

# UFO

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By Becca Bacon  
Martin

THE MORNING NEWS  
SMARTENVAONLINE.NET

## EUREKA SPRINGS

Newcomers to the Ozark UFO Conference shouldn't expect to see fanatics "parading around" with tin foil hats on their heads, says longtime organizer Lucius Farish.

"We sometimes hear the local Klinton from people in, but that's about it," says Farish, chuckling. "These people take this pretty seriously."

That science-not-sideshow approach is the reason the 15th annual Ozark UFO Conference, set for April 11-13 at the Inn of the Ozarks

Convention Center in Eureka Springs, is able to attract internationally known speakers like Nancy Talbott. Talbott, from Cambridge, Mass., is an expert on crop circles — but her research isn't geared toward linking the unique plant formations with visiting extraterrestrials. In fact, that's the furthest thing from her mind.

"I think before you jump to the most outrageous conclusion, you must examine all the others and discard them," she says. "That's what science does."

Studies conducted by Talbott's BLT Research Team Inc. have produced evidence — accepted by the scientific community and published in various scientific journals — that crop circles are more than just plants bent over by a practical joker with a board. When Michigan biophysicist William C. Levengood became involved in the project in 1990, he quickly discovered that the seed heads of plants involved in the first batch of crop circles he studied were empty; there were simply no seeds inside.

"That could be a

massive problem if the crop circles appeared in spring," Talbott points out. "No seeds ... no bread ... no fodder for the animals — and not too far down the pike, humanity's in a situation."

Further studies, facilitated by BLT field scientists around the world, revealed that in other instances the seeds are there but are essentially sterilized. In a third set of

circumstances, the seeds have been altered and the plants grown from them behave in a totally unexplainable synchronicity. And in a fourth finding, when crop circles occurred in mature crops, the seedlings grown from recovered seeds shot up at four to five times the normal rate.

"That particular aspect of the phenomenon, William Levengood has been able to replicate."

## 15TH ANNUAL OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

Dates: April 11-13

Times: Conference registration begins at 8 a.m. April 11, with lectures commencing at 1 p.m. On April 12, lectures begin at 8:30 a.m., and the conference continues from 8:30 a.m. to noon April 13

Venue: Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center in Eureka Springs

Admission: \$35 if purchased by Monday or \$40 at the door

FOR INFORMATION,  
CALL (501) 354-2558.

Talbott says, "by using unusual electrical pulses called ion avalanches. He's now patented a machine to sell to the agricultural community, because obviously it could be extremely helpful to seed growing companies. It increases yield without hurting the environment."

But what's causing the crop circles, Talbott is asked again. Is it extraterrestrials interfering with earth's food supply? Talbott sighs.

"There is no evidence crop circles are created by ETs," she repeats. "We have proposed a the-

ory that a highly charged, very complex atmospheric plasma system might be responsible.

"Plasmas," she explains, "are simply masses of electrified air, like the Aurora Borealis, although science has not generally accepted the idea that plasma discharges can occur so close to the Earth's surface."

"William Levengood is of the opinion that these plasma systems, for reasons unknown, may periodically come closer to the surface," Talbott goes on, and, in conjunction with meteoric dust, may spin and emit microwaves,

"Whether it's going to turn out to be something naturally occurring that science has overlooked or something produced, mechanized, manipulated, I don't know."

NANCY TALBOTT  
Crop circle expert

magnetizing iron particles in the soil and affecting the plants, which also show elongation of some stem segments and holes in others, as though they had been heated from the inside.

The most recent research, Talbott says, has revealed mineral crystals in the soil at crop circle

sites that would have required intense heat, above 3000 degrees Centigrade, to form — and yet the plants were not incinerated.

"Now we're wondering if there could be plasma exposure so brief, so intense, that it doesn't have time to burn the plants — or if we are in fact looking at energy completely unknown to science," Talbott says.

No, she still doesn't accept alien visitors as the logical explanation. "Whether it's going to turn out to be something naturally occurring that science has overlooked or something produced, mechanized, manipulated, I don't know," she says. "And that's where the ET idea might — might! — come in."

Talbott will speak further on crop circle research at next week-end's Ozark UFO Conference. Al-

so scheduled are:

• Linda Moulton Howe, author of "Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles," award-winning producer and radio science reporter.

• Timothy Good, author of several books on UFOs, including his latest, "Unearthly Disclosure."

• Wendelle C. Stevens, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and one of the world's foremost experts on UFO photographs dating back to just after World War II.

• Esen Sekerkerar, who will speak on UFO incidents in her home country of Turkey

• And Dr. Jim Doerter, who will relate some UFO experiences documented by Forest Service personnel.

Tickets are \$35 if purchased by Monday or \$40 at the door. Call Farish at (501) 354-2558 for information.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLT RESEARCH TEAM INC./ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL CALZADA • THE MORNING NEWS

# People who believe in UFOs form group

Monthly meetings will provide information and offer discussions, testimonials and support.

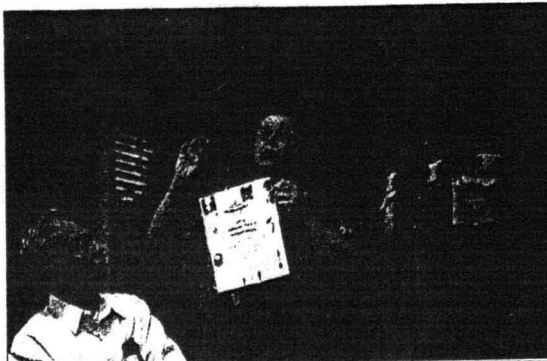
By KATHLEEN OBEHLAND  
of the Union-Bulletin

PENDLETON — In the booths at Shari's Restaurant, people going about their normal everyday lives ordered dinner and pondered the pie menu.

They appeared oblivious to the meeting in the back room.

It's unfortunate so many people resist the truth, said retired farmer Roy Timm as his helpers set up for a meeting of UFO believers.

"It's far deeper than most people understand. Just the existence of flying saucers is beyond what most people



U-B photo by JEFF HORNER

Ray Arland, left, listens as Jewel Berns describes her experiences during a meeting for UFO abductees and people who have had sightings. The Pendleton meeting was the first of monthly meetings being organized by author Roy Timm, right. Roughly a quarter of those who attended were from Walla Walla or Milton-Freewater.

understand," he said. "They don't want it to be true."

Against the far wall, large cardboard sheets held a collection of articles about alien sightings and crop circles. The DVD was loaded with a short clip of a doctor remov-

ing a purported alien implant from an arm.

Dressed in a bright Southwestern shirt with happy aliens stitched on the pockets, Timm was fidgety, excited about the meeting. He hopes it will be the first of many monthly meetings for information, discussions, testimonials and support.

People often have a hard time when they believe with absolute seriousness and certainty something that others do not.

"What would you do if you went through an experience like this and couldn't tell anyone? That's what I'm trying to open up," Timm said. He gave the crowd a list of phone numbers. "If you need help, we're here to help you."

The Northwest has long been an area of UFO activity, but getting the word out is

difficult and frustrating, he said.

The effort to do so has devoured his life's savings. He spent nearly everything he had writing and self-publishing a book, "Northwest History of Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More," and funding an Internet broadcast. The broadcast ended a few weeks ago when it became too expensive for him to continue.

"The truth needs to be out," he insisted. He believes the government is covering up the existence of aliens.



Twenty-two people attended the meeting, roughly a quarter from Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater. Some had stories of their own.

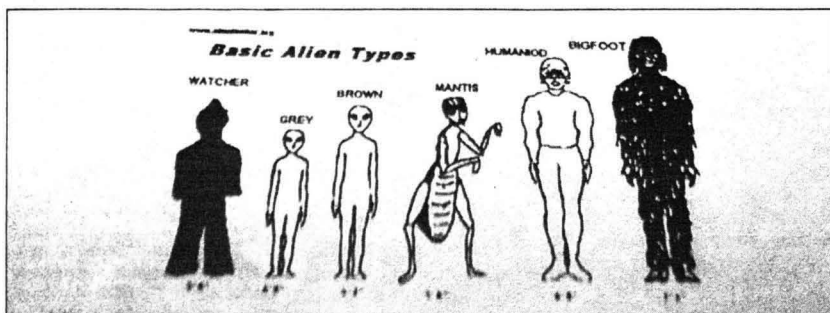
"I've seen lots of them, coming from the north to the south," said Ralph Arland of Walla Walla. He pulled out a few photos taken by his girlfriend up Mill Creek, apologizing for their hazy quality.

He wasn't there when the pictures were taken. But he relayed some of his own experiences, such as seeing something he initially thought was a farm house rise into the sky in 1949.

Carol Biddle of Pendleton, a long-time acquaintance of Timm's, reported seeing a silver-and-gray-striped craft along the Columbia River Gorge just a few weeks ago during the daytime.

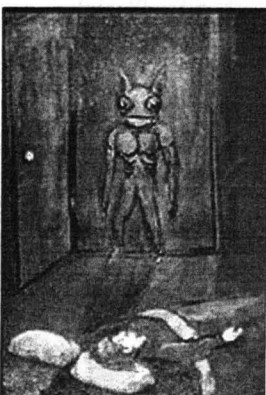
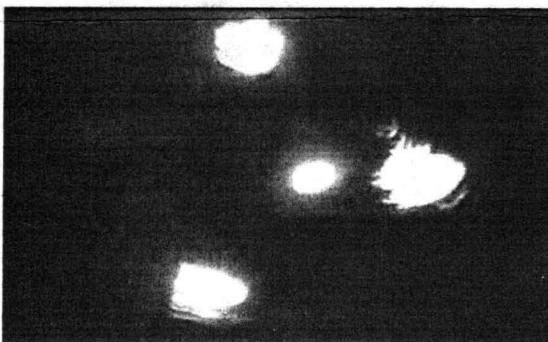
"I could not believe my eyes," she said.

Most of the crowd was shy about stepping up to the microphone, but roughly half raised their hands when Biddle asked how many had seen UFOs.



U-B photo by JEFF HORNER

Among the information handed out at the meeting in Pendleton was this description of some of the basic alien types.



(Above) This picture from Roy Timm's Web site was taken over Weston Mountain. (At left) This artist's rendition is based on Timm's memory of an encounter when he was 8 years old.

general population may have seen UFOs, even if they didn't recognize them as such. Most never talk about it.

Timm's first memory of seeing an alien was in 1943, when he was 8 on the family farm near Lone. An artist's rendition of the green creature he described hovering in the doorway of his bedroom is now on the cover of his book.

Timm said he had another encounter in 1947. He recalls holding the ladder for his brother, who was stringing telephone wire.

"He said, 'Here comes something funny.' I saw three ships. They flopped through

the air like that," he said, making a motion like shallow ocean waves.

The sight stayed with him long after he went blind from a genetic disorder. It sent him on a lifelong quest that has intensified in his retirement years.

A psychic told him his experience with extraterrestrials actually predates all of his memories, and early in his childhood he was implanted with two tiny devices — one behind his left ear and in his

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Organizers will hold the next UFO informational meeting April 9 at 7 p.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Pendleton. Call Roy Timm at 541-276-2756 for more information. To learn more about his book and other information he has compiled, visit [nwhistoryofsaucers.com](http://nwhistoryofsaucers.com).

left arm. Timm suspects a third is in a lump amid his close-cropped gray hair.

He welcomed a curious visitor's request to feel them. He believes the tiny implants serve to track and guide the people who have them.

"I'm being guided by the aliens to do what I do," he said.

If people think he's crazy to believe, to spend every dime on this quest, that's their problem, the 68-year-old said. Later, he added, "Those of us who search put together bits and pieces. Those who don't, turn their heads and look away."

Kathleen Obenland can be reached at [kobenland@ubnet.com](mailto:kobenland@ubnet.com) or by calling 525-3300, ext. 285.

## All eyes on the skies: UFO watchers to meet

By ERIN SMITH  
The Pueblo Chieftain

HOOPER — Judy Messoline is signing up speakers for her UFO Watch 2003 to be held Aug. 9-10 at the UFO Watch Tower north of here.

Messoline said confirmed speakers are nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman; UFO investigator Jim Hickman; hypnotherapists Gloria Hawker and Daryl Stangl, who say they've been abducted by aliens; Mayan cosmology and calendar researcher John Major Jenkins; independent researcher Dennis Balthaser; Roswell archaeological dig team members Chuck Zukowski and Debbie Ziegelmeyer; artist/poet Rick Smith; and Salida UFO videographer Tim Edwards.

The main "guest" for the event will be the planet Mars. The Red Planet will be closer to the Earth than it has been in more than 73,000 years, Messoline said.

"The reddish point of light in the night sky that we usually see

will appear more than six times larger and shine some 85 times brighter than it appears now," she said.

After UFO Watch 2003, there will be a Perseids meteor shower party Aug. 11-13.

Several years ago, Messoline — tired of people camping on her property for free to look for paranormal activity in the area — decided to erect the watch tower and a campground and charge for the privilege. She has had guests from throughout the world.

Tickets for the UFO Watch 2003 are \$45 if purchased before June 1 and \$60 afterward. Tickets are good for the entire weekend. No daily passes will be sold. The Perseids meteor show party is free.

On-site camping is an additional \$10 per night per campsite for each event.

Tickets can be purchased online at [SeekUFOs.com](http://SeekUFOs.com) or by calling the UFO Watch Tower at (719) 378-2271.

The UFO Watch Tower is 22 miles north of Alamosa on the west side of Colorado 17.



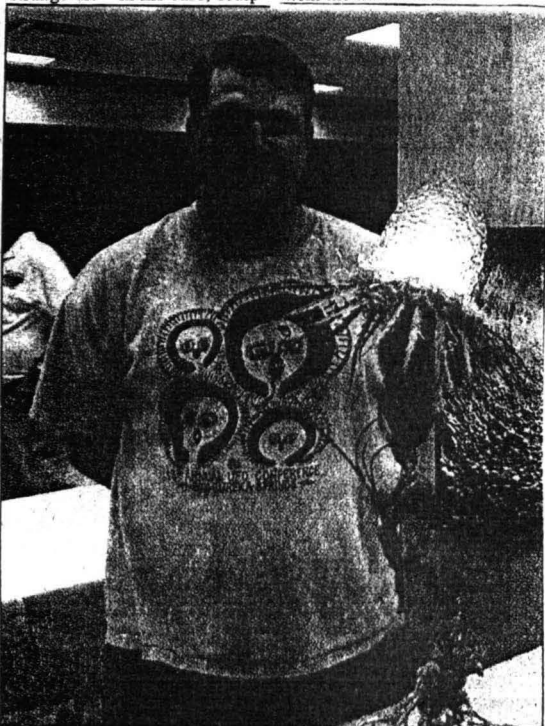
# Visiting artist depicts UFO/alien themes in his work

By Kathryn Lucariello  
CCN staff writer

In the Steven Spielberg movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, leading characters Roy Neary (Richard Dreyfuss) and Jillian Guiler (Melinda Dillon) compulsively create strange art — in his case, scul-

ture, and in her case, a charcoal drawing — after encounters with and sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Their renderings turn out to be of Devil's Tower, where aliens decide to make contact with the human race.



Jason Startup of Topeka, Kan., is a real-life artist who feels compelled to actualize the UFO phenomenon in his work.

Startup was one of the vendors at the annual UFO Conference this weekend at Inn of the Ozarks. His sculptures, lamps, and paintings all reflect UFO and alien themes.

"I've had paranormal experiences all my life, and I have an interest in this field," he said. "My art reflects that."

The 33-year-old artist said he used to do surrealist art but started doing UFO-themed work in 1999.

He can't say he's actually been abducted. His first recollections go back to age 10, but he said he has "very few conscious memories."

"I was paralyzed, and I saw entities," he said. "I have a few memories of crafts and also of being in caverns."

