's quite possible that we provided him with a briefing or gave him the information that we had, which was not very extensive."

Ottawa Citizen

Flying saucer

Sir,

Just read the Crankwatch feature in the Eye 1071. Yes having a go at the Raelians is fair enough but when you extend it further you are getting into rather dangerous areas particularly when you haven't a clue what you are talking about. The researcher Timothy Good is anything but a "crank" as you describe. It is therefore rather amusing that you have chosen to believe the crank explanation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest case. Let's remember that a number of professional US air force personnel, including the deputy base commander, witnessed and recorded, over a period of evenings, a flying craft of unknown origin performing strange movements over and around their air base, that left high radiation levels on the trees and clearly measurable markings on the ground. Soon after, these trees were taken down, and some flown to the US.

And you believe it was only rabbits - flying rabbits presumably. Do tell me more!

GERARD PEARSON.

PRIVATE EYE, London, England - Feb. 7, 2003

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England April 28, 2002

ET-prof's star prize

TOTTENHAM College psychology tutor and expert on extraterrestrials Craig Roberts has been awarded a top European award for his latest publication on UFOs.

Craig, who researches and teaches UFOlogy, has won the Spanish Cuadernos De Ufologia prize for 2002 for his report in the European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies.

Totton College's two-year UFO Studies course, run by Craig, is the only A level-standard programme in the country where students can study ET.

CR: S. Gerrard



■ Darren Green

Workers treated to light shows mystery

by Mike Lockley

Night-shift workers at a Chase factory are being treated to UFO light shows that could come straight from a Steven Spielberg movie, The Post can be exclusively reveal.

Each night employees at slab manufacturers Marshalls Mono, Cannock Wood, watch amazed as bright balls of light carry out a strange ballet in the skies.

And the sightings coincide with a rash of UFO reports in our area. Some readers have contacted The Post claiming they've spotted US Stealth bombers, but the Marshalls workers we spoke to were adamant they were being treated to a sky-show that's definitely not from this world.

Forklift truck driver Darren Green, from Pye Green, said: "I've seen an orange and yellow light moving slowly across the sky, then suddenly shooting up in the air. That was around 10pm."

"There are also silver balls of light. It's become a real talking point at the factory. We just watch them - it's like fire-work night."

Another employee, who did not want to give his name, said: "It's like a Steven Spielberg movie - there are red, gold and yellow balls - then come the silver ones. We haven't got a clue what's going on."

Bosses at the large yard, fringed by pine tree, remained tight-lipped about the close encounters when we called.

Works manager Peter Hunt said: "I'm sorry, but we can't comment. It's not company policy to allow interviews with workers on site."

"What they do, and who they speak to, in their own time is up to them."

Leading UFO researcher Irene Bott said there have been numerous sightings of orange and yellow balls of light in the area.

She felt the site's rich history - Castle Ring ancient monument is nearby - made it a prime site.

A number of years ago, one woman hid, fearing alien abduction, after being followed by a large light ball.

Irene added: "Most UFO sightings are close to historical buildings, laylines and military installations."

"There have been a number of unexplained objects over Cannock Wood."

But there may be a logical explanation. 'Swamp gases' - gases coming from the earth - can create strange light-shows and weather conditions may also play a part.

■ Have you seen something unexplained? Contact Mike Lockley on 01543 501763.



Graphic by Nigel Dibb

Watch the skies

A UFO Spotter is looking for people to help him watch the skies.

Russell Kellett, 39, who lives in Filey, has been a UFO investigator for nine years and appeared on numerous documentaries.

He moved to Filey about a year ago and is now interested in setting up a club.

He said: "If enough people want to join, I could set up meetings every couple of months and

organize nights out to watch the skies."

Mr Kellett has spent the past 10 years collating UFO reports, as well as close encounters.

He has also set up a website, www.ufo-images.tv

Anyone who would be interested in joining Mr Kellett can write to him at UFO Investigation and Research, PO Box 33, Filey, YO14 9YE or telephone 07901 597743.

FILEY & HUNMANBY MERCURY, Scarborough, England June 8, 2002

Was Barbara's blob in the sky another UFO?

WHAT is going on in Milton Keynes?

Hardly a week goes by without someone reporting a UFO, meteor or meteorite.

Barbara Wallace, of Old Farm Park, was heading home along the H10 Bletcham Way near Caldecotte Lake with her husband last Thursday night when she saw 'it'.

"It was a blob," said Barbara, "a pulsating yellow, orangey red -

■ By Steve Lerner

and gold blob that seemed to be blurry with the light coming from inside."

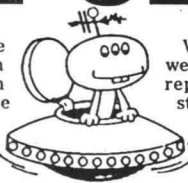
Barbara described how the mysterious light seemed lower in the sky than the moon and hung in the sky in the east.

"It looked to be about the same size as the roof of a car but it was difficult to make out the distance," she said.

Barbara says the 'blob' shot out a beam "like a torch" and then it dipped behind the buildings of the T i l b r o o k industrial estate before coming back.

"As we turned into Old Farm Park I looked back and it seemed to fade and disappear."

"People have thought I am mad but it was not a plane or a star," she said.



Within the past few weeks Citizen readers have reported seeing falling stars - it is understood a small meteorite probably struck the earth in the Leighton Buzzard area witnessed by several people and a fortnight ago several people saw a meteor heading south.

steve.lerner@mkcitizen.co.uk

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - Feb. 14, 2003

Light shed on UFO

THE "UFO" recently spotted over Loch Ness could have been Venus or Jupiter, it emerged yesterday.

Drumnadrochit has been abuzz with sightings of a bright blue light hovering ahead. The light gradually moves across the north-west sky, then appears to take off in a different direction.

According to a newspaper yesterday, the illumination could possibly have been Venus or Jupiter, which are both very bright this month.

Fresh sighting of Chase UFO

The V-shaped UFO has re-appeared over Cannock Chase.

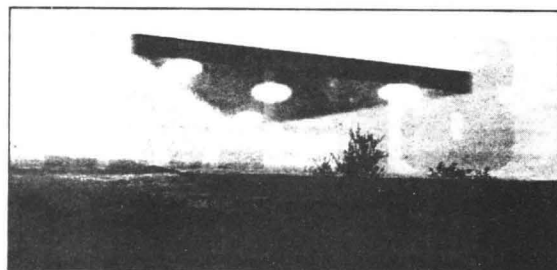
Latest sighting of the triangular craft came from Clair Pritchard, 29, who spotted the strange craft over the tree-line at Pottal Pool.

There's been a string of similar sightings in recent years - leading to claims US Stealth bombers were being tested in the area. The Ministry of Defence have denied this.

Clair, from Stafford Road, Cannock, spotted the UFO at 2am - and has no doubt she witnessed something from another planet.

"It was very low and large - it covered the road."

"When we saw it, it was moving slowly, but must have disappeared very quickly."



"When we looked again it had gone."

"We had the music on loud, so I don't know what noise it was making. The lights were flashing red and green."

Recent sightings include one from an individual with Ministry of Defence links.

Graham Allen of Staffordshire UFO group, said: "He has worked with Stealths and knows how noisy they can be."

"The craft he saw was silent."

■ Anyone who has seen something suspicious in the skies should ring Graham on 01889 585149.

Seeing and Believing

NEW DELHI

They call it muchnowa - the "face scratcher." In the eastern part of the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, a mysterious flying object has supposedly attacked more than 100 sleeping villagers. They see a flashing light, feel an electric shock and a hard object, and emerge with scratched faces and limbs.

At least seven unexplained deaths have been attributed to the muchnowa, and the result has been mass hysteria - a panic that has yielded more deaths. The police killed one man when a mob stormed the station demanding protection. Another man killed his mother - ostensibly accidentally - while shooting at the mysterious light.

Theories about the cause abound, and the news media has reported each new one with delight. It may be an extraterrestrial being, or simply disoriented migratory birds or bats. Some blame genetically engineered insects from Pakistan; others, laser-equipped terrorists. The Indian Institute of Technology tried

injecting science into the less-than-reasoned debate, saying the phenomenon is a rare form of lightning, but to little avail.

This is not the first such mass delusion to seize India. Last year, a "monkey man" - reputed to be half man, half monkey - terrorized Delhi residents. Six years ago, Uttar Pradesh was gripped by fear of the manai, or man-creature, which was said to be stealing babies. In the resulting hysteria, 40 people were lynched. The manai, upon investigation, turned out to be a pack of wolves dislodged from their habitat by deforestation.

Uttar Pradesh is one of India's poorest, least developed states. Perhaps rumors spread more quickly among the uneducated; perhaps the muchnowa furor is simply displaced anxiety about the state's failure to protect the welfare of its citizens.

Whatever it is, it has left its mark.

Amy Waldman

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 and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

September 23, 2002 — *Primera Hora*, Puerto Rico — Chupacabras Reappears in Ponce, Puerto Rico — Has a royal feast in Ponce — Luis Varela -- The Associated Press — "Even the dog is scared. Something weird is happening," said Ramon Luis Guzman, who showed some large tracks which he believes are those of the predator. — PONCE — The story of the so-called chupacabras, the shadowy character that attacks and slays animals, emerged again in Ponce when 19 fighting roosters, rabbits, ducks and chickens turned up dead at a residence in the La Calzada neighborhood.

"This is weird. I think it was the Chupacabras who slew my animals. I'm scared and alarmed by what occurred," said the animals' owner, Ramon Luis Guzman Colon, to Associated Press (AP).

Some of the animals were found yesterday morning by Guzman Colon outside their cages and others still within them. A rooster was dragged 30 meters from its cage and was still agonizing on Sunday afternoon. Four of the fighting roosters were dead, one beside the other, and in a strange case, two roosters were changed from their respective cages and were found dead facing each other.

"It is weird, they swapped the roosters from one cage to another," said the affected party.

While surveying the backyard of the Guzman Colon home, AP ascertained that all of the animals have wounds on their necks or backs. Dozens of neighbors and curiosity seekers from other sections of Ponce swarmed around the humble dwelling for a glimpse of the strange event. It is necessary to traverse a long alleyway to reach the Guzman Colon home.

"At two o'clock in the morning I heard the dog barking in the alley and when I came downstairs, the dog vanished. I heard no noise whatsoever and went back to bed," noted Guzman Colon, 53, who is unemployed since the shutdown of the Central Mercedita sugar refinery.

"I got up at 6:30 in the morning and found the 19 animals, largely roosters, dead. This is very weird," he added. "The way in which they were bitten, in the same area, [cannot be attributed] to dogs."

A black and white dog was hiding in the hollow of a tree on Sunday.

"Even the dog is scared. Something weird is going on," said Guzman Colon, who showed some large tracks which he alleges "belong to the animal that did this."

"Look at those claws--they're not those of a dog. They belong to a strange animal."

Guzman Colon pointed out that he has some 12 chickens and roosters left, and showed some of the broken cages. "The animal responsible for this is short [in stature] because it breaks the cages from below," he theorized. Guzman Colon maintains that some of the fighting cocks had a value of about \$500 each.

Carlos Soto, a neighbor of the affected party, believes that a snake could have dragged itself from the adjacent lot and caused the deaths, but Guzman Colon maintained that serpents cannot break into cages.

The legend of the Chupacabras emerged several years ago, when it allegedly killed cows, dogs and other animals. It is even believed that it did the same thing in Venezuela, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The alleged incidents began in the municipality of Canovanas. — CREDIT: Jose I. Gomez and Associated Press

October 22, 2002 — *Mundomisterioso.com*, Spain — NON-COMMERCIAL SPANISH UFOLOGY MEETS AT TERUEL — On March 31, 1993 at 2:15 a.m., an impressive luminous object, resembling a giant "star of Bethlehem" flew over the town of Montalban (Teruel province). It wasn't the first time or the last time that this occurred, and perhaps due to the considerable UFO case history in that part of the world, the open-mindedness of the locals, including the town's mayor, made it possible for Montalban to become the capital city of Spanish ufology for 3 days.

A series of lectures and workshops, officially presided by mayor D. Felix Rubio, a provincial deputy and several council-members, summoned a great number of field researchers, analysts and witnesses who debated the situation of Spanish ufology far from commercial circles. In attendance were some well-known names like Salvador Freixedo and Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo, Ramon Navia, Raul Nunez, Carlos Gonzalez-Cutre and Manuel Carballal. But some lesser-known figures were also present--individuals who have kept their work and research far from the mass media, but who presented positively startling work of the highest scientific quality.

It is worth highlighting the vast compilation on "foo-fighters" and luminous spheres of unknown origin made by Jose Manuel Moya, one of the members of a commission entrusted with revising the "Catalogue of Negative UFO Sightings": After reviewing certain incidents ascribed to "ball lightning" and natural phenomena by skeptics, the commission reached the conclusion that these were genuine, small UFOs of unknown provenance.

Local ufologist Jose M. Trallero presented cases involving encounters with humanoids, landings and even some UFO photographs and films gleaned in Upper Aragon. Some of these incidents, having transpired this very same year, are being subjected to serious scrutiny. Some of the contributions to the UFO congress were made by persons who have devoted their lives to UFO research after having had close encounters with humanoid entities. Such is the case of Catalanian businessman Jose Ramon Martinez who, after his encounter with an alleged alien, developed various patents and inventions which made him a considerable personal fortune [...].

The case involving Joan Soler is similar. After having had several noteworthy experiences with UFOs and humanoids, and having inherited a strong financial position, he has toured the world collecting information on UFOs. He recently visited Chile, investigating cattle mutilation cases associated with UFOs in the company of Ramon Navia, visiting British crop circles, or leasing a helicopter to fly over the impression made by the UFO which collided into Mt. Cando (Galicia).

Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo's case is different: on this occasion, the researcher, who has broad experience as a UFO researcher in different parts of the world, has undergone a personal experience with an alleged non-human being, and discussed it in public for the first time. Rafael Casares, Carlos Gutierrez and Juan Diaz were some of the other participants in this researchers' meeting, sponsored by members of IEBA, who showed a spectacular UFO film recently made in Valencia. It is worth noting that some scholars, such as Jose Ramon Martinez and Ramon Navia, presented their most recent books in this conference. Navia's work deals with his research, both in Spain and abroad, into cattle mutilations related to the UFO phenomenon. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

December 29, 2002 — *Primera Hora*, Puerto Rico — A Final Resting Place for Chupacabras? — Xmas Surprise Startles Jayuya — Alex David for *Primera Hora* — A six year old boy and his brother found the strange carcass in Jayuya — (*Primera Hora* /Edgar Vazquez Colon) — JAYUYA — A discovery only increases the mystery: the bones of a strange creature disturbed the calm days of Christmas festivities in the town of Jayuya. The animal remains were found on Tuesday at 1:30 pm while young Angel Oquendo, 6, played with his brother Sixto, 10, between the supports and footings of a recently built dwelling on family property in the Canalizo sector near the city of Utuado.

According to Adelaida Quiles, Angel's mother, the boy summoned her while they roasted a pig for Christmas Eve dinner. "He called me saying, Mommy, come here, there's a dead mouse, and I ignored him, but he kept calling and I asked my husband to take over the preparations while I took a look."

As soon as she found the dead animal's remains near one of the house's supports, she called her husband, Cesar Oquendo, realizing that the remains were not something she could readily identify. They slid a piece of cardboard under it to bring it out into the light. "Upon seeing it, we wondered if that thing could be the Chupacabras or something similar," said Quiles.

A quick observation revealed that the animal had no traces of wool, hair or feathers on its carcass. Nor was there any evidence of it having had upper extremities or wings.