Unlike many people who believe they have been abducted and then go to hypnotists to be regressed in an attempt to recall their experiences, Startup has avoided that.

"I'm a little frightened to do that because the few memories I have are real enough, and why would I want to?"

Startup said he does not believe any of his family members have had UFO experiences, and they "frown" on him on this subject, although his mother has seen ghosts and is supportive of him.

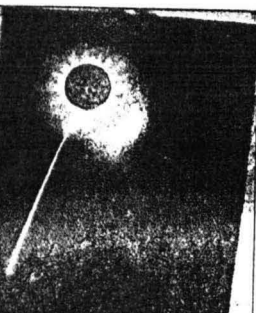
From the top down: Jason Startup with one of his "alien plant" lamps. "Cattle Mutilation" is also a lamp. Behind it is Startup's "Neptunian Ice Slug on an R-13 Unit" box.

"Intelligent Plant Species" draws minerals from the soil to create a UFO structure around it.

"Cornucopia Aliens" tote space weapons.

A painting depicts a sighting of a strange, glowing object Startup saw in Kansas City.

Photos by Kathryn Lucariello



"She told me of finding me outside in the morning or in a room that was locked from the outside," he said.

He said the most conscious memories he has are of seeing a figure peering at him with large black eyes that looked a little like "Kilroy," the World War II graffiti figure, and of seeing a little girl. Other than that, he can't remember.

One painting depicts a glowing object Startup said he saw between Lee Summit and Grandview in Kansas City.

"The light looked like it was underwater," he said.

His work consists of many recycled materials such as coat hangers, hardware, and other items. He makes lamps and statues out of construction foam.

One lamp design is of a UFO with a strange-looking plant in the dome. Only the UFO shape is from his experience. The plant is from his imagination.

Startup has a story he made up about the plant.

"The species has evolved telekinetic powers and absorbs the minerals it needs to form the UFO shell around it," he said.

Other sculpture includes "cornucopia aliens," and a "Neptunian Ice Slug on an R-13 Unit" box.

Startup's paintings include images of crop circles and

standing stones based on Stonehenge.

Interestingly enough, Startup describes himself as a born-again Christian who sees no conflict between UFO accounts and the biblical impending end of the world.

"I believe there are many different types of intelligences here because these are the end days," he said. "Satan has control of demonic minions, who control reptilians, greys, humans and Nordics" (aliens who are tall and thin, with fair hair and blue eyes).

"It's all about control of human evolution and control of the soul," he said. "It's Lucifer's effort to thwart God and install his creative force as opposed to God's."

Startup believes that calling on Jesus can be a protection against abduction and other unwanted alien encounters.

"Most of these entities are of lower vibration," he said. "Any prayer or a call for protection can ward them off."

He sees his art as a way of raising awareness.

"Art gives me a form to bring this into people's consciousness," he said. "My mission is to share my own personal truth with people."

For more information on Startup's art, he can be contacted at [goosekd@yahoo.com](mailto:goosekd@yahoo.com).

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - March 3, 2003

## Two groups probe Kecksburg UFO Incident

Lending their voices for a federal investigation into the 1965 crash of an object in Kecksburg, representatives of SCI FI Channel and the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) today began a three-day visit to the Kecksburg area and announced their support for a local petition drive spearheaded by long-time investigator Stan Gordon of Greensburg.

"By signing a petition, citizens here and elsewhere in the state can help put public pressure on their congressional delegation to request an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office," said Larry Landsman, Director, Special Projects, SCI FI Channel.

Something was seen in the sky and landed in the woods near Kecksburg on December 9, 1965. Since then the U.S. government denies that anything fell — despite testimony from citizens who saw the partially buried object in the woods and statements from firefighters, reporters, dozens of witnesses, and newspaper accounts confirming the military response to the area.

Noting that "Kecksburg is one of those historic, unexplained incidents that requires a full public accounting," Leslie Kean, an independent journalist and research director of CFI, said that she has recently filed Freedom of Information Act requests to numerous federal agencies and military services seeking records from their involvement.

"This case is more than 37 years old," said Kean. "It's high time for our government — whether it's the U.S. Air Force or NASA or any other agency — to come clean and tell the public what they know."

SCI FI Channel, which is supporting public advocacy efforts to gain release of secret government records on uniden-

tified aerial phenomena, believes the government may be withholding information about UFO activity. "On the one hand, government agencies state that UFO sightings are not a threat to national security, but nearly in the same breath they say that they cannot reveal information on national security grounds. They can't have it both ways," said Landsman.

The initiative has the support of John Podesta, President Clinton's former chief of staff. "I think it's time to open the books on questions that have remained in the dark, on the question of government investigations of UFOs," Podesta said at a news conference in Washington last October, launching the CFI Freedom of Information effort.

Both Landsman and Kean say that the Pennsylvania petition asks the right questions: — What landed near Kecksburg, PA on December 9, 1965?

— Where did the orders come from for Army, Air Force, and NASA personnel to be dispatched to the scene?

— Why did military personnel brandish weapons at local citizens to prevent the object from being observed?

— What was the importance of the object that caused the military to rapidly respond to the Kecksburg area?

"Getting answers to these questions should be at the core of any investigation. But to get such an investigation requires the public to demand it," said Stan Gordon, who will be distributing and collecting petitions through his office in Greensburg.

For more background, see [www.freedomofinfo.org](http://www.freedomofinfo.org). Please see [www.signpetition.com](http://www.signpetition.com) for a copy of the petition and information about the petition drive.



# RAELIANS FOR REAL

Cult may be alien to some,  
but it's down to earth for Raytown man

By LISA GUTIERREZ  
The Kansas City Star

**H**e lives in a tidy gray ranch house on a quiet street in Raytown, just blocks away from his daughter and three grandchildren.

He's 67, a retired electrician born in small-town Missouri who watches his salt intake, meditates and keeps two cats around for company.

And George Roehr just happens to believe that extraterrestrials created life on Earth.

He's always had problems believing in God, so this "just made a lot of sense to me," Roehr said recently at his home. "That we are the only life form in the whole universe doesn't make sense."

What makes sense to him is the Raelian religion. Roehr joined the Canadian-based sect about eight years ago, drawn by its teachings that humans are not indigenous to this Earth, that all life here was created by benevolent extraterrestrials, and that the aliens will return, which is why followers want to build an embassy in Jerusalem by the year 2005.

Raelians (say it "rye-ELL-ians") also believe that cloning is the key to eternal life. Immortality through science.

mortician cut out a piece of bone in their forehead when they die to be frozen and stored for future cloning.

George Roehr has arranged with a local funeral home to do just that when he dies.

He said he is one of only two Raelians in Missouri and knows of none in Kansas. (California has the most in America.) He joined through his son, Ricky Roehr, Ruskin High class of 1976, who Vorilhon appointed president of the U.S. Raelian movement six years ago.

"My mission is the same as every other Raelian, just spread this message, a message of hope, a message of love, of truth, of understanding," Ricky Roehr, 44, said in a telephone interview from his home in Las Vegas.

George Roehr is largely private about his membership in the controversial sect, declining to be photographed for this story. But members elsewhere offer lectures or appear in public wearing signs testifying to their belief.

However committed they are to make available their message of space aliens and UFOs, members are told to avoid pressure tactics.

"Our philosophy is, when we talk

Although the movement has been around since the 1970s — and claims to have 60,000 members in 84 countries — it had made few headlines. Then in December, Clonaid, the Raelian-founded company, announced it had cloned the world's first human baby. Eve, they called her.

The claim stoked an already heated cloning debate, an argument that flared up last week when the House passed a bill supported by the Bush administration to ban all human cloning. The debate now moves to the Senate.

Critics condemned Clonaid's announcement as scientific hokum, and, as yet, the company has not offered proof. According to Raelian officials, Eve's family was afraid of losing the baby in legal wrangling over the controversy and decided not to provide a DNA sample. The movement has since announced that two more cloned babies have been born outside the United States.

Undeterred by critics, Raelian founder Claude Vorilhon told CNN, "It's a good step, but my ultimate goal is to give humanity eternal life through cloning."

To that end, Raelian members agree to let a

to people about this and they don't believe it, we don't try to convince them," he said.

To be a Raelian means to practice meditation and visualization techniques. There are no services to attend, no God to worship. Members worldwide keep in touch over the Internet and by visiting UFO Land, the movement's headquarters outside Montreal.

Around his neck, George Roehr wears a silver medallion of the Raelian symbol — a modified Star of David representing the infinity of time and space.

He is astonished that in the years he's worn it, no grocery store clerks have ever asked about it, though a woman he met recently while shopping for a recliner tried to save his soul for Jesus.

"I don't believe in fairy tales. I don't believe in abracadabra," he said. "I believe in science."

## It came down from the heavens

Claude Vorilhon, Frenchman and former race car driver and racing journalist, founded the Raelian religion in the 1970s after meeting, he says, extraterrestrials on a dormant



The Associated Press

At UFO Land, the Raelians' headquarters outside Montreal, visitors can view models of a spaceship and DNA. The spaceship is a replica of the one founder Claude Vorilhon says he boarded in France in the 1970s.

volcano in south central France.

Vorilhon, who recently asked members to address him as "His Holiness," told of a flying saucer descending from the sky that misty morning.

From the craft alighted an extraterrestrial — 4 feet tall with long black hair and slightly almond-shaped eyes, wearing a green, one-piece suit with a bubblelike halo of shimmery air surrounding his head.

"I was not afraid but rather filled with joy to be living through such a great moment," Vorilhon has written. "I bitterly regretted not having brought my camera with me."

Vorilhon, renamed "Rael" by the aliens, tells of several meetings with the alien, who translated parts of the Bible and took him to their planet to visit. Raelians call these extraterrestrials the Elohim, the Hebrew word for gods.

Americans have been conflicted over whether life exists on other planets. Polls in the 1960s showed that a third of Americans believed it possible; nearly 50 percent in the

'70s and '80s thought it likely. Polls in the '90s suggested believers had decreased to one-third of the population again.

UFO-based religions have been around since the first unidentified flying object sightings after World War II. Typically formed around a single person, they peaked in popularity at the height of the New Age movement in the 1980s.

The Raelian movement is thought to be among the last of a dozen or so left. "What they've done is melded together what is probably the single-best known religious mythology in the Western world, which is Christianity, with UFOs," said Douglas Cowan, a religious studies professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## The cellular plan

The melding was irresistible for a man who grew up with no religion.

Born in West Plains, Mo., near the Arkansas border, George Roehr moved to Kansas City with his mother and brother in 1952. They

son and daughter, lasted only a handful of years.

Returning to Kansas City in the early '60s, he trained as an electrician and retired 35 years later.

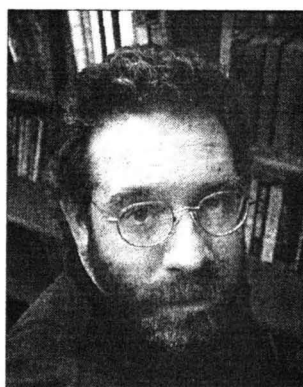
His first indoctrination into a faith came as an adult when two Mormon elders knocked on his door in St. Louis one day. "I had a little better time believing in a modern-day prophet, Joseph Smith, than the ages-old Bible," he said.

Roehr was a Mormon for 15 years but became disillusioned when he and church officials began to disagree over interpretations of their teachings.

Ricky Roehr, who grew up around his father's Mormon inclination and the Lutheran faith of his mother and stepfather, phoned his dad eight years ago to tell him he'd met a Raelian.

"I knew they believed aliens created all life on Earth, I even pooh-poohed it," said Ricky Roehr, who makes his living as a guitarist playing mostly rock 'n' roll. "Almost against my better judgment I bought Rael's book. I thought, 'This is probably \$15 into the tank of his Rolls-Royce. He's probably a cult leader.'"

He studied the movement and read every religious book he could find, "just to make sure these people were who they claimed to be,



JIM BARCUS/The Kansas City Star

UMKC professor Douglas Cowan, who studies religion, has visited the Raelian headquarters. "The people were very gracious, very nice, very happy to have us there," Cowan said. "They didn't try to recruit us."

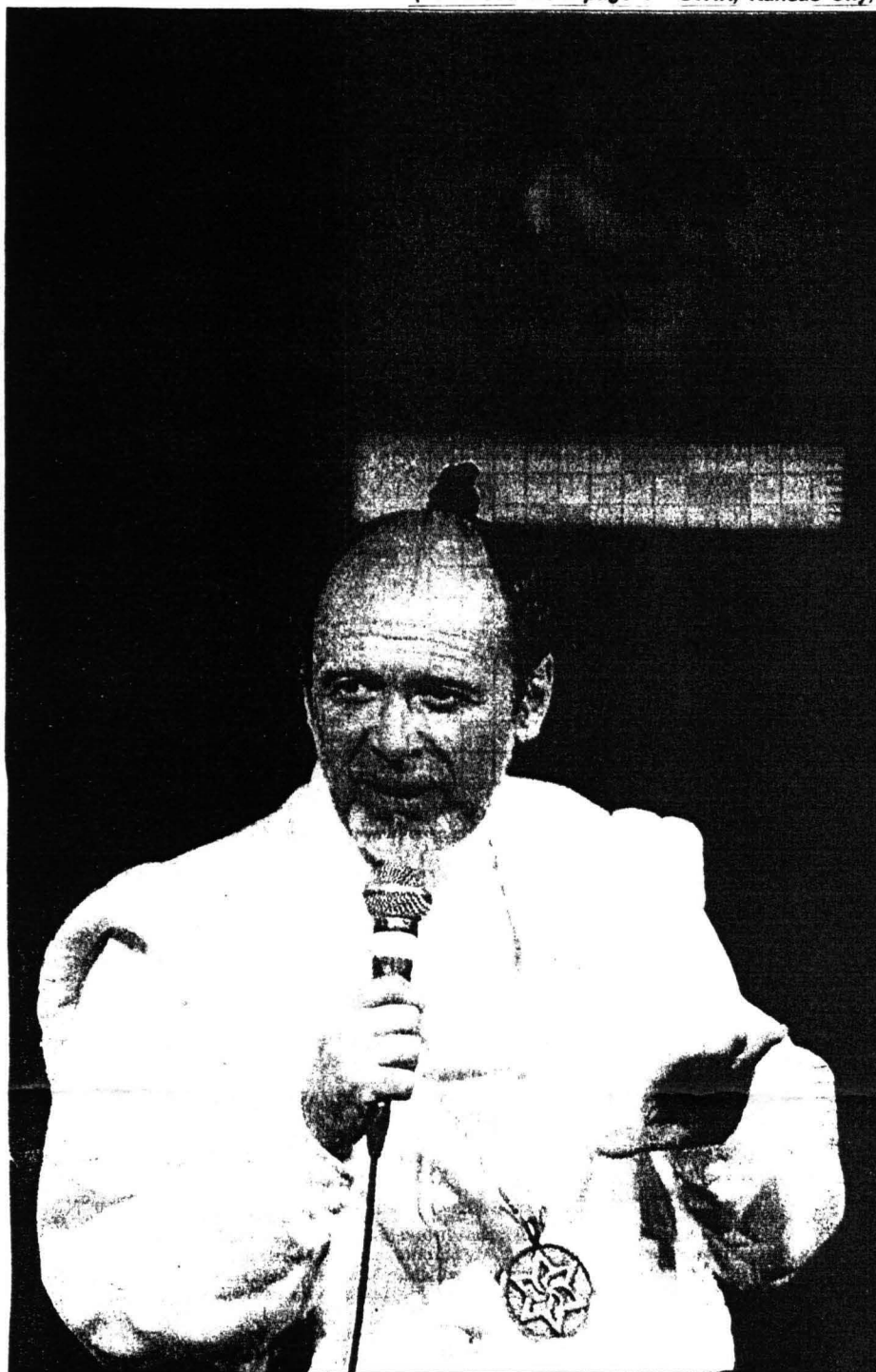
lived poor, his mom working as a barmaid and sewing-factory worker, and Roehr, in a warehouse.