The creature would have apparently stood some 2 ft. tall and was supported by its rear extremities, which had pronounced claws and three equally long bones. This gave the impression that it was able to jump considerable heights. Its wide, elongated head, with prominent eyes, sported a complete set of teeth with long upper fangs, two of them in the molar area and another in the bottom jaw, marking its carnivorous nature (....).

The ears were palm-shaped and measured nearly an inch in length, and there was a curved shape to its spinal column. The creature also had a pointed tail measuring nearly 1 1/2 ft. long, similar to that of a reptile, and it appeared to have provided support for it while it walked.

The surprise among the local residents was still considerable as they awaited the arrival of a Forensic Sciences researcher who would verify the animal's characteristics. Curiously, several birds had been slain months ago on the same rural property: eight hens and one rooster were found slain outside their cages and had belonged to Victor Quiles, Adelaida's father.

Jose Carlos Rivera, residing in the same area, lost five hens consecutively around the same time and in the same manner. He stated that an uncle of his lost 23 animals and his sister another two. Rivera, a traveling food vendor near the entrance of the town, claimed to have not experienced further attacks and had paid no further attention to the incident. — CREDIT: Luiseppi Quinones [www.cyberevistacero.cjb.net]

January 20, 2003 — *Planetauto*, Argentina — UFOs OVER NECOCHEA (*) — Once again, the coastal city of Necochea (Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina) has been visited by UFOs. On Friday, January 17, 2003, when Hugo Exequiel Reinoso, an electrical technician by trade, observed a strange light of considerable proportions from the door to his house at 22:00 hours. [The object] moved from south to east at a constant speed and velocity, stopping abruptly at a given point in the sky before changing course and heading north. The object was circular in shape, similar to an Argentinean 50 cent piece, and could be made out clearly in the night sky. It made no noise whatsoever during the observation, which lasted approximately 15 seconds.

This UFO sighting can be added to the one which occurred a few days ago, when several people observed three (3) large multicolored orbs flying over the sea and the city. This tourist city has been visited by UFOs yet again. (*) [Translator's note: for more information on the UFO presence over the city of Necochea, visit www.inexplicata.com and scan the links on the page.] — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

January 26, 2003 — *Planetauto*, Argentina — UFO SIGHTINGS CONTINUE IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE — The Argentine Republic--mainly the province of Buenos Aires--has reported several UFO cases in different communities over the course of January 2003.

An example of these were the events of Saturday, January 11, when numerous fireballs were reported over the city of Buenos Aires, in the neighborhoods of La Boca, Avenida 9 de Julio, and other sectors of the city. The fireballs were blue, red and green, moving at variable speeds and following flight patterns unattainable by commercial aircraft. Around that same time, other strange fireballs of different colors were reported in the city of Necochea's coastal area and park. Several witnesses to the event described them as having "a variety of colors".

On January 17, 2003, an electrical technician named Hugo E. Reinoso saw an intense white light over the coastal city of Necochea. The object engaged in a variety of maneuvers and made no noise whatsoever. Now, in the city of San Andres de Giles, a large circle measuring some 7 meters in diameter, with burned grass and talc-like ash at its center, has been found in recent hours on a soybean field by a Buenos Aires cattle rancher.

Juan Carlos Ferreto was startled upon seeing the perfect circle. All around him, the soybean plants were very green, having a height of 40 centimeters overall except for the 7 meter section found. These events were reminiscent of others which occurred in the same spot on September 4, 1981, when another ash-filled circle was discovered.

Juan Carlos Mendizabal recalled these events, remembering that at the time, a large Australian water tank had been drained of water and the electrical system (fuses, wires and windings) had been completely melted. Events continue to occur in the province of Buenos Aires this summer of 2003. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

January 17, 2003 — *Centro de Analisis de Fenomenos Espaciales, A.C.* — METAL SPHERES REPORTED OVER THE YUCATAN PENINSULA (MEXICO) — On Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003, we received a report from Ms. Maria Barrera, 42, a resident of Merida, Yucatan. She informed us that on January 17 of this year, she saw the following from the port of Progreso (30 km. north of this city) over the bridge that crosses the swamp leading to the harbor area: 40 glowing metallic spheres presenting a rising and descending motion, seemingly unaffected by the prevailing wind. This discards the possibility that they were balloons or flocks of birds. After a brief time period, the spheres disappeared toward the horizon. Skies were clear.

The witness remarks that this is not the first time this event has happened. She said that last year, while the median strip was being expanded in the same location, both she and the construction company's workers saw more than 80 spheres executing a variety of movements over the same site.

This report is of great interest. Members of the the CAFE group will visit with Ms. Barrera on Friday, Jan. 31 to look into the events. We will keep you informed. — CREDIT: Ing. David Triay Lucatero

February 7, 2003 — *Rastreador News*, Argentina — PERU: UFO Sighted over City in the Peruvian Amazon — An

unidentified flying object was reported on January 13, 2003 over the Peruvian city of Pucallpa. The witness was a functionary of Aeropantanal, a private corporation.

Alberto Santiva Panduro, a functionary of the airline, claims having seen the UFO in the morning when the skies were "completely clear."

He stated that the unknown object was heading southward, adding that during that same week, he had seen another similar object in the northern reaches of the Peruvian community. — CREDIT: Guillermo D. Gimenez, *PlanetaUFO*

February 8, 2003 — *El Vocero*, Puerto Rico — CHUPACABRAS RENEWS ATTACKS IN FAJARDO by Miguel Rivera Ortiz — FAJARDO — The fearsome animal known as "Chupacabras" reappeared in a central sector of Fajardo where it allegedly slew two rabbits, "sucking" all of their blood, and leaving a goat at death's door. Domingo Ramos, 70, told Police that he had witnessed the macabre activity of the Chupacabras as it killed his rabbits and tried to drain his goat's blood. As of the close of this edition, the animal was still alive with what little blood remained in its body.

The time was around 2:00 a.m. Monday when Domingo, residing at Fajardo's Desvio Street, heard a "ruckus" out by his rabbit cages and when he looked through the window, was appalled by the sight of a giant bird with large wings and bulging eyes slaking its thirst with his animals' blood. The bird, which Domingo said could measure over 5 feet in height, practically attacked his goat in a single motion and drained its blood by biting near the heart.

The "Chupacabras" jumped and flew off toward parts unknown as Domingo began shouting. In an exclusive interview with *El Vocero*, Domingo compared the "Chupacabras" with a gigantic "guaraguaol" (falcon) but with a practically human face.

This case was then investigated by the Puerto Rico Police as yet another in which it is alleged that the animal dubbed "Chupacabras" has attacked domestic animals on the island's eastern reaches. — CREDIT: Lucy Guzman, *Ovni.Net*

February 21, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — ***Rosario de la Frontera--Unknown Species Has Population On Edge*** REMAINS OF A COLT DEVoured BY LARGE ANIMAL HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED ***Authorities kick off investigation and are receiving accounts from strange beast's witnesses***By Juan Antonio Abarzua — *El Tribuno* — The 31st Sheriff's Office at Rosario de la Frontera kicked off an investigation into the truth behind the existence of a strange bipedal animal standing two meters tall, with a humanoid appearance, accused of having devoured medium and large-sized animals and of attacking an undetermined number of people in the forested area of Arroyo Salado, six kilometers east of the city.

According to witnesses, the beast had a hairy body, large ears and eyes, powerful claws in its upper extremities, and issued deafening howls.

"As an initial measure, we have started interviewing all those who claim having seen or had an encounter with this specimen," said the officer-in-charge of the delegation, Rene Humberto Tacacho. "We will later request instructions from higher authorities, since if we are faced with an unknown species, the most logical thing [to do] is to capture it alive for subsequent study."

While new details about the case emerged yesterday, after first becoming known two years ago, when a pair of lovers at Arroyo Salado claimed having been attacked by the unknown creature, Jose Exequiel Alvarez, the local fire chief and member of the "Juan Carlos Rivas" archaeological and paleontological group, made plaster casts of the prints found in the area and found the bony remains of a colt, evidently devoured by the beast.

"The bones were examined by veterinarian Luis Calderon, who confirmed they had been gnawed by an animal with sharp teeth, powerful jaws and sharp incisors, which even perforated the horse's bones." Alvarez is preparing an expedition to capture the specimen.

"The fact that *El Tribuno* is interested in the subject has changed people's attitude. They are now more inclined to talk, and I heard two astonishing stories: four young people who were attacked at Arroyo Saldo and two teenagers who saw it running along the river's edge, emitting deafening howls. We must solve this scientific riddle somehow," he concluded. — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

February 22, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — NEW EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ON STRANGE BIPEDAL ANIMAL***Residents of Barrio Peron claim having seen it in the early hours of January 13th***Three residents of the Juan Domingo Peron neighborhood, located in this city's periphery, claimed having seen the strange, two-meter tall biped whose existence has kept all residents of Rosario de la Frontera on edge after surprising, terrifying and detailed accounts by people who claim having been attacked by the strange beast.

The new reports were from Demetrio Villalba, 43; Eleuteria del Carmen Alvarez, 72; and Nelida del Valle Matarena, 53, who in spite of living in different parts of the residential subdivision and not knowing each other, made almost identical descriptions about the creature they had seen at around the same time in the morning hours of January 13 of this year.

They all agreed on having been reluctant to speak out "for fear of mockery" and stressed that their decision to come forward stemmed from the case having acquired public notoriety.

The initial reports on this animal, described as a fierce plantigrade of large size and humanoid mien, were reported by rancher Rogelio Martinez some 2 years ago, who has since then made numerous reports about the beast devouring his animals on a recurrent basis.

Reports on sightings and traumatic encounters with the animal intensified in recent days, according to reports by *El Tribuno* in its two previous issues. Pedro Villalba, who resides at Soldado Madrid 245 in Barrio Peron, said that "in the early hours of January 13, alarmed by the barking and howling of the dogs, I looked out the window and saw it. It was an enormous hairy animal. I couldn't believe it. It was walking on two legs and waddled from one side to another, waving its arms, which ended in thick, curved claws. The dogs growled, barked and howled, but did not dare attack it. It suddenly broke into a run and became lost in the wilderness."

Eleuteria del Carme Alvarez and Nelida Valle Marearena, mother and daughter, offered an analogous account: "The time was approximately three in the morning. Our dog howled desperately, spinning around, and was peeing herself out of sheer fright. We went outside to see what was happening and we saw it: it was horrible. Enormous, with clawed hands and covered in hair from head to toe. We were almost paralyzed with fright when we saw it, because at a given moment it turned its head toward the window we were looking through. However, it kept on walking, turned at the next block toward the east and we didn't see it again, although we could hear the dogs howling throughout the neighborhood--they had gone crazy. If we didn't mention this before, it was out of a sense of shame [and not wanting to be] dismissed as

lunatics. But now that the story has come out and other persons have seen the same thing we did, we've decided to tell our own experience to see if our accounts can assist in solving this enigma," said the women. — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

February 23, 2003 — *El Nuevo Dia*, Puerto Rico — INTRIGUING DEATH OF 20 RABBITS by Sandra Caquias Cruz — PONCE - Some 20 rabbits were found dead yesterday in some cages in the Ollas neighborhood of Santa Isabel. Residents accused the "Chupacabras" of perpetrating the brutal slaying.

The incident allegedly occurred in the early hours of the morning in the backyard of the home owned by William Maldonado Sanchez. There were several rabbit cages at the site, but the only cages attacked were the ones containing female specimens. Maldonado's neighbors claimed having heard noises coming from the backyard at around 1:00 am, but didn't notice anything strange. Maldonado did not blame the "Chupacabras" for the events--he said that something "strange" had happened in his backyard because only four of the rabbits showed signs of violence: one of the had a wound on its neck; another two had abdominal injuries and another had scratches on its paw. Some of the rabbits were found dead in their cages; others on the ground near the entrance to the house. The male rabbits were spared, he says, because their cage was stronger.

Maldonado Sanchez, who phoned the police to report the incident, explained that he had the female rabbits for purposes of raising the animals commercially. The man said he was concerned that a similar situation might befall his animals, or the roosters who also occupy the backyard. It was reported yesterday that a print with three prominent indentations was found under one of the cages. — CREDIT: Dr. Jose I. Gomez

February 25, 2003 — *www.ovni.net* — PUERTO RICO: MUTILATIONS ARE EVERYWHERE — On Friday, February 21st, a Channel 4 broadcast reported on the slaying of animals in Barrio La Cuchilla de Candelero Debajo in the municipality of Humacao (on Puerto Rico's eastern shore). The television report states that an unknown animal killed all of the pigs in their pens and ripped apart nine male rabbits, leaving one female alive. It was also noted that a duck survived the assault. Eyewitnesses were only able to see a shadowy form that ran away. At the scene of the incident it was possible to recover a plaster cast of a feline paw-print. This print is under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources. The video documentary also shows scratches on the pens' wooden posts which were apparently made by the animal in question.

The Channel 4 report did not indicate the exact location or date of the mutilations, but it mentions that officials have spent over a week looking for the assailant. The reader must be aware that there are no predatory feline species native to Puerto Rico. This fact makes the incident so much more important: if a feline is involved, it must be a species that escaped from some unknown institution, or which escaped or was set free by its owner. The journalist covering the story for Channel 4 was Efen Arroyo along with photojournalist Humberto Mercado Nazario. Emergency Manager Jose Baez handled this case personally.

In the same sector, on the evening of February 22, 2003, a dog was slain by the beast that prowls the Candelero Abajo Sector. The dog presented wounds in its hind and front legs. This latest assault prompted a massive search by armed policemen on horseback in one of the farms where the predator was allegedly seen.

Other recent incidents, perhaps even more intriguing, took place in the early hours of February 17 in a neighborhood of the city of Anasco (on Puerto Rico's western coast) where mutilations were reported. In this event, 26 rabbits were mutilated, presenting different injuries; some of them were torn apart. An elderly woman reported hearing shrill squeals and the sensation that a humanoid form was leaping over the rooftops. Another witness reported not hearing any sounds, but that his dogs were nervous and frightened to such an extent that they hid under the bed.

A research group at the scene reports that the fencing on the cages was torn and that an injury on one of the animals drew their attention: it was described as an area on the animal's skin that appeared to have been shaved and showing an incision similar to that of a scalpel. — CREDIT: Lucy Guzman and Orlando Pla, *www.ovni.net*

February 25, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — STATE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED IN FINDING UNKNOWN ANIMAL — **Expedition organizers seek participation of environmental professionals** — The Chief of the Rosario de la Frontera Volunteer Fire Brigade, Jose Exequiel Alvarez, requested the aid of the provincial Department of Environmental Resources to organize an expedition to track the strange bipedal animal--of large size and uncommon dimensions--prowling the vicinity of this urban center, located some 184 km south of the provincial seat, Salta.

"It is necessary to have specialized professionals as part of the team heading for the wilderness. We do not wish to harm the beast nor produce any alterations to the environment," noted Alvarez.

"The request for help must be made in writing, formally, and providing the necessary background to face an undertaking of such magnitude," said biologist Sonia Chavarria, director of the agency in question, located in Metan. Roque Farias added that "we are compiling all the necessary background info to set the expedition in motion. We are collecting data from everyone who believes they have had an encounter with the strange animal, which to judge by the reports received, does not appear in catalogues on local fauna."

The singular creature, described by many witnesses as a humanoid biped standing two meters tall, with upper extremities ending in long and sharp curved claws, is covered in hair and has large eyes and ears, as well as "bald buttocks." It would be a fierce animal, according to the statements of those who claim having seen it.

The first of these sightings occurred two years ago when Rogelio Martinez, a cattleman living in the vicinity of Cerro Termal, a forested area 7 km east of the city, told authorities he had been attacked by the creature, which according to his more recent claims, has not stopped attacking his cattle since that time.