He joined the Air Force in the mid-1950s, where he worked on a new radar system for planes, earned his GED and went to electronics school.

After the Air Force, he took a job with Hughes Aircraft and moved to St. Louis. He also got married, but the marriage, which produced a

(continued on page 5)





Claude Vorilhon, who founded the Raelian sect in the 1970s, claims humans were cloned from aliens and now scientists have cloned a girl. Raelians wear a modified Star of David representing the infinity of time and space.

Photos by The Associated Press

because I was a little skeptical. You hear things in the media about cults and this and that...I wasn't really a churchgoer, but I also believed that UFOs existed."

About six years ago Ricky Roehr baptized his father into the movement in Las Vegas. In a ceremony called "transmission of the cellular plan," he moistened his hands and put one hand on his father's forehead and the other behind his head.

Raelians believe that at that instant, aliens hovering above the Earth read and record the DNA of the faithful.

### Alien ways?

In November of 1998, Douglas Cowan from UMKC and a group of academicians visited UFO Land, the Raelian compound outside Montreal.

"The people were very gracious, very nice, very happy to have us there," Cowan said. "They didn't try to recruit us."

The group gathered first in a small antechamber with hazard tape and lights that made Cowan think of Area 51 in Nevada, the secret military facility associated with UFO stories.

Two giant doors opened to reveal a life-size model of the spaceship Vorilhon said he saw that fateful day in France. To one side hung a picture of Jesus. On the other side was a tall, free-standing model of DNA.

"What you have there are the three components of their sacred

story," Cowan said. "You have Jesus, as obviously an icon of the myth that they are reinterpreting. The spaceship, the vehicle for the reinterpretation, and DNA, the real goods, the real interpretation."

Raelians are also known for their annual "sensual meditation" workshops, held at UFO Land. The two-week camp includes fasting, meditating and the freedom to choose sexual partners.

Participants wear colored wristbands to signal their availability and preferences — already have a partner, would like a partner, homosexual, heterosexual. Raelians believe that enlarging their capacity to experience pleasure strengthens their immune system and telepathic abilities.

And while it may not make sense to nonbelievers, cloning dovetails perfectly with the Raelian story, Cowan said.

"I think it's their mission," he said. "Why do churches do what they do? They do what they do to participate in what they believe is the sacred story and the mission of their founder."

"In that sense they're not doing anything different than other religions. They just have a different story."

The Raelian movement's Web site is [www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org).

To reach Lisa Gutierrez, features reporter, call (816) 234-4987 or send e-mail to [lgutierrez@kcstar.com](mailto:lgutierrez@kcstar.com).

### Otherworldly holiday

SANTA FE, N.M. — Believers in space aliens, rejoice!

New Mexicans can now celebrate the second Tuesday in February as Extraterrestrial

Culture Day after a Roswell lawmaker's proposal won approval in the state House of Representatives. The proposal's sponsor, Rep. Daniel Foley, said that life on other planets — if you believe in it — surely has its own set of cultural beliefs.

New Mexico has been associated with little green men for more than half a century, starting in 1947 with a purported UFO crash that came to be known as the Roswell incident.



STAR, Kansas City, MO  
March 24, 2003 CR: J. Johnson

## Former ISU professor lectures on UFOs

JOSE MANUEL CASTELLANOS  
Daily Vidette Staff

A lecture on the existence of unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrial beings took place in the Normal Public Library Wednesday.

The lecturer was Vic Connor, a former ISU applied computer science professor and Mutual UFO Network section director.

According to Connor, MUFON was established in 1969 and has 4,000 members worldwide. He also said MUFON has the largest amount of investigators of UFOs. As a section director, Connor investigates sightings and documents his findings.

"Most sightings are true. Usually we have the person draw what they have seen. We have sightings all over including here in Normal," said MUFON state section director Paul Russell.

Cindy Charlebois, Vic Connor's wife, shares her husband's beliefs and enthusiasm.

"I believe extraterrestrials visit the planet. I had a sighting this last June in Bloomington. I was outside sitting when I saw many glowing objects in the sky. They began putting themselves in geometric

positions," Charlebois said.

Charlebois went on to say that sightings in Bloomington are normal.

She said one woman she interviewed claimed that a UFO had been seen hovering above Lake Bloomington many times.

According to Connor, there are perhaps 57 different species of extraterrestrials that are visiting our planet. Some of the more popular species are "greys." These are the slim bug-eyed aliens with large heads that have become very popular as of late. Another visiting species are praying mantis-looking creatures.

Greys are the least advanced of all the extraterrestrials that have been visiting the earth, according to Connor.

He added there are three types of these species.

The small ones that are drone-like do all the work during abductions of humans.

Then there are the taller ones who do more technical things. Finally there are even taller greys that are more personable and will even answer questions during abductions, Connor said.

"There are also Insectoid praying mantis-type creatures. These seem



Vic Connor, section director of the Mutual UFO Network and a former ISU professor, lectures about the existence of UFOs in the Community Room of the Normal Public Library Wednesday night.

Sonnet Treptow / Daily Vidette Staff

to be more advanced than most of the others," Connor added.

Connor and the attendees of the lecture have a few theories as to why

these extraterrestrials are visiting earth.

"They have visited us more than once so I believe they are mostly

friendly, but there are many different species so that may not apply to all of them. I think they are just observing us," Connor said.

## 2002 an active year for UFO sightings and strange encounters across the state

2002 was a very active year for alleged sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) and various other mysterious events, as reported by residents from across Pennsylvania.

Reports of strange incidents originating from 45 counties in the commonwealth came to the attention of researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg during the last year. Close observations of strange flying objects, reported encounters with mysterious creatures such as Bigfoot and giant birds, strange footprints and sounds, and odd ground markings, were some of the oddities reported.

Gordon has been researching mysterious encounters since 1959. During the years since then, he has been involved with the investigation of thousands of mysterious incidents from across the Keystone State. The researcher has been taking calls from the public concerning such matters since 1969.

Gordon continues to actively investigate current events, and he maintains contact with many resources that keep him updated on the latest ongoing events. Gordon also maintains a high-tech electronics communications center which keeps him informed on a daily basis about mysterious happenings from around the world.

During the 43 years that Gordon has been researching various phenomena, it is his conclusion that most UFO sightings and many other mysterious events, when properly investigated, are determined to be natural or manmade in origin, and are indeed explainable. Some UFO cases investigated in 2002 were determined to be bright meteors, automated searchlight displays, and even the northern lights.

There remain, however, many UFO observations and other strange incidents which have been reported over the years from various locations in the state that appear to remain unexplained.

While Gordon has an interest in all types of mysterious encounters, his primary focus concerns the UFO phenomena and cryptozoology, which is the study of hidden or unknown animals. Pennsylvania has a long history of observations of strange animals including Bigfoot, the thunderbird (a giant bird), the eastern cougar, and the black panther. Alleged sightings of huge hair-covered, generally man-like creatures continue to be reported in the state.

Gordon is probably best known for his years of investigation into the Dec. 9, 1965, UFO crash incident which reportedly took place near the rural village of Kecksburg. That event involved multitudes of witnesses who

observed a fiery object moving across the sky over a widespread area. The object is said to have fallen slowly from the sky into a wooded area near Kecksburg. The military arrived on the scene, and reportedly removed the object from the crash site. Despite numerous eyewitness accounts, the official word is that nothing fell into the woods that day, and nothing was recovered.

Gordon's investigation of the Kecksburg incident continues. The case is once again creating national interest since the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) backed by the Sci-Fi channel, is now conducting a detailed investigation of the occurrence as well.

Some of the interesting strange events reported in Pennsylvania include:

February 2002, Waynesboro (Adams County)—Rick Fisher of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society (PBS), investigates a series of large, odd-shaped footprints which were about 16 inches long, and eight inches wide, and covered an area of about 1,000 feet around a reservoir.

April 15, 2002, Clarksburg (Indiana County)—Two people traveling on Rt. 286 observe an elongated object about the size of passenger bus hovering at tree top level. The silent object's body appeared to be extremely wide, and it had a very bright light at the front.

June 26, 2002, rural area of Wyoming County—A witness observed two huge dark birds land at the top of a tree. The branches looked as though they were going to break from the weight. The wingspan of the birds were estimated at around 12 feet based on the size of the branches. Historically, this area of the state has reported numerous sightings of giant birds with huge wingspans that have become known as Thunderbirds. Sightings of these huge flying

creatures have been on the increase around the state in recent years.

July 24, 2002, North Huntingdon Township (Westmoreland County)—At about 10 p.m., three people standing in a shopping complex parking lot observed a round and shiny solid object about the size of a tennis ball floating past them at a distance of about 10 feet, and traveling on a straight path. The odd sphere, which was only about 6 feet off the ground, kept moving down the road until it was out of sight.

September 2002, Derry Twp. (Westmoreland County)—Members of a family report observing a Bigfoot creature on two different occasions in a heavily wooded area. The most interesting event occurred on the afternoon of Sept. 27 as the driver was traveling along a back road. After hearing a noise from the woods, the driver then stopped the vehicle, thinking that some deer were approaching. At a distance of about 145 feet, the witness observed a tall man-like creature covered with long brown hair and arms that hung down to the knees. The creature was estimated to be about eight feet tall, and took long steps as it crossed a field. The driver watched as the creature crossed over a barbed wire fence with no hesitation or break in stride. Gordon measured the top of the fence as 44 inches off the ground.

If you want to report a UFO or Bigfoot sighting or any strange encounter, or have information about the Kecksburg incident, you can contact Stan Gordon at: P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. Phone the PA UFO Hotline (724-838-7768) 24 hours. E-mail Gordon at: [paufu@westol.com](mailto:paufu@westol.com). You can also check out Stan Gordon's UFO Anomalies website at [www.westol.com/~paufu](http://www.westol.com/~paufu).

## Petition seeks to unravel Kecksburg UFO mystery

By Ann Saul Dudurich  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

The quest for answers in the baffling 37-year-old Kecksburg UFO case continues.

Representatives of the Sci Fi Channel and the Coalition for Freedom of Information are expected to arrive in western Pennsylvania today in support of a local petition drive aimed at unlocking the mystery behind what landed in the woods on Dec. 9, 1965.

"By signing a petition, citizens here and elsewhere in the state can help put public pressure on their congressional delegation to request an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office," said Larry Landsman, director of special projects for the Sci Fi Channel.

Landsman and the coalition's Leslie Kean will tour the Kecksburg site during their three-day visit.

The petition was drafted by longtime investigator Stan Gordon, who is spearheading the petition drive from his Greensburg home.

"I think this is a significant opportunity to add credibility to this issue," he said. "And I'm hoping the powerful sources we have behind us will help get accomplished what I couldn't accomplish on my own."

Kean, who met with Gordon in November, said the petition is an "important component" in a larger public advocacy campaign.

"Once we have enough signatures collected, we'll ask the Pennsylvania representatives to request a GAO investigation on behalf of their constituents," said the California-based journalist. "And if certain agencies of the U.S. government deny our appeals under FOIA (the federal Freedom of Information Act), we have a law firm ready to take the issue to court."

Copies of the petition are available at [www.signpetition.com](http://www.signpetition.com). For more information, call Gordon at 724-838-7768.

Ann Saul Dudurich can be reached at [adudurich@tribweb.com](mailto:adudurich@tribweb.com) or 724-837-4378.

CR: R. Suttner

TIMES, New York, NY - March 20, 2003

### SOUTHWEST

#### NEW MEXICO: RED CARPET FOR LITTLE GREEN MEN

State Representative Dan Foley, Republican of Roswell, has introduced a bill to make the second Tuesday in February Extraterrestrial Culture Day in the state. "The day should be observed to celebrate and honor all past, present and future extraterrestrial visitors in ways to enhance relationships among all the citizens of the cosmos, known and unknown," the bill says. Mr. Foley's hometown, where some people insist that an alien spaceship crash-landed in 1947, has become a tourist destination, and he said the state could gain by encouraging visitors, from whatever the source.

Mindy Sink (NYT)

NORTHWEST HERALD, Crystal Lake, IL - March 4, 2003

'Somebody's wagging a finger at us,' Robert Hastings warns

## UFO expert stirs MCC crowd's thinking

By ERIC R. OLSON  
The Northwest Herald

CRYSTAL LAKE - Mike Harris does not know how to explain what he saw on his way to Wonder Lake on Christmas Eve 1987.

Harris was near the intersection of Mason Hill Road and Crystal Lake Avenue when he saw the strange, symmetrical lights moving slowly above the tree line that night.

"I was standing on the hood of my car, trying to get a good look, and they seemed awful close and awful big, and my heart started beating fast, and I got out of there," Harris said. "It triggered the fight-or-flight reflex in me."

Harris was one of many people with UFO stories in the audience as UFO researcher Robert Hastings spoke Monday at McHenry County College on Monday.

Hastings said that since the late 1940s, the U.S. government has explained away incidents similar to what Harris said he had seen, citing causes from flattened hailstones to swamp gas.

But as officials publicly denied that the UFO phenomenon was anything but natural, Hastings said records show that intelligence agencies have been vigorously investigating the phenomenon.

As time has passed, the government has been forced to release information documenting sightings of aircraft capable of maneuvers no earthly vehicles can duplicate, while emitting strange, glowing lights.

"Decades ago, the public should have begun to be prepared for the reality of this," Hastings said. "This is not Hollywood, this is not the funny papers. This is real."

Hastings lectures at universities around the country, sharing what he and colleagues have learned from declassified documents obtained from U.S. intelligence agencies through the Freedom of Information Act.

"My honest and sincere opinion is, the public has a right to know the facts as they're now emerging," Hastings said. "I'm not a missionary seeking to convert skeptics into believers. It's a futile effort. I'm too old, I'm too tired."

The truth about UFOs has been a secret for almost 60 years because leaders fear that mass hysteria would result if the public learned the truth, Hastings said.

Government intelligence agencies also are alarmed by the saucers' particular interest in the country's top-secret nuclear sites, Hastings said. The strange, hovering objects have been sighted many times around U.S. nuclear installations since the public first began seeing them en masse in 1947, Hastings said.

"It is no coincidence that what we call UFOs strongly and directly asserted themselves at the precise time we invented and began to test and develop nuclear missiles," he said.

One document Hastings projected onto a screen for the audience to read was a tran-

script of the North American Aerospace Defense Command's regional director's log from Nov. 7 to Nov. 9, 1975. It detailed numerous sightings of UFOs above nuclear missile silos.

Soldiers guarding the silos reported seeing many disk-shaped objects over their positions. Hastings said several retired Air Force officers have told him that when UFOs appear over the silos, the warheads below are rendered inoperable. Their guidance and control systems malfunction, Hastings said.

"The majority opinion of these individuals is that they witnessed a demonstration," he said. "These individuals are of the opinion somebody's wagging a finger at us."

Hastings also cites a 1950 memo to then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover about an aircraft that crashed in Roswell, N.M., in 1947. The memo said soldiers recovered three beings "of human shape, but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture."

Hastings said he does believe that the government recovered alien remains at Roswell or in other cases. Eventually, the public will know for sure what the government already knows.

"It's just a question of time. It may be tomorrow, it may be another 50 years, but at some point in the future, this will be out in the open, this will be front-page news," Hastings said. "I think we're in for a very interesting future."





## FOREIGN NEWS

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

TODAY, Houston, B.C., Canada - March 5, 2003 CR: G. Conway

# UFO survey says Houston in top 4 for most sightings

By JENNIFER LANG  
MOVE OVER, Kermode bear. A flying saucer might make a more fitting symbol for Terrace.