Analogous accounts have emerged in the past two weeks: the one that triggered this second chapter in the beast's history was reported to Sheriff's Office #31 by a 25 year old man known as "El Rafa."

His story left the authorities perplexed: he said that while he was with his lover at Arroyo Salado, (the traditional "lovers' lane" in Rosario) some 6 km to the east, both were attacked by the biped, whose description proved identical to the one made by Martinez two years earlier.

Then there was a follow-up: four youngsters retold having an experience the same place while two others claimed having seen [the beast] running along the riverbank and proffering deafening howls. These last two retold their story, but refused to give their names out of fear of ridicule.

However, a few days ago, three residents of the Juan Domingo Peron neighborhood, giving their names and surnames (Demetrio Villalba, Eleuteria del Carmen Alvarez and Nelida del Valle Martearena, 43, 72 and 53 respectively) claimed having seen this creole "bigfoot" wandering the streets in the early morning hours, and agreed that it vanished into the wilderness. — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*



Just the facts: mutilations get Belzil around North America

By Steven Heywood
Editor

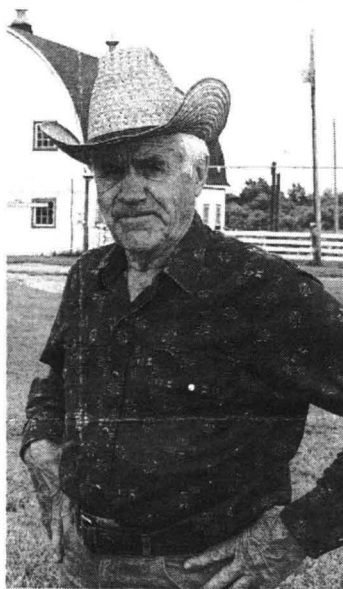
With its UFO landing pad and conferences on the paranormal, St. Paul has become a focal point for reports of the unusual, the mysterious and the downright terrifying.

In the middle of all this is one local man who never thought an idle interest in one aspect of the paranormal would one day give him national exposure and take him all over Western Canada and the US.

Fern Belzil, a local rancher who lives miles from any neighbour, was a cattle specialist from an early age - taking part in shows; winning trophies for his quality polled Hereford breeds and raising cattle on his property. He no longer raises cattle, but his years of learning about them and working with them has made Fern a specialist in cattle mutilations. He knows the breeds, their habits, shape and man-

nerisms. It's this experience with cattle which gives him a unique insight into the mysterious mutilations that are still occurring across the country.

Often associated with alien abductions, government conspiracies or cult activity, cattle mutilations are the subject of a morbid curiosity that presents itself in television documentaries and fictional shows based on whatever could be 'out there'. While he does not go in for some 'out there' explanations for the mutilations and tries to



St. Paul's Fern Belzil ranches north of town and spends a lot of his time tracking down cattle mutilation evidence across western Canada.

Photo by Steven Heywood

stick with what he can see, touch, feel and smell. Fern says it's obvious something weird is happening to cattle. He says in his six years investigating mutilations, he has seen a lot - from the unexplainable to incidents of predators killing livestock.

"I thought at first this wasn't going to be a big deal or anything, Fern says, recalling how six years ago he was asked to check out a mutilation report.

"I never thought in a million years that it would go this far."

Fern may be



Cattle mutilations, depicted in these photos by Belzil, are sometimes uniform no matter where they occur. In almost all cases, there's an absence of blood and any other evidence of who - or what - did it.

Canada's only cattle mutilation expert. He has been to many incident sites and keeps a map marking each occurrence in his basement. His office displays the awards he won while raising cattle and a desk is covered in faxes and emails from other people involved in paranormal investigations. Fern has traveled to Area 51 in Nevada and has attended conferences and lectures, where he is asked to speak on his area of expertise. In May he was in Vancouver for a broadcast and lecture for UFO BC, which has offered him his own Web site. To this day, Fern continues to work with North American investigation organization, reporting incidents and sending samples

away for testing.

These days, in addition to the odd report of a mutilation, Fern is dealing with national exposure. The Space Channel contacted him and Fern brought them to meet the mayor at St. Paul's landing pad. At the same time, he hosted a writer from Maclean's magazine and has been contacted for an interview by the Regina Leader-Post.

Fern admits he started looking into cattle mutilations as a lark, but things changed fast.

"It's very mind-boggling, he says. I've been asked so many times what I think (is happening to the cattle). If I knew, I would beat Stockwell Day (in the Alliance leadership race) real easy."

What he sees are

mutilated cattle. Ears are removed, circular patches of skin taken off the stomach and face, unexplainable bare spots on an animal's body, rectal areas are defiled and there's never any blood around. In some cases, the land around a mutilation site is radioactive and scorched by some unknown source. More recently, samples from a dead cow he sent off for testing in Massachusetts came back containing hemoglobin. Fern says this part of all blood can only be found after it's put into a centrifuge in a lab and separated. It's a mystery he has yet to explain.

Many incidents are identical, Fern points out, adding some are not 'mutilations' at all, but are predator kills or natural deaths.

"If it's not a mutilation, people who have reported it to me are happy as hell."

Fern says there is a stigma attached to the idea of cattle mutilations - thanks mostly to their association with aliens. As a result, he says he never reveals people's names in his reports.

"You'd be surprised about how many people are really scared," he says. "But the important thing is to have an open mind."

With an open mind, Fern has approached each reported mutilation. He says he's heard all kinds of theories from aliens and religions to cults and conspiracies, but he keeps his own counsel, sticking to what facts he can dig up.

Rain of Fish



Fish literally fell from the sky in a freak thunderstorm that drenched a village in northern Greece.

Greek television reported that a mini-tornado over Lake Doirani, which is near the border with the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, scooped up the fish and caused them to fall near the community of Korona. Villagers discovered the unexpected catch along the shores of the waterway, and said it followed a period of stormy weather. An atmospheric scientist at the University of Salonica told reporters that the fish were probably carried aloft from the surface of the lake by the waterspout, and later fell along the lakeshore.

KLAM-ITY KOURIER, Willow Creek, CA - Jan. 22, 2003

W. C. Museum Offers Reward of \$100,000

One hundred thousand dollars is being offered by the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum for anyone who can demonstrate how the Bigfoot tracks that were observed in the Bluff Creek valley in Northern California in 1958 and later could have been made by a human or humans.

This offer is genuine, the museum says. It is not a joke or a publicity stunt. The money has been arranged for, and the first person or group who can meet the conditions of the offer will receive it. Everyone should understand, however, that the conditions are not easy.

The offer is a direct result of recent publicity that has created a perception that the Bluff Creek tracks were just a hoax carried out by a practical joker walking around wearing a large pair of carved wooden feet, but it is not meant as a challenge to the people who originated that

story, who may well be perfectly sincere.

The offer also is not a prize for technological achievement, such as being the first to build an effective footprint-stamping machine. It relates entirely to the question of whether the real tracks that brought the Bigfoot phenomenon to public attention could have been made by humans under the real conditions of the times and the places in which they appeared.

The museum has casts of some of the tracks concerned, a few of them copies but mainly originals, available for inspection. It also has some related photographs and published accounts of what was done and observed in connection with the tracks. There are also people still available for consultation who studied the tracks when they were made.

A formal document setting

out the requirements to qualify for the award will be difficult to prepare and this has not yet been done, but a successful applicant will have to be able to make flat-footed, humanlike tracks with more than twice the area of human feet and longer-than-human strides which do the following:

- Traverse a variety of terrains, including climbing, descending and crossing steep slopes covered with underbrush;

- Show variations of shape and toe position and stride accommodating to the terrain;

- Sink into firm ground to far greater depth than human footprints, specifically as much as an inch deep in hard sand where

human prints barely penetrate at all;

- Leave hard objects in the ground, such as stones, sticking up above the rest of the track.