It turns out Terrace is B.C.'s UFO capital – and one of the top spots in the country for sightings – according to a national survey released last week.

In fact, a record number of sightings here helped push Terrace into the 2002 Canadian UFO Survey's top 10 for the first time.

Remarkably, Terrace is in third place – behind such urban heavyweights as Toronto and Vancouver.

The survey counted 25 eyewitness reports from here in 2002.

Calgary and Hamilton also appeared in the top 10 for the first time. Other urban areas reporting a significant number of sightings were Winnipeg, Edmonton, Ottawa and Whitehorse.

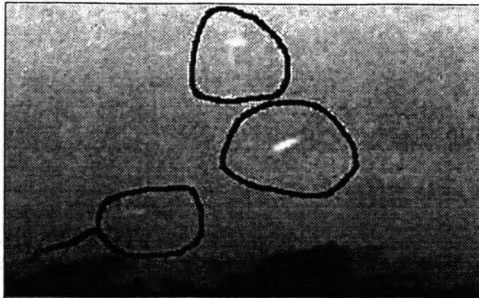
In all, the survey compiled 483 eyewitness reports from across the country, with one-third, or 176, originating in Canada's westernmost province.

Contrast that with just six UFO sightings reported in Saskatchewan last year.

Joining Terrace in the top four is Houston, B.C., home of Brian Vike, the northwest's resident UFO researcher.

Vike, who investigates reports of UFOs and other unexplained phenomena, including crop circles, says his phone has been ringing off the hook since the survey was released last week.

Some flying objects were barrel-shaped, while others looked more like cigars or



EYEWITNESSES captured footage of three objects hovering above Francois Lake one night last year. HBCC-UFO Photo

had blinking lights.

Unlike stars or airplanes, they moved oddly over such familiar locales as Braun's Island, Jackpine Flats and the southwest skies towards Prince Rupert.

Vike is just one of the contributors who assist in compiling the survey, which consists of reports from regionally-based UFO

researchers from across Canada that are compiled into one database.

The survey is headed up by Geoff Dittman and Chris Rutkowski of Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFO ROM), a prairie-based group that has been compiling UFO reports since 1989.

The survey defines UFOs as any unknown flying

object seen by a witness.

That means the survey includes reports that were later found to be known objects, such as stars, planets, meteors, or aircraft.

The researchers believe it's important to verify that eyewitnesses who report UFOs have indeed seen something – rather than imagined it.

The survey suggests most UFOs are actually conventional aircraft or an astronomical object.

On average, about 13 per cent of sightings are unexplained. Last year, 87 cases were unknown out of 483.

"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," the report says.

Most sightings, about four out of five, occur at night, but reports of "da-

ylight discs" accounted for 15.8 per cent of sightings last year.

Sightings in 2002 peaked during the months of July and August, but also in February, according to the report, a pattern that held true in the northwest.

The typical UFO sighting is witnessed by two people, suggesting the witnesses are actually seeing something real, the survey says.

The report assigns a "strangeness" rating between one and nine to each sighting, with nine being the strangest.

The 2002 survey's average strangeness rating is 3.6 – which is not very strange at all, the report says.

"Hollywood-style flying saucers are, in reality, relatively uncommon in UFO reports."

## TV crew tapes UFO interview in Houston

By JENNIFER LANG  
NORTHWEST B.C.'S resident UFO researcher Brian Vike will be featured in an upcoming TV show on Canada's Life Network.

Vike, field researcher and president of HBCC-UFO, said a four-man television crew from the channel interviewed him at his home base of Houston, B.C., last week.

The show, called Magnificent Obsession,

will also feature crop circles. The crew planned to head to Florida and England next.

Vike was joined by Chris Rutkowski, a Manitoba-based UFO researcher who compiles the annual Canadian UFO survey.

The crew taped 17 hours of footage for an upcoming show.

Last year British Columbia once again had the highest number of

reported sightings in the country.

But the biggest surprise is that two northwest B.C. towns, Terrace and Houston, accounted for more sightings than almost anywhere else in Canada, according to the latest survey.

Vike says he received more than 100 different eyewitness reports from people in communities all along Highway 16 last year.

That included a large number here in the Terrace area – the undisputed hot spot of the region for UFO sightings in 2002.

Vike says CBC TV is also planning to send a team to interview him in Houston in the near future.

Contact HBCC-UFO Research or Vike's magazine, Canadian Communicator, by phone or fax at 1-250-845-2189. His email address is

hbccufo@yahoo.com. The website address is [www.geocities.com/hbccufo/home.html](http://www.geocities.com/hbccufo/home.html)

Canadian residents can call a new toll-free UFO hotline at 1-866-262-1989.

## More sightings over the past week

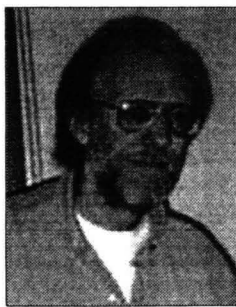
By C. MCGARRIGLE  
Have you ever spotted strange lights in the sky? What about a fast moving object that defies the laws of gravity? If you haven't, your chances of seeing a UFO in Northern B.C. is greater than any other region of Canada.

The communities of Terrace and Houston have just recently been named in the top 10 list of UFO sightings across Canada.

Terrace is the B.C. capital for sightings and third across the country, while Houston placed second in B.C. and fourth across the country.

The list compiled 483 eyewitness reports from around the country in 2002. One-third of all sightings were reported in B.C.

Brian Vike is a leading Ufologist based out of



Brian Vike

Houston, B.C., who is the founder of the HBCC-UFO web site and investigator of strange phenomenon in the region since 2000. Since the survey was released, Vike says his phone has been ringing off the hook.

"People are aware now that there is actually someone who investigates and talks to people and tries to

figure out what people are seeing," says Vike.

Even in the last week there have been many sightings reported in the northwest region.

One 'large disk shaped object' was spotted on February 22 over a one-hour period by observers in three different areas in B.C.

The object was described as very large, slow moving, with bright lights on the underside and completely silent.

The first witness spotted the object in Mill Bay, Vancouver Island at 9:15 p.m. followed by two Alcan employees in Kitimat, B.C. at 10:20 p.m. Shortly after, a husband and wife stopped their vehicle between Terrace and Prince Rupert to watch the object.

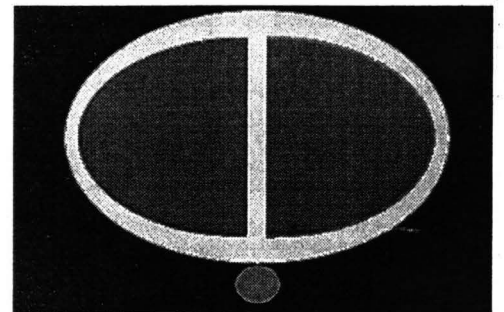
On February 3, 2003 a Canfor employee out of

Houston noticed three bright, hazy blue/white lights in the shape of a rectangle fly past him quickly at a very low altitude.

Other witnesses have come forward in Houston since the sighting was released to inform Vike that they had witnessed the same object 12 hours before the Canfor employee.

The Lakes District has also had its fair share of unexplained sightings that have been investigated by Vike, who says he gets many calls from the area.

On February 14, 2002 two residents of Francois Lake noticed a bright fast-moving object come towards them, when all of a sudden it came to a complete stop and went totally dark.



Object witnessed near Houston Forest Products on February 3, 2003.

The witnesses says that a bright flash of light was suddenly emitted from the object. They say a 'ray of light' began to sweep the ground, which lit up a very large area. The object continued to scan the ground for a few minutes until it suddenly left the area at unprecedented speeds.

Vike also investigates the phenomenon of 'crop circles' that have been reported in the Vanderhoof area over the past few years.

While there have been hundreds of sightings in the northwest, many have been explained by military exercises or cosmic activity, such as planets or shooting stars.

"There is still so many

of them that remain unexplained, but people are seeing things all the time," says Vike.

A film crew from the Canadian Life Network arrived in the area recently to start shooting a new series called "The Magnificent Obsession."

Because of the surge of sightings in the northwest in the past two years, Vike was asked to be a part of the documentary, which will include other Ufologists from the US and England.

Vike is hoping that other people will come forward to report any strange occurrences, phenomenon, or generally, things that go bump in the night.

# We've seen the light

## Two more in city UFO sighting claim

A UFO has been seen hovering in the North-east night sky for more than two hours.

Martin Ingram, 28, and Irene Currie, 39, claim they saw what looked like a ball of light.

They claim it hung in the sky in the direction of Portlethen for two-and-a-half hours.

The unidentified flying object was seen from a window of Mrs Currie's Kincorth flat.

Mr Ingram, of Gardner Road, said: "I thought I was going mad until I saw the article in the Evening Express about what happened in Portlethen."

We previously reported how a Portlethen couple reported being chased along the A90 in their car by a hovering red light.

The Kincorth incident happened on the night of Sunday, December 22, from 11pm. Mr Ingram was visiting Mrs Currie at her Hetherwick Road flat,

by Mike Fairgrieve

which overlooks the A90 Stonehaven road.

"I was just round for coffee and a chat," said the unemployed mechanic.

"We looked out of the window and saw this thing in the distance. It was a big glowing ball. Then it gradually changed colour, with what looked like windows of yellow, green, white, red - every colour you can think of."

Mr Ingram stressed that he and Mrs Currie were both "stone cold sober" at the time.

It seemed to be about a mile away, but could have been further off, he said.

And he reckoned it was between 200 and 300ft up.

"It moved only fractionally until it just disappeared."

"I wasn't worried at all. It was all just very strange."

Mrs Currie said: "When we first saw something it was so bright I thought it was a shooting star - but it didn't move," said the



**STRANGE GOINGS ON:** Irene Currie, 39, and Martin Ingram, 28, on Hetherwick Road, Kincorth, claim they saw an orange ball light.

housewife. "It didn't frighten me. I thought it was cool."

Neither spoke about what they had seen until contacting the Evening

Express. A police spokeswoman said no reports had been received of strange phenomena that night.

The RAF were not available for comment.

A spokesman for air traffic control at Aberdeen Airport said they had no record in their log of aircraft movements during that time.

## I too saw a UFO

Sir, I am a pensioner and the following story is quite true.

At dusk on a spring evening - I think it was late May 2001 - I was taking my washing in from the back of the house, getting the last few items from the clothes line, when I heard a gentle shushing noise which made me look up.

I stared in amazement as I saw a large object, shaped like a 50 pence piece with flashing coloured lights at each corner, it moved slowly over my head, I could distinctly see the underside. It was a dull metallic brown, slightly bowl-shaped.

I watched as it glided slowly over the rooftops in a North-Easterly direction, when it was almost out of sight, I ran up to the landing window but it had disappeared.

I couldn't see the top of the object, it filled the space above me, I was stunned. I told my husband, I couldn't stop talking about it!

The following evening an article appeared in the evening newspaper, a mother and daughter had seen the object twice on the same evening - as myself. (I think they were from Willenhall) and described the same object.

I still feel amazed when I think about it, but I saw it exactly as I have described, so I know they saw it too.

Name & address supplied

# ARE WE ALONE?

## Was it UFO over Jason's garden?

TWO white lights put on a late night show - and sparked a UFO alert over Ilkeston.

Computer operator Jason Stevenson watched them follow each other in a large circle.

One then began to make an S shape in the sky and other light tagged along behind. Jason (30) saw the heavenly display as he nipped into the garden of his Orchard Street home for a cigarette.

Later, he went indoors to have a coffee and returned to find them still moving around.

### STRANGE

"I thought it was a bit strange, something I have never seen before."

"I think it was probably a UFO. I don't drink and I don't do drugs. This was no plane or helicopter," said Jason.

The sighting began at about 11.30 p.m. on Thursday and ended at 12.45 a.m. on Friday.

Jason alerted police and the case is now being probed by the Phenomena Research Association, which has members worldwide.

Derby group leader Omar Fowler said a single white light had been reported several months ago over Ilkeston.

### SURVEY

This turned out to be an aircraft carrying out a night-time survey seeking heat sources in Nottingham.

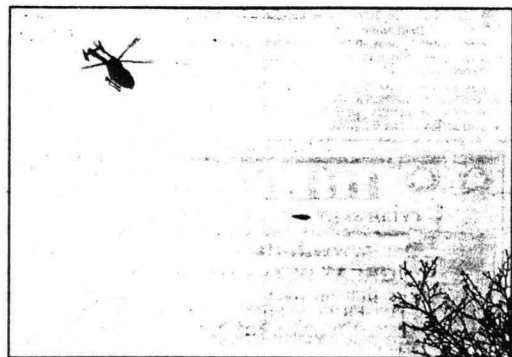
But no noise accompanied the latest sighting and Jason believes the lights came as close as 300 yards.

Mr Fowler said: "Ilkeston was a hotspot for UFO activity about three years ago and this report is very interesting."

It may tie in with recent sightings of a single unidentified white light seen repeatedly around Alport Heights near Matlock.

Mr Fowler, an expert on mystery objects, recently took part in a US phone-in on "flying triangles."

This was broadcast globally on the internet.



## Has Alf spotted a UFO in Astley?

ALF Shacklady loves to keep abreast of the latest technology but he got a surprise when he tried out his latest digital camera.

The Princes Avenue, Blackmoor man was surprised to see an object in the sky when he downloaded images he'd taken around 4pm on March 1 of a police helicopter hovering near Astley St Stephen's Church, pictured above.

"Was it a UFO? I don't know what it was, but I'd be interested to know if anyone else saw it that Saturday afternoon," said Mr Shacklady.

The helicopter had been called in to help with a local search but Police have no records of a UFO sighting.

A Greater Manchester Police spokesman said: "There are no records which indicate the helicopter was called out to a major incident."

Picture: ALF SHACKLADY



■ UFO sightings remain a riddle.

REPORTED UFO sightings are common all over the world, and the question of whether we are alone in the universe has been debated for centuries.

But for one Linslade man, the issue has taken on new personal significance from what he thought he saw in the skies above Bedford Green while out walking his dog last Wednesday night.

Christopher Green, of Bedford Green, left his house shortly after 9.30pm for what he expected would be a routine walk on a clear night - but by 9.50pm it had turned into the most extraordinary of his life.

He said: "I was walking the dog as I always

# DOGWALKER REPORTS UFO

report by JONATHAN BOYLE

do, when at about 9.50pm I saw the strangest thing in the sky above me.

"It was a bright white, glowing, rounded object, flat but spherical.

"It came over my head from behind me, from the direction of Luton, about 500 feet up in the air - much lower than a comet would have been.

"And it shot off lightning quick, north westerly, across the Bedford Green sky and out of sight."

Mr Green, who works for Milton Keynes based company Waterhouse Media, went home and phoned Bedfordshire Police to re-

port the incident - but they received no other sightings.

He added: "The strangest thing about it all was that the object was completely silent.

"I have never seen a plane move that quick, and at that sort of pace I would have expected some noise.

"I have never seen anything like it in my life."

Professor Russell Stannard, local astronomy expert and former Head of Physics at the Open University, said: "Leighton Buzzard is very close to Luton Airport so I would expect the sighting to be a plane.

"I find it so unlikely that it really was a UFO, just like I don't believe in aliens making crop circles."

## 'UFO' caught on camera

INVESTIGATIONS into a UFO sighting in Runcorn have led to a possible spacecraft being captured on video.

Eric Morris, of the UFO Studies Centre, was carrying out routine research into a report of a black, cigar-shaped object hovering, then descending into woodland near Dutton service station on January 3.

He visited the spot where the UFO had been seen by workers at O2 in Preston Brook. Reviewing film footage he took of the area, Eric noticed a strange shape in the sky.

He said: "There were two discs, which appear to be touching each other, hovering over Dutton. I'm not saying it's definitely a UFO, but I'd say the chances of a cloud formation making that shape would be a million to one." Now the tape is being analysed by experts at the BBC.