The applicant will also have to be able to make these tracks under the following conditions, although not all in combination:

- In the dark, in a single night;

- In places where it is impossible to bring any vehicle or other machine or any equipment except what humans or animals could carry;

- Without doing anything to attract the notice of people a few hundred yards away.

As soon as the document setting out the requirements to qualify for the reward is completed the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum will issue contact phone numbers, mail and e-mail addresses, and an Internet site address where applicants may obtain information.

Ocean-floor images conjure up thoughts of Atlantis

Canada's Advanced Digital Communications finds sonar images of smooth, white stones in a geometric pattern near Cuba.

By KEVIN SULLIVAN

HAVANA — The images appear slowly on the video screen, like ghosts from the ocean floor. The videotape, made by an unmanned submarine, shows massive stones in oddly symmetrical square and pyramid shapes in the deep-sea darkness.

Sonar images taken from a research ship 600 metres above are even more puzzling. They show that the smooth, white stones are laid out in a geometric pattern. The images look like fragments of a city, in a place where nothing man-made should exist, spanning nearly 20 square kilometres of a deep-ocean plain off Cuba's western tip.

"What we have here is a mystery," said Paul Weinzwieg, of Advanced Digital Communications (ADC), a Canadian company that is mapping the ocean bottom of Cuba's territorial waters under contract with the government of President Fidel Castro.

"Nature couldn't have built anything so symmetrical," Weinzwieg said, running his finger over sonar printouts aboard his ship, tied up at a wharf in Havana harbour. "This isn't natural, but we don't know what it is."

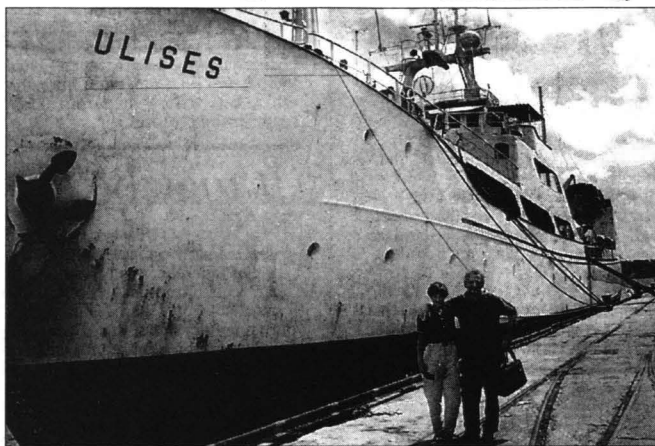
The company's main mission is to hunt for shipwrecks filled with gold and jewels, and to locate potentially lucrative oil

and natural gas reserves in deep water that Cuba does not have the means to explore.

Treasure hunting has become a growth industry in recent years as technology has improved, allowing more precise exploration and easier recovery from deeper ocean sites. Advanced Digital operates from the *Ulises*, an 80-metre trawler that was converted to a research vessel for Castro's government by the late French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau.

Since they began exploration three years ago with sophisticated side-scan sonar and computerized global-positioning equipment, Weinzwieg said they have mapped several large oil and gas deposits and about 20 shipwrecks sitting beneath ancient shipping lanes where hundreds of old wrecks are believed to be resting. The most historically important so far has been the *USS Maine*, which exploded and sank in Havana harbour in 1898, an event that ignited the Spanish-American War.

In 1912, the ship was raised from the harbour floor by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and towed out into deeper water 6.4 kilometres from the Cuban shore, where it was scuttled. Strong currents carried the *Maine* away from the site, and its precise location remained



KEVIN SULLIVAN/WASHINGTON POST

Paulina Zelitsky and Paul Weinzwieg stand in front of the research vessel *Ulises* in Havana harbour. Their find has been linked to the lost city of Atlantis.

unknown until *Ulises*' sonar spotted it two years ago.

Then, by sheer serendipity, on a summer day in 2000, as the *Ulises* was towing its sonar back and forth across the ocean like someone mowing a lawn, the unexpected rock formations appeared on the sonar readouts. That startled Weinzwieg and his partner and wife, Paulina Zelitsky, a Russian-born engineer who has designed submarine bases for the Soviet military.

"We have looked at enormous amounts of ocean bottom, and we have never seen anything like this," Weinzwieg said.

The discovery immediately sparked speculation about Atlantis, the fabled lost

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Jan. 11, 2003 CR: T. Good

Night terror with a British Bigfoot

The legend of the ape-man has taken a recent knock in America. But does England have its own hairy, scary creature of the night? PETER RHODES tells an odd Midland tale



"It was running like a human would run, but it was really hairy and dark" — an impression of Craig's encounter

19-year-old HGV mechanic, did not report it to the police. He told a few friends ("they all laughed") and tried to forget the experience.

And then, a few weeks later, the Express & Star carried a report by the Walsall UFO writer Nick Redfern on the legend of Bigfoot.

It followed the death of the US construction boss Ray Wallace who in 1967 produced a film showing a giant, ape-like creature in an American forest. After Wallace's death, a nephew confirm it had all been a hoax. And yet the debunking of this film cannot account for the many Bigfoot sightings in America.

And, as Nick Redfern revealed, Britain has its own curious sightings. In January 1879 a man was riding home with his horse and cart to Ranton, near Stafford. About a mile from the village of Woodseaves, he was attacked by what he described as a creature "half-man and half-monkey."

A local policeman testified later that this was not the first time such a creature had been seen in the vicinity.

The PC said: "That was the Man Monkey, as does come again at that

bridge ever since a man was drowned in the cut."

More recently, an account has surfaced of an identical creature seen in the same area in 1848. Similar reports occasionally surface periodically from remote, forested parts of the country. Researching similar sightings, Redfern has uncovered a bizarre theory that these "spectral" forms are the ghosts of apes once kept as pets.

After the Express & Star carried Nick Redfern's account, Craig's family got in touch with us to tell of his experience.

Craig and his friend are not alone. Over the past two months, researchers claim an unprecedented number of Bigfoot sightings in Britain.

Midnight

A UK website devoted to Bigfoot research contains many reports, including yet another Staffordshire sighting.

This involved four people in a car just after midnight in September 1998, near Cannock Chase. According to this report, all four simultaneously noticed something just off the side of the road.

One witness said: "It was a star-

filled night, clear, but dark and we were all in the car driving home, happily chatting and joking.

"Suddenly we all fell dead serious, the people in the back sat forward and we all pointed to the same shape. It was a tall man-like figure, sort of crouching forward.

Goosebumps

"As we passed, it turned and looked straight at us. I would describe it as around 6ft 8ins tall, legs thicker than two of mine, very strong looking and with a darkish, blacky-brown coat. I just could not explain it and I still get goosebumps thinking of it."

At his home in Newcastle upon Tyne, Bigfoot researcher Geoff Lincoln admits such encounters are rare.

"Bigfoot in Britain is an odd subject and very often the target of ridicule," he says. "But sightings are taking place and I am currently looking into two other reports in 2002, one in Northumberland and another in Lancashire."

To Craig he offers a simple message worthy of the X-Files: "You are not alone."

city first described by Plato in 360 B.C. Weinzwieg and Zelitsky were careful not to use the A word and said that much more study was needed before such a conclusion could be reached.

But that has not stopped a boomlet of speculation, most of it on the Internet. Atlantis-hunters have long argued their competing theories that the lost city was off Cuba, off the Greek island of Crete, off Gibraltar or elsewhere. Several Web sites have touted the ADC images as a possible first sighting.

Among those who suspect the site may be Atlantis is George Erikson, a California anthropologist who co-authored a book in which he predicted that the lost city would be found offshore in the tropical Americas.

"I have always disagreed with all the archeologists who dismiss myth," said Erikson, who said he had been shunned by many scientists since publishing his book about Atlantis. He said the story has too many historical roots to be dismissed as sheer fantasy and that if the Cuban site proves to be Atlantis, he hopes "to be the first to say, 'I told you so.'"