■ Eric is urging anyone with information on UFO activity to call him on 01606 330567.



# SHOW ME PATH TO UFO ALLEY!

## Visitor's request proves a winner for info staff

OVER the years patient staff at Todmorden Information Centre have fielded lots of queries about bus and train times but were floored when the well dressed visitor asked: "What time do the UFO's fly?"

Now the quirky query from the woman and her family has won the centre a national prize.

Staff thought they had heard them all until the woman and her family stepped into the centre in Burnley Road and in all seriousness asked: "What time do the UFO's fly, where can we sit and watch them and would it be alright to take a picnic?"

At first centre manager Carolyn Hall thought the woman was trying to "wind me up," but on taking a closer look at her and her family realised the request was deadly serious.

Now the bizarre query has led to the centre being awarded a bottle of champagne and a box of choco-

By David Pitts

lates by the English Tourism Council as part of its nationwide "Only in Britain. Only in 2002" campaign designed to give visitors a warm welcome.

It was part of the UK tourism industry's campaign to bring an extra one million visitors to the UK last year with the aim of making them feel welcome.

As part of this campaign, tourist information centres throughout the country were asked to send in unusual visitor comments, requests or regional phrases.

The English Tourism Council said it had received dozens of the comments, requests and phrases but after weighing them all up had decided Todmorden had come out tops for the request about the UFO's.

This week Carolyn said: "I really thought the woman was winding me up but when I looked at her again I realised she was being deadly serious and once I realised she was being serious I pointed

her in the direction of the moors at Sharneyford, where UFO's are mostly reported to have been seen.

"There is no doubt it was a serious inquiry and when she asked if it would be alright if they took a picnic I nearly collapsed," added Carolyn.

"I have been here 14 years but without doubt this was the most unusual request we have ever had. I think she must have read about Alan Godfrey's experiences and other people seeing flying saucers in this area.

"I honestly believe she thought she could sit on the bank of the moors and see them flying about. She even asked me where she could park her car. The woman, who would be in her 30's and was well dressed, did not look to be the type of person who would go out looking for UFO's," said Carolyn.

Along with the request for UFO's, the centre also submitted other bizarre questions like the one from a woman who became indignant because staff did not know the bus fare from John O'Groats to Skirza in Scotland.

"This is the information centre, I thought you would know all the bus fares!"



A mystery object hovers in the sky

## Northwest B.C. leads in UFO sightings

Have you ever spotted strange lights in the sky or a fast moving object that defies the laws of gravity? If not, don't worry, you might. Chances of seeing a UFO in northern B.C. are greater than in any other region in Canada.

Terrace and Houston have recently made it on the top-10 list of UFO sightings across Canada.

*"There are still so many that remain unexplained and people are seeing things all the time."*

— Vike

Terrace is the B.C. capital for sightings and third across the country, while Houston placed second in B.C. and fourth in Canada.

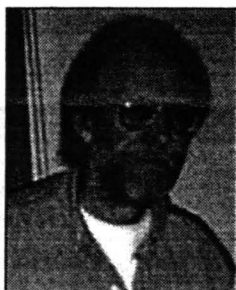
The list compiled 483 eyewitness reports from around the country in 2002. One-third of all sightings were reported in B.C.

Brian Vike is a ufologist based out of Houston, B.C., and is the founder of a UFO Web site. He has been an investigator of strange phenomenon in the region since 2000. Since the list was released, Vike said his phone has been ringing off the hook.

"People are aware now that there is someone who investigates and tries to figure out what people are seeing," said Vike.

Even in the last two months, there have been sightings reported in the northwest region.

One "large disk shaped object" was spotted on Feb.



Brian Vike

22 over a one-hour period by observers in three different areas in B.C.

The object was described as very large, slow moving, with bright lights on the underside and completely silent.

The first witness spotted the object in Mill Bay, Vancouver Island at 9:15 p.m. followed by two in Kitimat, at 10:20 p.m.

Shortly after, a husband and wife stopped their vehicle between Terrace and Prince Rupert to watch the object.

While there have been hundreds of sightings in the northwest, many have been explained by military exercises or cosmic activity, such as planets or shooting stars.

"There are still so many that remain unexplained and people are seeing things all the time," said Vike.

A film crew from the Canadian Life Network arrived in the area recently to start shooting a new series called "The Magnificent Obsession."

Because of the surge of sightings in the past two years, Vike was asked to be a part of the documentary, which will include other ufologists from the U.S. and England.

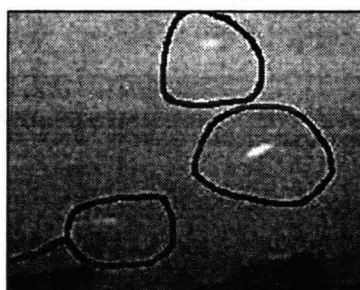


Photo submitted

**MOVING MYSTERY:** Footage of three unexplained objects hovering above Francois Lake last year.

NEWS AND JOURNAL, Stroud, England - March 18, 2003

## Resident spots UFO covered in lights Alien landing?

**EERIE lights were seen hovering in the sky above Standish this week.**

Bob Cooper, of Little Australia, Stonehouse, was on his way to visit his wife in hospital in Gloucester last Wednesday evening when he saw the lights.

At about 6.45pm he was driving through the hamlet of Stroud Green when something caught his eye.

"I looked towards Standish Hospital and there was something hovering in the sky

by Sam Bond

about 50 foot from the ground," he said. "It was covered in lights, lit up like the Blackpool illuminations."

Mr Cooper, 65, watched as the UFO glided down to land in fields behind a hill.

"It didn't move like a plane would and was too big for a helicopter," he said.

"It must have had 15 or 20 lights on it, all different colours, and none of them were flashing which they do on aircraft."

Mr Cooper said there was a funfair in Stonehouse but it was in the opposite direction, in Oldends Lane.

Although he could see a dark mass surrounded by the lights, the glow was too bright to distinguish a shape.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said there was no record of any activity in the area.

He added: "We don't believe in UFOs. Many years ago we looked into a lot of the reports, all of which we were able to find a rational explanation for."

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH, Renfrewshire, Scotland - March 13, 2003

## Appeal after UFO claims

INVESTIGATIONS have started into a bizarre UFO sighting over the Clyde.

A rod-shaped object with lights on the side was seen on the Argyll coast at Ardentinn.

UFO researchers say there is a chance that people on the Inverclyde coast may have seen the mystery object.

Jim Robertson, a researcher with Glasgow UFO Research Organisation (GUFORO) told the Telegraph: "A rod-shaped UFO with a row of white/yellow lights moving to the side was seen hovering above Ardentinn at 9.20pm on 21 January for around two minutes before disappearing."

"There were three witnesses who reported it via our on-line report form."

"Hopefully some more people witnessed this - possibly from the Inverclyde shoreline - and I would urge them to come forward."

GUFORO's 24-hour hotline is 07763-323 743.



News photo by Nicole Fitzgerald

**FLIGHTY HUMOUR:** Gordon Stewart laughed when returning home to find a cardboard cutout of a UFO posted on his driveway by his neighbours, following the publication of his unexplainable phenomenon sighting. "At least the neighbours are joking about it," he smiled, joking, "We need something to put Smithers on the map."

## UFOs: to be or not to believe

By Nicole Fitzgerald  
The Interior News

After an article on UFO sightings in Telkwa and Houston was published in last week's edition of *The Interior News*, reports on UFO sightings are flying in and the credibility of the sightings are gaining momentum.

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

A flurry of phone calls, on-site interviews and investigative research has left Vike with little sleep.

Since the papers hit the stands, five witnesses came forward, claiming they saw the white ball of light Telkwa resident Gordon Stewart glimpsed on the

evening of July 29.

After reading the paper, Quick teacher Dina Hanson called Stewart to share the details of her sighting, which she recorded in her journal the day after her experience. Her son civic engineer Ryan Hanson also saw the object, which partially matched Stewart's description.

The Hansons' sighting also took place July 29, five minutes earlier than Stewart's sighting, travelling in a south westerly direction from Quick towards Telkwa.

Both observations commented on the awe striking brightness and size of the light; the white and yellow hues and soundless travel at a speed, which exceeded the propulsion of a man-made object.

Some of the differences between the two incidents was that Dina's light shape was an elongated circle opposed to Stewart's round one. Dina also noted a slight downward trajectory to her object, unlike Stewart's parallel flight pattern.

However, Ryan introduced that because the object was moving away from his mother and himself, the object may have just appeared to be dropping because of their perspective.

Dina originally attributed her experience to a meteorite sighting, but after a phone call to a professor at the University of Northern B.C. revealed that meteorites produce sound, Dina is uncertain.

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

A Smithers family of late night hot tubbers comprised of both adults and children also contacted Stewart, sharing a similar story, adding that the light engaged in a series of loops.

Smithers resident Dan Derbyshire was also added to the list in an unrelated sighting. However, he wanted to support those stumbling upon these unexplainable phenomena.

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

Like many other UFO reports, the edges of reality expand with the number of incidents reported as viewers digest science fiction's fanciful imagination with tangible physical experiences.

"It was not what I classify

as a flying saucer," Derbyshire noted of the craft, which reminded him of a metallic 40-gallon barrel, heading towards Houston at an estimated 300 kilometres per hour.

He stated he is a UFO believer, but dismissed his incident as an American flight exercise in one breath while pondering over why he heard no sound in another.

His experience neither fits H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* where aliens employ mass destruction in tea cup-and-saucer-shaped crafts nor did it fit with the characteristics of a man-made aircraft.

Reality and rationale collided as he attempted to interpret what he saw.

Unlike a plane, there were no wings on the ribbed object and its flight was soundless, Derbyshire noted.

Unlike many UFO sightings, the object did not emanate a white glowing light nor assume the regular saucer form, he added.

Vike surmises Derbyshire's suspicions are

correct after a series of phone calls attributed the sighting to a military reconnaissance drone.

Although if this assessment is correct, many more questions arise about what is going on for Vike. "A secret military exercise?" Vike questioned. "Who knows?"

Vike's suspicions are rising as reports of military trucks are detected around Houston and the Telkwa Highway.

Vike and his wife also saw and heard the hum of large turbo propellers of military aircraft flying over Houston Aug. 8.

"Something is going on," Vike alleged.

Despite the couple both seeing and hearing the two military crafts, the Smithers air tower told Vike there was no air activity in the Houston vicinity.

Stewart is heartened by the additional reports coming in.

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

# UFO chased NE couple on A90

## Terrifying close encounter claim

by Marc Horne

A NORTH-EAST couple have had a close encounter of the terrifying kind.

The Portlethen residents say they were chased along the A90 by a hovering red light.

The couple said the mystery object blasted their car with a dazzling light.

"My husband's car was playing up so we took it for a run to warm up the engine," said the woman who did not want to be named.

"We drove down to Muchalls and saw a red light in the sky behind a tree."

They thought it was part of a static TV mast until it started hovering eerily.

The woman added: "We were intrigued as to what it was, so my husband flashed the car lights at it. "It then shot up into the sky and I started to get frightened."

The pair then drove along the A90 - with the object in pursuit.

They were able to get a closer view of the object from the top of the Newtonhill flyover.

"It was like a big red light - but it didn't seem to have any edges," she said. "It didn't make a noise and was definitely not a helicopter or anything like that."

The drama continued as the couple approached Portlethen.

"It came towards the car and suddenly blasted this massive bright white light towards us," she said.

"We were both terrified - but the light didn't seem to have any effect on us."

They said the object then "shot off" vertically into the sky before disappearing from sight.

"My husband didn't believe in UFOs before - but

he certainly does now," said the woman.

"The dual carriageway was really busy - so I can't believe we were the only ones to have seen it."

The sighting was made in the heart of North-east's UFO capital.

The sleepy village of Muchalls has become one of the country's flying saucer hotspots - with dozens of sightings of mysterious lights and objects recorded over the years.

Meanwhile an Aberdeen pensioner reported seeing a glowing object hovering over a city beauty spot.

The woman saw the object in the sky over the Gramps from her home in Balnagask Road at around 6.30am.

"I may be a pensioner but there is nothing wrong with my eyes - and that was no plane or helicopter."

● Have you seen a UFO? Let us know by ringing (01224) 690222 ext 3500.

MEDWAY MESSENGER, Kent, England - Jan. 3, 2003

CLOSE ENCOUNTER:  
Alisha Bullock points to where she saw a UFO at Gillingham's Great Lines in 2001



# Have you seen any alien life?

by Janine Nolan  
KM News Journalist of the Year

UFO database is a real X-file

SIGHTINGS of spaceships and little green men in Medway are being recorded on a new UFO database.

UFOTREK, Britain's newest UFO information news line, provides the latest news in the world of ufology.

It is updated every week and gives details of the latest sightings and events.

The database has been up and running for a couple of weeks but residents in Medway are being urged to record any unusual activity and sightings of unidentified flying, standing or sitting objects.

Particularly around this time of year, sightings are not uncommon which is why people are being asked to keep their eyes peeled.

Last year, Chatham residents were whipped into hysteria after an alleged sighting of a UFO on the Great Lines.

Bright, circular, blue and orange lights were spotted and an eyewitness said they were "really pretty".

Strange circular patches of burnt grass were discovered and Medway firefighters were unable to explain the weird phenomenon.

The sightings were attributed to secret army training experiments or a possible galactic visit from flying saucers by the residents who saw them.

Previous to the incident, there had been reports in Gillingham of round, bronze objects slowly sailing across the horizon, although not since 1998.

Crop circle enthusiasts said the visitation was due to the strong magnetic ley lines that run between Canterbury and Rochester along Pilgrim's Way.

You can report any weird and wonderful sightings on the 24-hour UFOTREK hotline. Telephone 0870 046 2270.

Alternatively, e-mail astratech@supanet.com, or visit www.hometstead.com/kentufowatch/ufomek.html.

jnolan@thekmgroup.co.uk



# Let There Be Lights: Britons Get One Less Thing to Worry About

**W**HEN the British government announced it would declassify its files on the nation's most famous U.F.O. sighting last week, it promised to be big news for conspiracy buffs and cognoscenti of extraterrestrial visitations.

The so-called Rendlesham File concerns a December 1980 incident in Rendlesham Forest in southeastern England, where United States Air Force officers witnessed several unidentified flying objects buzzing around. U.F.O. enthusiasts have long maintained that in addition to eyewitness testimony, there were photographs and tapes that were confiscated, and that the British authorities engaged in a cover-up to rival the American government's alleged hush-up of an alien spaceship crash in Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

Certainly, there's plenty of interest in flying saucers these days, judging from the ratings for Steven Spielberg's 20-hour miniseries on alien abductions, "Taken," currently running on the Sci-Fi channel. And a recent Roper poll sponsored by the Sci-Fi channel found that 72 percent of Americans believe the government is not telling the public everything it knows about U.F.O. activity.

Yet the 178-page Rendlesham File, which was slipped onto the Ministry of Defense's Web site ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)), turns out to be a less-than-sizzling record of the government's patient campaign to calm anxious, curious or suspicious letter writers while dispelling rumors of encounters with alien beings.

Still, something strange was afoot in Rendlesham, and even if the file is unlikely to satisfy either ufologists or debunkers, it suggests that the truth is still out there. Excerpts follow.

SCOTT VEALE

The heart of the file is a letter from Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, an American officer stationed at a jointly run air base near the forest. It was addressed to the Royal Air Force on Jan. 13, 1981, and titled "Unexplained Lights":

Early in the morning of 27 Dec. 80 (approximately 0300), two U.S.A.F. security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at R.A.F. Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high.

It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and... blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

The next day, three depressions 1½ inches deep and 7 inches in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec. 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions...