Manuel Iturralde, one of Cuba's leading geologists, said it was too soon to know what the images prove. He has examined the evidence and concluded that, "It's strange, it's weird; we've never seen something like this before, and we don't have an explanation for it."

Washington Post

Who you gonna call?

Just in time for Halloween, a group of **Arkansas ghosthunters** look for things that go bump in the night.

BY DAVID KOON

You've felt it.

A chill. The feeling that someone is watching. The sense that a place you've been is just a tiny bit skewed, not in carpenter's measurements but — somehow — in vibe.

You're not alone.

According to a 2000 Gallup poll, one-third of Americans believe in ghosts.

But rather than just hiding their heads under the covers, waiting for something to go bump in the night, Arkansas ghosthunters are trying to find out the truth for themselves.

The Central Arkansas Society for Paranormal Research (CASPR), formed last year by friends Karen Lundhal and Trish McCuen, has since spent many a long night traipsing through places many of us wouldn't go on a bet. They are racking up investigations at some of the state's most legendary haunts, including Little Rock's Ten Mile House and the cavernous and long-deserted tuberculosis sanatorium at Booneville.

From humble beginnings as a Internet posting, CASPR now counts around 10 diehard members, a slick web presence



GOT HAINTS? THEY'LL TRAVEL: CASPR founders Karen Lundhal (left) and Trish McCuen at Little Rock's Hornibrook Mansion.

(www.casprquest.com), a growing arsenal of ghosthunting equipment, and a collection of photographs and videotapes which might take the smirk off even the most ardent skeptic's face. If you've got haints, they will travel.

Like many in the group, CASPR founder Lundhal says she was interested in the paranormal from a young age, listening intently when her mother told ghostly tales from her own girlhood. The Internet turned her casual interest in the paranormal into a calling. Online, she learned about ghosthunting groups and their methods of evidence collection. She became interested in spirit photography, photographs which seem to show ghosts

captured on film. Her skepticism about the authenticity of such photographs is what Lundhal says gave her the original idea to form the group.

"When you see things like that on the Internet," Lundhal said, "The first thing you wonder is, 'Did that really happen? Is it real? Did they just make that up?' And then I thought, well, if I start my own group, then I'll know it's real. If something happens, I'll be there to see it happen for myself." Lundhal posted an "Arkansas Ghosthunter Seeks Arkansas Ghosthunters" message on an Internet posting board.

The first person to answer Lundhal was

Sherwood's Trish McCuen. Like Lundhal, McCuen says she has always been interested in the paranormal. Growing up, McCuen said, ghosts were a common visitor to her grandparents' farmhouse in Guy, where she often visited as a girl. Almost nightly, she said, the silence was disturbed by faint music, whispering, and the clack of billiard balls on her grandfather's pool table, even with all the flesh and blood inhabitants of the house in bed; things her parents always chalked up to a child's imagination and too many of her grandfather's wild tales.

McCuen said the idea of telling anyone



BOO'S THERE?: Psychic Sharlette Pumphrey uses a pendulum to detect spirits. Note the unexplained orb above her hand.

outside her family about her experiences was out of the question. "You just keep quiet about those things when you're growing up," McCuen said. "You don't want people to think you're strange."

That all changed when she saw Karen Lundhal's Internet posting looking for others in Arkansas who were interested in ghosts. "When I met Karen and the rest of the group," McCuen said, "I was like, finally I have someone to talk to about this."

A recent night found CASPR at Little Rock's Hornibrook House, which — after a million dollar restoration in recent years — is now an elegant bed and breakfast known as The Empress of Little Rock. A Louisiana Street landmark since its completion in 1888, the house was built for \$20,000 at a time when the average house cost a tenth of that. It was the vision of James Hornibrook, a saloon-keeper and native Canadian who, legend has it, constructed the house with the express purpose of towering over the homes of neighbors who considered him a carpetbagger. A secret room in the mansion's three-and-a-half-story turret allowed him to keep an eye both

on his neighbors and his saloon, some blocks away. In 1890, a sudden, powerful stroke felled Hornibrook as he came through the wrought-iron front gate, and he died at the steps. Some say Hornibrook's connection to the house did not end there, however. To hear it from owners Bob Blair and Sharon Welch-Blair and some of their guests, there is a possibility that James Hornibrook never quite got around to leaving.

Though Welch-Blair has never seen anything out of the ordinary at The Empress, her husband Bob is among the many who say they have. One night during the restoration process, Bob says he saw a dapper gentleman in a homburg hat calmly descend the staircase and then disappear. Guests have written the Blairs over the years to relate strange things they've seen while staying at the house.

Going places rumored to be haunted is what CASPR is all about. On arrival at the Hornibrook, the team gets down to business, sweeping electromagnetic field detectors around and setting up microphones to detect Electronic Voice Phenomenon, supposedly the whispery speech of spirits, captured on tape.

(continued on page 20)

A.F.U.
Box 11027
600 11 NORRKÖPING
Sweden

(continued from page 19 - ARKANSAS TIMES,
Little Rock, AR - Nov. 1, 2002)

Lundhal has invited two psychics, Sharlette Pumphrey and Mark Morgan. They walk from room to room, chatting amiably with the members of the group about the spirits they say they've encountered.

At Lundhal's request, the house is almost totally dark. Many in the group have digital cameras, and as they move through the darkened rooms, they take random pictures. The flashes are blinding. Every once in a while, the group will gather around the viewscreen of a digital camera and marvel over something captured there: orbs of cloudy light the size of baseballs that seem to hover in the air and move perceptibly from frame to frame, a filament-bright ribbon that hangs in a doorway over a person's shoulder, a vaguely man-sized blur halfway up one of the massive double staircases. A specialist in digital photography might be able to explain the images away as tricks of light and reflection, electronic pops and zips of some kind inside the camera.

Or maybe not. In a minute, a member's magnetic field detector goes off, and the group migrates to the location of the beeping. After that moment of excitement, Lundhal makes the long climb to the attic and Hornbrook's secret room, tripod and night vision camcorder in tow.

Though the attic is well-lit, some of the bulbs are unscrewed to dim the lights. The door to Hornbrook's observation room is in the far corner of the house, at the end of a low ceilinged corridor that follows the pitch of the roof. The room is round, and the side facing the street and Hornbrook's snobbish, long-dead neighbors is walled in colored glass. The Blairs have furnished it as the boisterous Hornbrook supposedly liked to keep it: round table in the middle, four chairs, tabletop scattered with playing cards and chips, as if a quartet of poker players has just folded. Lundhal sets up the camera just outside the door, shooting through the open casing. When she turns the camera on, the screen glows the familiar, ghostly green of night vision, lighting up her face and revealing the shadowy room in startling clarity. Softly, Lundhal begins to speak to the spirits, asking them to make themselves seen. For 10 minutes, nothing.

Then, suddenly, something happens, just after Lundhal asks the ghost to "show yourself brightly" if it is there. On the screen, a blurry wad of light swims through the doorway, brightening and dimming once like a firefly. A glance into the room at the same instant reveals only the table, chairs, and darkness; no bugs, no trickery, no easy-explanation lights

from the street. As quickly as it comes, it is gone.

For Lundhal, it is a triumphant moment. She smiles and points, by turns sharing her elation with the members of the team standing around and her thanks to the ghost she believed had just made itself seen.

Having enough to chew on for the time being, the reporter left her there, staring into the screen, gently imploring the spirits to show her more. Downstairs, four hours after CASPR's arrival, Lundhal's mother, Bobbie Shilling, is still in the same spot. She seems to be a kind of cheerleader/mascot for the group, and the hours have seen her chatting with everyone present, from Sharon Welch-Blair to the two psychics, taking a break with bottles of water snagged from the maid's closet. After sharing a few of the ghostly childhood experiences that Karen Lundhal says thrilled her so as a child, the conversation turns to her daughter, and the group she helped found.

"It didn't surprise me that Karen started the group," Shilling says, "because of her interests. I thought it would be interesting. I didn't expect it to get as big as it has, though. If you enjoy it, you should do it. It's just as good a hobby as anything."

"It's hard to explain why anyone would want to do this. It's strange that most people immediately associate this with, 'Well, aren't you afraid?' It's never occurred to me that it's anything to be afraid of."

After a while, Karen Lundhal comes into the parlor, smiling and flush with what she saw as success in the tower room. The hour is getting late. The big clock in the corner chimes 11:30 p.m., and I tell Lundhal it is time for all good little reporters to be in bed. She sees me to the door, and we part with a handshake.

The night is chill. Standing in the street before the big house, you can see the flashlights of CASPR members, roaming the upper floors. On the flight path of Little Rock National Airport a few miles east, a plane screams for altitude, a big jetliner, the most rational thing in the world, not superstition or spirit or any of those things; a 10-ton hunk of aluminum that relies on engineering, physics and mathematics to keep it afloat on the breeze.

In a world run by rules, could there really be anything so tenuous as a ghost? Of course not, you might say. Why, the wind off the freeway alone would surely tear any would-be spook to smithereens. Still, if you've got an open mind, Karen Lundhal, Trish McCuen, and the folks at CASPR have some video they'd like to show you.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - Feb. 6, 2003

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

E-mail and Internet connects Bigfoot experiences

At first it was an Internet inquiry about my latest book, "The Walla Walla Bigfoot."

It soon developed the one making the inquiry, might have had a Bigfoot experience or two of his own.

Right here in our neighborhood of the Blues, too!

My Internet inquirer was Marc Guerra, director, financial control and accountability, University of California, Riverside, Calif., who said he had previously read my first Bigfoot book, "Bigfoot of the Blues." His first letter prompted a response from me as fast as I could get to the reply message box of the Internet.

"Since childhood," wrote Guerra, "I have been interested in Bigfoot. I would read anything I could get my hands on. I was surprised to learn that the Blue Mountains were prolific in tales and sightings. I was surprised because I had spent an entire summer in the Blues above Milton-Freewater, Oregon. It was during the summer of 1977 when I was 15. We often camped and fished along the Walla Walla River, 'way up in the south and north forks."

"One day we took a long hike up one small tributary stream, and ended up on top of a windswept ridge, which was for the most part, treeless. Upon our return down the summit I fell behind, admiring an astonishing display of sparrow hawks (hundreds!) sharing a thermal

with two golden eagles.

"All of a sudden, I felt that I was being watched. There were no noises of birds, insects, etc. The feeling was almost panic and very foreboding. I kept looking behind to where we had been, expecting to see something."

"I made tracks back fast to where my two friends were waiting. I am an avid outdoorsman, and I have never felt like that before. I have since had two similar experiences in the mountains/ foothills of southern California and I subsequently learned of Bigfoot sightings in the area during the time of those experiences."

"In retrospect, perhaps I'm not surprised of learning about Bigfoot of the Blues."

Then, in answer to his query about sightings or stories of Bigfoot in the Walla Walla River above M-F, I assured him there had been, especially in the Deduct Spring area. Guerra then responded with more details of his woods experiences, here and nearer his home in Southern California.

"I believe I may have camped at Deduct Springs in the summer of 1977."

"The experience I had in the Blues was above the Walla Walla River North Fork. At the time (mid-August, 1977) there was a dirt road along the North Fork. Somewhere along this road we parked the vehicle and hiked, in the rain, north along a small stream feeding the river. We hiked

about one mile along this creek, and then continued our path higher above the canyon into the somewhat treeless summits. We were following game paths towards the summits. We got as high as we could go on one particular summit and enjoyed the view of the Walla Walla River valley before we headed back. Shortly upon our descent was when I had my experience (recounted above).

"I'm just regular Joe who likes the outdoors. Growing up, I used to do a lot of backpacking and exploring in the local Southern California Mountains. I am an avid mountain biker."

"I also had another strange experience while mountain biking above Lytle Creek, Calif. (San Bernardino National Forest) in 1991. It was at dusk when I noted a strong, white light, totally out of place, on the side of a steep chaparral-covered slope. This light should not have been there since there was no access roads or utility lines visible. I was very familiar with the area since I had been mountain biking on this same trail for three years. I began to have this same feeling of being watched and feeling very anxious."

"I observed this light from several directions and angles, and I could not determine its source or purpose. I returned a few days later, during the daytime, and noted no structure or source for this light. The slope was very steep and covered with thick chaparral. I recently learned there were Bigfoot sightings in this area during 1991."

"I have lived in Murrieta, Calif. since 1992, and I've mountain biked several mountains in the area. I experienced another feeling of being watched and feeling very anxious [while] in the Cleveland National Forest while mountain biking in 1996. I subsequently learned that the area I had been in had Bigfoot sightings. The area was near the northwest corner [gunnery range] of Camp Pendleton. I've since been on the lookout for Bigfoot reports from the Cleveland National Forest through Julian and east of San Diego."

In the meantime, back in the Blues, local Bigfoot tracker, Brian Smith, is still checking out some fairly recent reports of sightings in our neighborhood. Anyone with a sighting or tracks or anything else that smacks of Bigfoot activity, give him a call at 529-7379. He's also on the Internet if you prefer to message him that way.... briansmi@webtv.net.

You just never know, you know!

TIMES, New York, NY - Feb. 9, 2003

Marcello Truzzi, 67; Sociologist Who Studied the Supernatural

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

Marcello Truzzi, a sociologist whose research interests included parapsychology, flying saucers and witchcraft, died on Sunday at his home in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was 67.

The cause was cancer, a son, Kristofer, said.

Dr. Truzzi, a professor, writer, magician and juggler, approached subjects like telepathy and the Abominable Snowman with skepticism, but he contended that such reports deserved full investigation. He coined the word "pseudoskeptics" for people who prejudice claims, even apparently outrageous ones.

Some skeptics thought the widespread acceptance of seemingly outlandish notions demanded prompt and forceful rebuttals by scientists.

"We feel it is the duty of the scientific community to show that these beliefs are utterly screwball," Lee Nisbet, executive director of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said in 1977.

Dr. Truzzi helped found the committee in 1976 but resigned because he considered it more propagandistic than scientific.

In 1981, he founded and became director of the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research, which is dedi-

cated to investigating unusual phenomena.

Dr. Truzzi's more open position, and a flair for showmanship, brought invitations to meetings of psychics and to appear on television talk shows. He was a friend of many self-proclaimed psychics, including Uri Geller, but still doubted Mr. Geller could bend spoons with his mind.

A skeptic opposed to summarily rejecting strange claims.

Mr. Truzzi's wife, Patricia, said that in a lifetime of looking, her husband had encountered only one paranormal phenomenon he thought might have scientific merit: some experiments in psychic communication at Duke University.

Mr. Truzzi, the son of a celebrated juggler, Massimiliano Truzzi, was born in Copenhagen on Sept. 6, 1935. That was where the Circus Truzzi, his family's circus, was playing. His family moved to the United States in 1940 after Massimiliano Truzzi was

hired to juggle in the center ring of the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The young Marcello worked as a clown, sold tickets and learned magic tricks. He majored in sociology at Florida State University and studied law at the University of Florida before switching to sociology and earning a master's degree.

Dr. Truzzi received a doctorate from Cornell University, where he delved deeply into the university's large collection of books about witchcraft. The way odd subjects faded in and out of scientific respectability fascinated him, his wife said.

He taught at Cornell, the University of South Florida and the University of Michigan before becoming chairman of the sociology department at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. One of his early papers was "The Decline of the American Circus."

In the late 1960's, at the University of Michigan, he began a newsletter for sociologists. It was mimeographed, paid contributors nothing and cost nothing. But its irreverence drew mention in The New York Times in 1970.

The Times reported that one issue included "The Game of the American Sociological Association." The