Later in the night a red sunlike light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three starlike objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the

south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights.

The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities....

The letter was forwarded to the British Ministry of Defense. A month later officials insisted they did not "know of any serious explanation for the phenomena." One acknowledged, however, that "the value of 0.1 milliroentgens... seems significantly higher than the average background of about 0.015." The Halt letter eventually found its way into circulation, generating dozens of



Hello, guv'nor! Take me to your M.P. The British government is no longer concealing its close encounters with space aliens.

books, newspaper articles and television programs. At one point, the ministry prepared an "unclassified note" with talking points for handling public inquiries:

We are aware that on 27 and 29 December 1980, a number of personnel from R.A.F. Woodbridge saw strange lights in the vicinity of the base, in Rendlesham Forest....

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

We are aware that there are a number of theories circulating about these U.F.O. sightings. One theory was that what was seen was the beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse, with distortions being caused by the beam having been seen from through the trees. There were also suggestions that fireball activity might explain some of the lights.

In the absence of any hard evidence, the M.O.D. remains open-minded about these sightings.

Much of the file consists of correspondence. The standard ministry response to outside requests for information (usually accompanied by a copy of the Halt letter) is politely skeptical:

Thank you for your letter of... There is no organization in the Ministry of Defense appointed solely for the purpose of studying U.F.O.'s....

Since our interest in U.F.O.'s is limited to possible defense implications we have not carried

out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena.... The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defense interests.

We have to recognize that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things. There is certainly no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on the planet....

The ministry seems to have dutifully replied to every inquiry. One letter sent to the Woodbridge air force base reached the ministry with a note from the R.A.F. commander: "I forward it for any action you consider necessary. They didn't teach me about the Sub-Dwarfs Solar System when I studied Astro Navigation at Navigation School!"

I hope you will forgive a letter from a complete stranger but I wish to express to you a very serious matter.

Around your base and several more in Suffolk and Norfolk you have seven different peoples from outer space planets watching every move that is made by your forces. These seven peoples from these planets are very kind and from advanced cultures and... would like to meet you all from each Airforce base to speak to you about many dangers that face our whole planet.

I know three of these creatures, or peoples, very well. Two of them come from the main Sequence — Sub-Dwarfs Solar System, a neighboring solar system in the vicinity of our own Sun. One of these peoples are named the Krxyzcs from the second planet out from the star Kruger 60B and the next is the Cock-Et-Tarros [from] the third planet out from the star Barnards and one is from our own Solar System Pluto. The Plutonians I know well.

Now within the next three months perhaps possibly before that they will give you a kind of demonstration to prove to you all that they are serious with regard to meeting some of your high-ranking officers. The way they will prove to us is by speaking through your sophisticated radio systems and at times abducting high-ranking men from your bases....

Sir, I beg of you not to make fun of this letter as it is the truth as heaven is my judge and this matter I can help you with.

Someone at the ministry must have had a sense of humor, for among the numerous press clippings collected in the Rendlesham file is a British newspaper article from 1983:

The mission was to seek a close encounter, preferably of the third kind, but any kind would do. The place was a vast clearing deep in the 10,000 acres of Alderwood Forest, Suffolk, where, according to yesterday's News of the World, an alien spacecraft landed at Christmas 1980....

The first being encountered yesterday was clad in corduroy trousers and black Wellingtons. He came, he said, not from outer space, but the Forestry Commission. His name was not the Mekon, but Vincent Thurkettle.

The second being closely resembled a collie dog, and was too busy chasing sticks to levitate.... A third being, who said he was David Boast, and a gamekeeper, was quoted in the News of the World as saying how cattle panicked near his house on the night in question.

"There are no cattle anywhere near here," he told me. "This is a forest."

# IS ILKESTON ON WORLD TOUR?

ARE aliens eyeing Ilkeston as part of a world tour?

The startling theory comes from researcher Omar Fowler after a string of sightings of huge flying triangles in recent weeks.

Flying triangles first caused a major alert in the Hudson Valley in the United States in the 1980s.

About a decade later, they were seen over Belgium and were chased across the skies.

Phenomena Research Association group leader Mr Fowler said: "The Belgian Air Force had F-16 fighter planes and got these objects on the radar screen."

"But they moved off at a tremendous speed and there was no

chance of catching them.

"This is a well-documented case. It is felt these giant triangles are extra terrestrial."

Around 1994, the association investigated 52 sightings in the Derby area and also around Ashbourne.

And there is the puzzling case of

soldiers on night exercises on Salisbury Plain who saw a "big black triangle."

A large light shot from the object and the soldiers were briefly paralysed.

When they came round, they could not account for half-an-hour and were a mile away from the spot where they had the close encounter.

The triangles seem to be attracted by military bases and nuclear installations - prompting the question about what they hope to find in the Erewash Valley.

Mr Fowler added: "Why they chose Ilkeston is a bit of a mystery, perhaps it is mine shafts or minerals."

"But there is certainly a flap over Ilkeston at the moment."

He has put association members on full alert and is awaiting detailed reports from witnesses.

# UFOs fly over city?

Several people swear they saw an unidentified flying object cruise over Burnaby

By John Knox  
BURNABY NOW REPORTER

Is there something strange happening in the skies above Burnaby?

This week the NOW has received two reports of a strange, cylinder-shaped object seen flying in the vicinity of the Lougheed SkyTrain station on the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 27.

Whether or not little green men are responsible for the surprise daylight visitation is unclear, but witness Gary Watson swears the alleged craft was "absolutely beautiful to look at."

"I was stunned when I saw it, but it was gorgeous. Just absolutely amazing," said Watson, 64, as he recalled watching the massive silver vessel pass his position on Salish Court.

Watson said two other witnesses - a young man and a woman - were the first to notice the strange ship.

"The girl just looked up suddenly for no reason, and when I saw the look on her face I knew something was going on," Watson said.

"There's been no sound, no noise, no reason to do that - real strange. So I looked up and there it was."

What he claims to have seen was a 1,000-foot-long cylinder with rounded points at each end.

There were no lights, wings or other visible markings on the object, Watson said, although portions of the unidentified craft's sides seemed to have a slightly different metallic hue from the rest.

"I was just standing there and, sure enough, this giant ship comes flying right overhead from east to west over the mall and disappeared over behind some buildings," he said.

"No noise, no sound, no engines ... I swear this was not a plane of any kind."

Watson, who is retired after years of service with the air force and the naval reserves, estimates that the ship was cruising at approximately 500 miles per hour (834 km/h) at an altitude of 20,000 feet.

"I was in the military and I've been trained to know how to estimate these sorts of things," Watson said. "As strange as it is, I'm telling you this was the real thing. Definitely not an airplane."

But the Burnaby senior is not the only one to report the strange object.

The NOW was also contacted by Richmond resident Sean Li, 22, who was filling up at a gas station at Lougheed Highway and North Road when he caught a glimpse of something similar to what Watson has described.

As with Watson's account, it was around 5 p.m. on Feb. 27 when when Li and two friends stopped for gas and spotted something they never thought possible.

"We'd been at a restaurant having a good time and this totally changed our day," Li said.

"I was pumping the gas, and my friends got out to stretch their legs. Then all three of us kind of looked up at the same time and there was this huge thing that just floated right across North Road and flew over the Burnaby side."

Exactly why all three of them looked to the sky at that particular moment is a bit of a mystery to Li, as neither of his friends claim to have heard anything.

"It was like animal instinct, you know? Your head just says 'do it' and you do it," he said.

Li described the object as "a giant silver bullet that was a lot fatter than an airplane."

Like Watson, Li said the ship moved from east to west before disappearing from sight.

He estimates the ship was in full view for about 15 seconds.

"My one friend is a pretty harsh skeptic, but after that she doesn't know what to think," Li said. "It freaked us right out."

**"I was pumping the gas, and my friends got out to stretch their legs. Then all three of us kind of looked up at the same time and there was this huge thing that just floated right across North Road and flew over the Burnaby side."**

Sean Li  
UFO OBSERVER

Burnaby RCMP Const. Phil Reid said police weren't made aware of the incident, and Watson said his calls to the airport and Transport Canada have proved fruitless.

"It doesn't look like they picked up anything strange on radar at all," he said.

This marks the latest in a long string of unusual sightings in Burnaby, many of which have been documented by UFO B.C., a Vancouver-based group that has been maintaining a database of alleged encounters with aliens and spacecraft since 1995.

To date, 58 separate incidents have been documented by the group in Burnaby since 1995, with a good portion of them coming from the Lougheed and Capitol Hill regions.

Strangely enough, a handful of them describe objects similar to what Watson and Li claim to have seen.

Several other Burnaby cases include descriptions of "locomotive"-like noises accompanying the appearance and disappearance of strange objects above the skyline.

But the most recent account prior to last week's sighting took place on Jan. 18 around 9:30 p.m.

In that case, three family members were out for a walk on Pauls Crescent in the Montecito neighbourhood when a bright green "comet-like object" flashed across the southeastern sky with a red tail trailing behind it.

The object is said to have travelled over Cariboo Hill towards Edmonds before disappearing from sight without a sound.

As for Watson, he says he's hoping for an opportunity to run into the supposed space travellers again in the near future.

"I think it's fascinating," he said. "I would have run up there, knocked on the door and said 'Let me in' if I could. It's not something I'd be scared of."

For more information, visit [www.ufobc.ca](http://www.ufobc.ca)  
[jknox@burnabynow.com](mailto:jknox@burnabynow.com)

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England - March 22, 2003

## curiosity corner

by Richard Holland

SOME years ago we witnessed here what we have never seen before - certain lights, eight in total, moving in horizontal, perpendicular and zig-zag directions. Sometimes they were of a light blue colour, then like the bright light of a carriage lamp, then almost like an electric light...

This description of unidentified flying objects comes from Gwynedd, and dates from 1875! UFOs are not a recent phenomenon, strange lights in the sky have been seen for centuries.

The author was a Mr Picton-Jones of Yoke House, just inland from Cardigan Bay near Pwllheli. He and his family saw the lights regularly. He was mystified as to their origin, presuming them to be some form of

**UFOs are not a recent thing, strange lights in the sky have been seen for centuries**

"willo-the-wisp". Perhaps it is just as well his family lived a century before alien abductions had been heard of, or they would have been terrified.

The most dramatic encounter took place in late February, 1875. Here is an edited version of Mr Picton-Jones' account from a contemporary newspaper:

"We saw 12 at the same time, two were very bright, the one of a red, the other of a blue colour."

"It was a very dark and foggy night and my brother, my son Percy, my keeper and I went out about a mile to see if we could get near them. When we had gone about half a mile, we observed four or five behind us."

"One light that had appeared before we started seemed to go in, and out, round the corner, on to the cart horse stable, round its gable end, then on to the barn..."

I wonder whether these "willo-the-wisps" are still being seen?

MEDWAY STANDARD, Chatham, England - Feb. 11, 2003

# TWO UFOs ARE SPOTTED IN SPACE OF ONE NIGHT

Investigators launch probe after claims

by Sarah Lear

A PULSATING spacecraft up to 400 metres across was one of two UFOs spotted in skies above Rainham in a single night, according to investigators.

The mysterious object was seen by a couple just a short while after their two children claimed to have witnessed a triangular craft casting a huge shadow above Camellia Avenue. It moved silently in what they described as a "majestic gliding motion" towards Gillingham.

Bizarrely, the second object, this time round in shape, appeared to pulsate as it moved across the night sky over nearby Lyndhurst Avenue. Beams of light were seen with each pulse, with the UFO getting bigger every time.

## SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED

It expanded to four times its original size as the pair watched before it suddenly disappeared.

The family, who have not been named, reported their experiences to researchers at UFO Monitors East Kent (UFOMEK), who are now trying to find rational explanations. UFOMEK, a Folkestone-based organization

which records sightings, has circulated the information in a bid to trace more witnesses to the incident, which happened on 17 December between 10.30pm and 11pm.

Researcher Chris Rolfe said it was the first time he had come across reports of an expanding spaceship, but further investigations were needed.

He said: "The description of it pulsating is highly unusual, but there have been quite a few of the earlier sightings in that area. We will look into it some more, interview witnesses and look into every aspect of it."

"If it cannot be explained by any other means, it will be recorded as a UFO sighting and be available for other researchers to use. It could take weeks or months to finalize."

Air traffic controllers at Rochester Airport said they had not received any queries about low-flying aircraft in the area at the time, but that the control tower would have been closed at that time of night.

Controller Bernie Scullin said: "We probably would have been contacted about any unusual activity, however this is the first I have heard about it."

"As I recall, the weather was not great that night, but if it was a full moon, it is possible the shadow seen was an aircraft passing in front of it. As for anything else, I could not say what it was."

SKELMERSDALE ADVERTISER,  
Liverpool, England - Feb. 27, 2003

# Have the aliens landed?

UFO sightings over Ashurst Beacon

COULD aliens be eyeing up one of Skelmersdale's most famous landmarks?

The Advertiser has received reports of a mysterious object being spotted over Ashurst Beacon at around midnight on Friday.

A similar object - possibly the same which was seen in Skelmersdale - was also spotted in Southport at the same time.

Eyewitnesses now believe what they saw was a UFO. It was triangular and glowed red and green.

They say it was the size of a double decker bus and hovered above the area for around 15 minutes.

Claims of UFO sightings in West Lancashire are not uncommon. In January 2001, a mother and son said they saw an object, which

By DAVID SUDWORTH

had a red glow, move south down the A59 towards Halsall and Scarisbrick.

Stuart Hurd, a former UFO newsletter editor, confirmed sightings in this area have risen in the last few years. However, he believes this may have more to do with military activities at the region's bases rather than alien invaders.

He added: "In my experience there is an explanation for most sightings, so that is why you become a bit sceptical after a time."

"There has been an explosion of UFO sightings in the north in recent years. What you have to bear in mind is that the North West is a popular area for testing military aircraft."



# 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.]

February 26, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — SALTA RESIDENTS RECALL "THING THAT FELL FROM THE SKY" — "Communities southeast of Salta witnessed the surprising event in August 1995" — The time was 1:45 pm on August 17, 1995. An unidentified flying object fell mysteriously from the sky against Cerro Colorado, a hard-to-reach area near the community of El Galpon. The vehicle, cylindrical in shape, according to local residents, exploded in such a way that it caused the earth to shake.

"The object zigzagged and produced a strong tremor when it fell," say the main witnesses of the event, Paz Zamana, and her husband, Juan Cisneros, who own a house on the slopes of the hill where the object crashed. The elderly spouses remarked that "the thing passed this way several times. One night we saw it as an orange light and on another day, it came back lovelier and shinier. It remained suspended in the air and then it exploded and fell behind the hill".

The event, witnessed by thousands in a 300 km circumference, caused the earth to shake and frightened the locals. "I was home when I heard a tremendous explosion. When I went out I got to see the smoke. The people of [the town of] Joaquin V. Gonzalez left their homes when they felt the explosion that caused the earth to shake, and they headed by car and on foot toward the Juramento River, drawn by the phenomenon," said Antonio Galvano, an experienced pilot and one of the main researchers in the sighting. "I immediately took to my small plane and flew over the area for several days until I found a large strip, measuring some 300 meters wide and many more in length, which was at the summit of Cerro Colorado at an elevation of some 900 meters. From what I saw, the expansion wave razed all the vegetation in the area, incinerating trees and pastures."

According to Galvano, who believes to this day that a UFO crashed there, "the spacecraft fell on account of a malfunction and prior to hitting the ground unleashed the conflagration that left the strip. Then it crashed and caused it all to shake. The phenomenon was seen at El Galpon, Tunal, Joaquin V. Gonzalez and Metan."

Another startling bit of information is that Galvano, as he covered the area in his ultralight, suffered a short circuit and the aircraft plummeted inexplicably, since it was in tip-top condition. The site was eventually reached by a rescue team composed by some 20 people. "Their task was authorized by the police, but they found nothing because the object had fallen into a canyon which could only be reached by helicopter."

It then happened that within a few days and over two months, strange English-speaking individuals worked in the area and combed it using helicopters and pickup trucks, said Galvano. — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

February 28, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — STRANGE HAIRY BIPED TERRORIZES FAMILY IN SALTA — "Rosario de la Frontera--New Surprising Eyewitness Testimony" — "It was 10 meters away from people and was contained by 30 dogs at the communal garbage dump" — Patricio Saldano, custodian of the municipal garbage dump, and his family, had quite a fright on February 26: at 22:00 hours, alerted by the barking of his 30 hounds, who ran furiously from one side to the other in the vicinity of a pig pen. Lighting a flashlight, he went out to investigate.

"I couldn't believe it. Less than 10 meters away was that strange hairy animal that people have reported, standing on two legs. It was like an enormous monkey. It made no noise—it just looked at me fixedly with his red eyes and every so often moved his powerful arms to frighten my dogs, who were harrassing it but not attacking."

"The beast, belonging to a species that I had never seen in books, had nails as long as daggers, which shined in the light." Patricio is 62 years old and has been in charge of the municipal dump for 15 years. He lives there with his wife, three male children, an eight year old daughter and a four year old granddaughter. When the encounter occurred, he was in the company of his wife and the girls.

"I didn't believe the story everyone's talking about," he stated, referring to eyewitness claims about having been attacked in Arroyo Salado, 6 km east of the town center.

"But some days ago, a man came around these parts to ask me if I had seen a colt that he'd lost. Later I found out that it was discovered hereabouts, dead and devoured. That's why when the dogs barked, I thought about the pigs. And it dawned on me that it could be an old puma. But there it was: quiet and looking at me intently. Suddenly, it turned on a heel and began to walk away."

"It was an animal, but it walked like a man." Saldano said that his wife and the two girls were also able to see the creature from a distance. "I've told them not to go out at night or wander away from the house." — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

February 28, 2003 — *Imprimatur.com* [City & Country Unknown] — UFO IN VINA DEL MAR (CHILE) — Chilean UFO researcher Rodrigo Cuadra reports that a UFO was seen today at 06:20 a.m., Friday, February 28, 2003, over Vina del Mar in Chile's 5th Region. The witness is Mr. Ricardo Barraza, a resident of the Vina del Mar commune, who claims that as he headed off to work, he looked to the southern sky, where he noticed a pulsating luminous object that began to move quickly toward the South. He noticed that the light was being followed by an enormous dark mass that was easily concealed by the darkness of the sky at that early hour. Unfortunately there is no visual record of the sighting. — CREDIT: Rodrigo Cuadra Salazar, *Revista TOC (Tecnologica, OVNI y Ciencia)*

March 7, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — "In Rosario de la Frontera, Police orders "Phase Two" of Search" — AUTHORITIES ISSUE ORDERS TO "FIND AND CAPTURE STRANGE ANIMAL" — "14 elements, four of them on horseback, comb vast forested area east of the city" — by Juan Antonio Abarzda - *El Tribuno* — Judge Mario Dilascio of the Southern Judicial District ordered a docket to be opened in regard to claims regarding the existence of a strange bipedal, humanoid-looking animal who has been prowling the forested areas to the east of the city of Rosario de la Frontera and which has allegedly been seen by numerous eyewitnesses. There are even those who claim having been attacked by this beast.

"We have collected reports, interviewed all of the persons who claim having been witnesses to the unusual apparition and since last Thursday have kept a special watch and vigilance over areas where this being's presence has

been reported, described as a hairy hominid of great size and ferocity," said Roque Farias, Chief of the 3rd Regional Unit of the Provincial Police, located in Metan, whose jurisdiction also covers Rosario and its environs.

"Now," added the official, "the magistrate in charge of the case has issued new orders: move on to "Phase Two" of the operation, which consists of a detailed search of the area to ascertain the existence of this animal. And if the first possibility is confirmed, our mandate is to find it and capture it alive," stresses Farias.

"Fourteen elements are participating in this action, four of them on horseback, covering the Rosario River area to the North. Another six have deployed toward the vicinity of the Ciudad Termal municipal dump, where an entire family claims to have seen it less than 10 meters away. A third patrol, consisting of four agents, is combing the vicinity of Arroyo Salaod, where approximately 15 days ago, a couple was assaulted by the beast, as evidenced by a report made by one of the parties, surnamed Juarez," notes Farias.

Phase Two also involves members of the UR-3 Criminalistics section, who are looking for prints and physical traces of the being's presence, such as hair or other remains. All accounts concerning the mysterious biped are the same: large, hulking, some 2 meters tall, enormous ears, eyes with a reddish glow and powerful arms ending in thick, curved claws, as sharp as knives. — CREDIT: Christian Hernan Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

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March 7, 2003 — *IFOR (Investigadores del Fenomeno Ovni de Rufino)*, Argentina — **UFO OVER RUFINO, ARGENTINA** — On March 6, 2003 at 15:35 hours local time, several individuals who were at the motorcycle racetrack of the Ben Hur Sports Club, located in southeastern Rufino, Santa Fe Province, noticed a strange white light moving over the city from the South and heading northward. Witnesses indicated that said light was lower than the flight altitude at which aircraft normally fly over the city. It was much brighter than a star and traveled horizontally with regard to the ground, and at high speed. At a given moment during its trajectory, it vanished; it made no sound whatsoever and the possibility that it could have been an artificial satellite was dismissed given its low altitude and high velocity. — CREDIT: Norberto Mollo and Juan Jose Mecchi (IFOR)

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March 22, 2003 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — **ALLEGED UFOs REPORTED OVER PROVIDENCIA** — \*\*\*The phenomenon remained in the skies of the corner of 11 de Septiembre and Marchant Pereira streets for several minutes and vanished as suddenly as it appeared\*\*\* — SANTIAGO, March 21. — Several unidentified flying objects were reported at noon by dozens of persons in the commune of Providencia, Santiago. A group of lights hovered directly over the city, above the intersection of 11 de Septiembre and Marchant Pereira. Various witnesses to the phenomenon made it known to [*Terra.cl*'s UFO channel]. According to them, the sighting involved a large circular object of intense brilliance which was accompanied by other, lesser objects. Some witnesses claim having seen up to seven such objects around it. UFO researchers received many phone calls shortly after the event was recorded. Up to now, the authorities of the General Office of Civil Aeronautics have not produced any explanations for this event. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *PlanetaUFO*

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April 3, 2003 — *Terra.cl*, Chile and *Mundomisterioso.com* — **INTERVIEW WITH EYEWITNESS TO CHILEAN UFO SIGHTING** — Fernando Martinez is a student of graphic design. On March 21, he happened to be at the corner of Pedro de Valdivia and Providencia (Chile). It was noon and a knot of people looked skyward with curiosity. A series of unknown luminous objects could be seen with the unaided eye over the area: it was among the most massive UFO sightings of recent times:

**So what happened that day?** Well, I was walking along Providencia. I'd gone shopping, and I suddenly realized that many people were looking at the sky and pointing with their fingers. I looked and was able to see a light without any defined shape. But later, looking at it more closely, I was able to see over 50 smaller lights all around. They didn't move much. At least not noticeably.

**What did you think at the time?** Well, I thought it was some kind of peace demonstration. But I had already seen those balloons that get filled with helium and these had no relation to them whatsoever. All the people were saying: "Look, they're UFOs!"

**Didn't you think that they could be something else?** I also said they could have been airplanes, but it seemed strange to me at that altitude. Later, seeing their movement, I realized they weren't airplanes.

**You didn't hear any noise?** Well, with the noise on Providencia, even if they had made noise, we wouldn't have heard anything.

**How did people react?** They were calm. Of course, there are always those who showed off, saying they were Iraqi aircraft or Martians. But, in general, all of the spectators were very interested in the phenomenon.

**Were you aware that the sighting coincided with the Allied attack on Iraq?** I found out later when I saw the news. I still find [the whole thing] curious, nonetheless.

**Do you think there could be any relationship?** In the article, I saw they were discussing that UFOs always appear whenever there is a tragedy unfolding. It could be sheer happenstance. I don't know that there is any connection. Which is why I'm telling you it's curious.

**How long did the sighting last?** I watched for about half an hour, but the UFOs remained there. I had other things to do. But it would seem to have lasted somewhat longer than an hour.

**Do you think that there is an explanation for this event?** It's possible. One never knows. But, I think that no officials have said anything to date.

**What do you think about this phenomenon, now that days have gone by?** I can only say that I saw UFOs over Santiago [de Chile]. No one told me about it. I saw them and I know what they were like. That's really good [sic]. In any event, it isn't the first time that I've seen something strange. A few years ago, while vacationing in Pucon, we saw something odd. A light that got in front of us and vanished in a matter of seconds.

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April 13, 2003 — *El Diario de la Pampa*, Argentina — **CONCERN GROWS AMONG RANCHERS: Mutilated Animals Found Near Cuchillo Co** — Concern spread among some Pampan cattlemen of the Lihuel Calel department, who expressed their fear at the discovery of several repeated animal mutilations in their rural area. — GENERAL ACHA (Agencia) -- Cattlemen from a broad section of the Lihuel Calel department are concerned by the return of cattle mutilations. In an interview with *El Diario*, a young rancher whose property is located on Provincial Route 13, 60 km west of Cuchillo Co, and who requested anonymity, remarked that two mutilated cows and a calf were found on his property last year, being similar to the ones which achieved prominence in this and other provinces in 2002. The cattleman noted that there also occurred a case involving the mutilation of a wild boar cub. Worried by the situation, he stated: "It seems that they've taken against me now because in 15 days they mutilated six calves, all of them black, plump, weighing



between 160 and 220 kg., which were in an open field. The last one was found last Thursday some 500 meters from the street and some 4 kilometers from the house, while I was away in General Acha. The same occurred on Friday with a sheep," he added.

When consulted about the condition in which the animals are found, and the type of mutilation presented, he explained that "some were male and others female, but similar incisions can be found in all of them — perfectly [even] and cured, as though cauterized. They were missing their tongues, jaws, ears, eyes and hide in a stretch from the front (sic) to the start of the chest. The females were missing their udders and the males, their testicles." He later noted that "I turned one of these over to remove its ribs, but one of them, which was under the body, was cracked and was 'mashed,' as though it had experienced a powerful blow."

"I removed two ribs for the dogs, which ate it, but since it was hanging from a hook in the shed, [it emanated] a strong odor of ammonia and sulfur which became unbearable." He explained that his remaining animals grazed far from the mutilated one. Upon discussing the hypotheses put forth by the local livestock producers, he stated that, "Some cattlemen do not believe that natural deaths are involved, nor mutilations by carrion animals and much less by the long-muzzled mouse. This is a subject that deserves far deeper study to put an end to it, as it affects us financially. Scientists from a foreign power could be involved, performing the mutilations for analysis. We base this on the fact that some 'lights' have been seen over the area during the night."

Finally, he recalled that, "A rancher from the area found that a cow belonging to another pasture had been deposited on his property. For this reason, we request whoever is responsible to look into these events and research them thoroughly." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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April 16, 2003 — *El Tribuno Digital*, Salta, Argentina — UNKNOWN ANIMAL CARCASS FOUND NEAR SALTA — R. De la Frontera: new accounts on the hominid — Police investigation gathers 14 accounts on the strange beast, which reappeared in the North — New testimony regarding the presence of a strange hairy biped, sporting long claws and of an unusual ferocity, were added to the long list of accounts that the police have gathered in this city, after the judge of the court of instruction, Mario Dilascio, mandated a formal investigation on the subject this month.

The first reference of the case was provided by a couple in a forested area, Arroyo Salado, 2 km to the west and which serves as a "Lover's Lane." They claim to have been attacked by a strange entity standing 2 meters tall, covered in hair, with razor-sharp claws and "bare buttocks."

This eyewitness claim was followed by others, although the most dramatic one was provided by Patricio Saldano, custodian of the municipal dump, and his children, Jesus, Jose and Neri, ages 16, 11 and 13 respectively, who swore to having seen it at a distance of 10 meters, making an analogous description, to which others were added.

But now there is more: a family surnamed Pereyra told authorities that when going to the municipal dump in their pickup truck, "a beast," described as a "large monkey", crossed their path, climbed over the vehicle's hood, and then lost itself in the thicket, leaving claw marks on the chassis.

Another: businessman Raul Torres and teacher Hugo Rodas, who teaches in San Antonio de los Cobres, told the chief of the volunteer fire brigade, Jose Exequiel Alvarez, that they found something unusual at El Duraznito. A large unknown animal lay by the roadside, apparently run over by a vehicle.

"They got out of their car to take a look, turned it around using a stick, and were astonished. They had never seen anything like it. It had amaz-ing claws, arms like a human, measured 1.50 meters, had a bearlike snout with enormous fangs and genitals identical to those of a male human."

Alvarez has led several expeditions to find the animal and claims having seen it through binoculars. "What I saw resembled a gorilla very closely, but," he asked himself, "what would an African anthropoid be doing here?" The volunteer fireman added that "we will be visiting El Duraznito to see if we find the remains [of the creature] reported by these people."

"Going by the description, it must be a cub of the specimen reported by others. Furthermore, a woman surnamed Galvan claimed having seen it in Los Banos, behind the mountains surrounding the thermal springs. I don't think we're dealing with a single specimen, but with a family of them." — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas

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April 22, 2003 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — UFO HEADS FOR PICKUP TRUCK — \*\* Roberto Caceres, 36, lived through a terrifying experience last February in Chile's 9th Region\*\* — SANTIAGO, April 17 -- Electrical engineer Roberto Caceres experienced a terrifying ordeal last summer as he drove his pickup truck from Temuco to Freire in Chile's 9th Region. For 15 minutes he was followed by a light that caused him to lose control of his vehicle momentarily. Caceres, 36, is married and once a year heads to the country's southern reaches to make contacts for his electrical appliances store. Last February, he was driving his LUV pickup from Temuco to the small town of Freire:

- **So what happened during the trip?** - I was driving along very calmly. Some 15 minutes from Temuco, I saw a strange white light on my right that was matching my speed. I thought it was the train, but it wasn't.

- **And what was it?** - That's what I'm still wondering. Worst of all is that, in a matter of seconds, that light crossed right in front of my pickup truck. The UFO headed for my truck. I swerved to avoid it several times. It nearly hit me.

- **What shape did the light have?** - It must have been the shape of a football. But I don't think it had a defined body — it was pure light.

- **Did it make any noise?** - No, at least not that I could hear. But it moved at incredible speeds.

- **Were you afraid?** - Of course, the thing was coming for me and I knew it wasn't anything known. Besides, it was very dark outside.

- **And no one else witnessed the light?** - I think several other cars behind me must have seen it. I didn't have any time to ask. The time was around 22:00 hours.

- **Were any prints left behind on the pickup truck?** - No. The first thing I did the next morning was check to see if it had any prints or marks, but there were none. At times, I thought that the light had touched the truck.

- **Were there any electrical aberrations or engine problems when the alleged UFO appeared?** - No, everything worked normally. The lights were on and the engine was running.

- **After that, did the trip continue without incident?** - It was normal in quotation marks, because I kept thinking about that UFO I'd seen. The rest of the trip was otherwise normal

- **Did you believe in UFOs prior to the experience?** - Yes. I always liked the subject. But from February until now I've become even more curious about the subject. I think we cannot be alone in this immense universe. — CREDIT: Christian Rizzo and Guillermo Gimenez

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April 23, 2003 — [Report received from Argentina's Proyecto CATENT, dated Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at 16:46

hrs. concerning a radio broadcast appearing on Radio 10, Buenos Aires] [...] The station conducted a phone interview with Ezequiel Alvarez, Chief of the Volunteer Fire Brigade of Rosario de la Frontera. He stated that he himself had seen the strange beast for over 8 minutes through his binoculars. He added that the creature appeared "hyperkinetic," emitting powerful screams. He added that the creature had killed three dogs, apparently using its claws. Amid a report in which journalist Jorge Jacobson and another mocked the fire chief, the latter added that the animal customarily walks on two legs although he has also seen it running on all fours. Reference was also made of the schoolteacher from San Antonio de los Cobres who, along with another person, had found a cub of this animal dead on the side of the road. According to the witnesses, the creature had genitalia similar to humans. They did not put it aboard their vehicle and just left the area as soon as they could. The fire chief said that the carcass is being looked for, but these efforts have thus far been fruitless. He added that judge Di Lascio is involved in the summary proceedings, having opened the investigation out of a fear that residents of Rosario de la Frontera may be in jeopardy, particularly their young ones, since the creature prowls the urban area near the garbage dump and appears at night. Elements of the police and fire departments are constantly on guard, but are surprised that the creature moves so quickly and through different parts of the city. He reiterated that the creature has the shape of a "hairy ape" standing 1.80 meters tall. He added that they have bite marks, hair and print samples of the creature, adding that an analysis of the prints was conducted without offering any further details. He added that an article had appeared today in *La Gazeta de Hoy* (newspaper).

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## TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma

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February 24, 2003 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — APPEARANCES OF A STRANGE ENTITY IN SALTA! — Rosario de la Frontera — "This is a dangerous animal," they claim — Expedition to locate an unknown animal — They say that this local version of the yeti attacks a couple and eats pigs in a nearby ranch — Juan Antonio Abarzda from *El Tribuno* — An expedition to locate a biped animal that is two meters tall, covered in hair, has big ears and eyes, a dog-like snout, powerful claws in its upper limbs, is aggressive, carnivorous and has a "hairless behind" is being organized by the group of researchers, "Juan Carlos Rivas," from this city, which has been alerted by the reports from people who claimed they came face to face with the beast. "This is no joke or ghost. There are overwhelming elements that allow us to state that in the forested areas of Rosario de la Frontera, there lives this strange specimen that many confuse with the mystical "ucumar"—a local version of the American bigfoot or the Tibetan yeti—although there are substantial differences," Jose Exequiel Alvarez—executive of the institution that has for years been dedicated to the tracking of archaeological and paleontological remains—told *El Tribuno*. "While the ucumar, which in some parts of South America is known as ucumarú, is a plantigrade, i.e. a bear of herbivorous customs and very timid, the specimen seen in this area is fierce, very aggressive and evidently carnivorous," said Alvarez who is also the commanding officer of the Volunteer Firefighters brigade.

A couple of years ago, rancher Rogelio Martinez—he told the investigator—whose property is located in the area of the Cerro Termal (Thermal Hill), seven kilometers to the East of the city, reported an unusual event: he was returning from the field on horseback accompanied by a guide and carrying a wild pig they had caught some hours before. All the time they heard noises coming from the woods as if something or somebody very heavy was hiding and moving parallel to them. When they got home, he hung the pig from the tendons in the gallery and entered. And when they were about to eat, they were alerted by the dogs that were barking wildly. Martinez and his employee went out to investigate and saw something they had never before seen: a giant biped approximately two meters tall that had no trouble taking care of the dogs with his big claws, after which he started running towards the witnesses of the bloody spectacle, who immediately took refuge inside the house and went for their weapons. When they came out the strange beast was running towards the hill with the pig in his hands. And in spite of this man having constantly reported his experience to the authorities, and since then having had frequent losses of livestock, especially pigs whose remains show up eaten, nobody has done anything," said Alvarez.

### A new case

The head of the "Juan Carlos Rivas" research group, an entity that has made remarkable archaeological and paleontological finds, said that "I have received numerous reports similar to that of Martinez. But a new case was reported now. It happened less than two weeks ago in Arroyo Salado, a place located some six kilometers from downtown and that is used as a "lovers lane" by many young local residents. A couple got there on a motorcycle—I won't reveal their names for now because the male, 25, is married—and they started to talk. It was late at night, after 10 pm, dark but with good visibility because the sky was clear and starry. The kids were suddenly alerted by the creaking of thick branches. Suddenly this real monster appeared from within the foliage. The young man, whom they call "Rafa," and his girlfriend gave me a very detailed report of what happened. And the description of what they saw is exactly the same as that of Rogelio Martinez. They said the animal ran away when they were desperately trying to flee and started the motorcycle which at the same time turned on its lights. Both of them are now very shocked by that experience," said Alvarez. — CREDIT: Proyecto CATENT, via Roberto E. Banchs and Richard Heiden





## ISU professor seeks to uncover truth about Sasquatch

Father of six also knows how to make a gourmet breakfast

By the Journal Staff

POCATELLO — It's not every town that boasts a bona fide Sasquatch expert, but Pocatello has one in Idaho State University anatomy professor Jeffrey Meldrum. Meldrum, who specializes in the anatomy of the locomotor system in primates, became interested in doing serious research on the legendary North American ape after seeing some 35 to 45 clear prints in the ground in 1996.

Those who are intrigued by the stories of Sasquatch can attend a free public seminar, "Sasquatch, North America's Great Ape," at 7 p.m. Sept. 27. The seminar, hosted by Meldrum, will feature Canadian wildlife biologist Dr. John Bindernagel, who will also be signing his book by the same title.

We digress — back to Meldrum. By reading the answers to the questions posed below, you might not learn that Meldrum is hot on the trail of Bigfoot.

Instead, you'll learn that the man who has devoted years of research to discovering the truth about the secretive hominid is the father of six sons, a loving husband — and chivalrous, too.

Interested in getting to know Meldrum better? Show up at his house for a gourmet breakfast — he makes a killer omelette. Or, better yet, read on:

**ISJ: What's your favorite food?**

**Meldrum:** My first inclination was to say my wife's sour cream enchiladas, but if I had a menu in front of me I

would gravitate toward seafood, especially fresh grilled salmon with capers (sorry, Honey).

**ISJ: If you could return to any age, what age would you be and why?**

**Meldrum:** If I could return knowing what I know now, I'd have to say my newlywed days so I could take another shot at being a better husband.

## 20 Questions

**ISJ: When (and if) you arrive at the gates of Heaven, what would you like to hear God say to you?**

**Meldrum:** "Not bad. Not bad at all." (like the final scene in Independence Day).

**ISJ: What's your favorite appliance?**

**Meldrum:** The computer, because it has provided such amazing opportunities for creativity and information sharing.

**ISJ: What's the heaviest piece of furniture in your house?**

**Meldrum:** The 2 by 6 frame bunkbeds I built for my boys, twice.

**ISJ: Who are your top three dream dinner partners?**

**Meldrum:** This is tough — me take a different tack on it. If aiming for stimulating conversation, then a historian, a philosopher, and a cosmologist. For entertainment: an impressionist, a

notions of medieval chivalry.

**ISJ: What chores do you do around the house?**

**Meldrum:** I am the master breakfast chef. This has become a tradition in our home. From western omelettes to thick-sliced French toast, my boys rarely start the day hungry. Organizing the garage and maintaining the vehicles. Painting the house interior — a bit of a challenge coordinating six

pairs of helping hands.

**ISJ: What was the first album you ever owned?**

**Meldrum:** This is a stretch but I would have to guess it was a Jim Croce, "Time in a Bottle." We don't even have a turntable anymore.

**ISJ: What's your idea of the perfect vacation?**

**Meldrum:** Exploring new places, camping, sharing ex-

periences with my family without any worries or distractions about the future.

**ISJ: Favorite entertainer?**

**Meldrum:** Sean Connery.

**ISJ: What's your greatest fear?**

**Meldrum:** Not fear but concern: the well-being of my family.

**ISJ: What can't you do that**



Jeff Meldrum, an associate professor of biology at Idaho State, looks over some Sasquatch foot casts.

channeler, and a magician.

**ISJ: If you won the lottery, how would you spend the money?**

**Meldrum:** First, reasonable financial security, then freedom to do some travel and exploration with my family, and to spend some time in humanitarian service at home and abroad.

**ISJ: What was the last good book you read?**

**Meldrum:** The novel my 18-year-old son wrote and published, *The Dreamer*.

**ISJ: What was the best day of your life?**

**Meldrum:** It would have to be the day our first son, Colin was born, followed by the birthdays of the next five sons.

**ISJ: What's in your refrigerator?**

*you wish you could?*

**Meldrum:** Remember people's names on the first introduction. Spend more time pursuing field research.

**ISJ: Where would you most like to live?**

**Meldrum:** Nothing compares to the West, but as long as I am close to family, I have found that every place we have lived offers interesting history, experiences and opportunities.

**ISJ: How would you like to die?**

**Meldrum:** With my wife, knowing that I had lived a full productive life with the assurance that my boys' lives were off to a great start.

**ISJ: What would you like to be reincarnated as?**

**Meldrum:** Hmmmm. A dolphin. What an opportunity to explore a different world!

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - April 10, 2003

## They're convinced Bigfoot is real

By Patricia Snyder  
of the Daily Courier

The public is invited to a Friday seminar to learn more about a local group's efforts to prove the existence of Bigfoot.

The Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society will share research from the past three years, and locals will present their accounts, including society President Matthew Johnson and Vice President Ray Rosa. The event is set for 7 p.m. at Basker Auditorium, 604 N.W. Sixth St.

Although the society holds regular meetings on the first Friday of the month at 6 p.m. at Black Forest restaurant, the seminar marks a push to increase public interest now that SOBS has nonprofit status, Johnson said.

"We need to raise funds for the proper equipment to be able to prove the existence of the species," he said.

The organization wants to prove Bigfoot's existence to protect the legendary creature and its habitat, and purchasing expensive electronic equipment enhanced by night vision and infrared will advance that goal, Johnson said.

"Right now, we're all working out of the wallets in our back pocket, and any expenditures have to go through the 'wives committee,'" he said with a chuckle.

It's the group's hope to gather audio and video recordings and prove the existence of a rare species. Simply leaving it alone isn't a good option, Johnson said, because human expansion into habitat could lead to the Bigfoot becoming extinct.

"The proof is going to be overwhelming."

**Matthew Johnson**  
Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society

"The proof is going to be overwhelming, which will force the state of Oregon and the federal government to enact legislation to protect it," he said.

Johnson was hiking near the Oregon Caves with his family in 2000 when he saw and smelled Bigfoot, he said, and decided to go public with the story because he wanted to encourage people to talk about their encounters. As a psychologist, he thought it was important to make it as normal to talk about seeing a sasquatch as seeing a bear, to lessen negative psychological effects.

He drew national attention that eventually became overwhelming, so he took about a year's break to concentrate on his practice. The organization continued to conduct field research in areas with a history of activity, setting bait piles and holding weekend expeditions.

It was on such a trip that Rosa said he spotted Bigfoot in front of him on a logging road under a full moon.

"It was walking toward us and, as soon as we hit it with the flashlight, it turned and ran off," he said. High-tech night equipment

would have captured an image, he added.

Group members say they have plaster casts of foot and hand prints from both adult and juvenile sasquatch and that they've heard growling and other sounds. They're hoping the public meeting will present the opportunity for people to join the society or share their encounters.

Following the November death of a man associated with Bigfoot, Ray Wallace, his family claimed he engineered a 1958 prank that captured national media attention, large bare footprints around a bulldozer. The admission prompted speculation that he stirred a national craze that created the myth of a large, hairy monster.

Johnson said that, while Wallace may well have been a prankster, it doesn't discount evidence such as native legends and reports across the nation, including his own experience at the Oregon Caves.

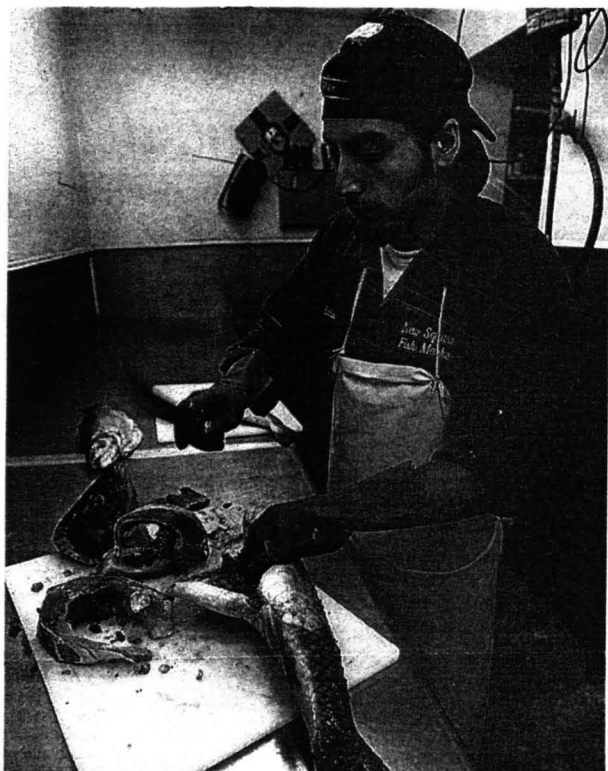
"He got those ideas because there was an established history," Johnson said.

Stories of such creatures have been around for hundreds of years, long before Wallace, Johnson said. Evidence the society has discovered in recent years wasn't a Wallace hoax, Johnson added.

"The species of Bigfoot is alive and well," he said.

For information about the Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society and its research, visit [www.sobsresearch.com](http://www.sobsresearch.com), write P.O. Box 1801, Grants Pass, OR 97528, or call 218-5600.

Reach reporter Patricia Snyder at 474-3817 or [psnyder@thedailycourier.com](mailto:psnyder@thedailycourier.com)



Luis Nivelio butchering a carp at the New Square Fish Market in New Square, N.Y., yesterday. There is no indication that it spoke to him.

## Miracle? Dream? Prank? Fish Talks, Town Buzzes

By COREY KILGANNON

NEW SQUARE, N.Y., March 13 — And so it came to pass that a talking carp, shouting in Hebrew, shattered the calm of the New Square Fish Market and created what many here are calling a miracle.

Of course, others are calling it a Purim trick, a loopy tale worthy of Isaac Bashevis Singer or just a whopping fish story concocted by a couple of meshugenehs.

Whatever one calls it, the tale of the talking fish has spread in recent weeks throughout this tight-knit community, populated by about 7,000 members of the Skver sect of Hasidim, and throughout the Hasidic world, inspiring heated debate, Talmudic discussions and derisive jokes.

The story goes that a 20-pound carp about to be slaughtered and made into gefilte fish for Sabbath dinner began speaking in Hebrew, shouting apocalyptic warnings and claiming to be the troubled soul of a revered community elder who recently died.

Many people here believe that it was God revealing himself that day to two fish cutters in the fish market, Zalmen Rosen, a 57-year-old Hasid with 11 children, and his co-worker Luis Nivelio, a 30-year-old Ecuadorian immigrant.

Some people say the story is as credible as the Bible's account of the burning bush. Others compare it to a U.F.O. sighting. But the story rapidly spread around the world from this town about 30 northwest of Manhattan, first through word of mouth, then through the Jewish press. The two men say they have each gotten hundreds of phone calls from Jews all over the world.

"Ah, enough already about the fish," Mr. Rosen said today at the shop, as he skinned a large carp. "I wish I never said anything about it. I'm getting so many calls every day, I've stopped answering. Israel, London, Miami, Brooklyn. They all want to hear about the talking fish."

Here then is the story, according to the two men, the only witnesses. Mr. Rosen, whose family owns the store, and Mr. Nivelio, who has worked at the shop for seven years, say that on Jan. 28 at 4 p.m. they were carving up carp. Mr. Nivelio, who is not Jewish, lifted a live carp out of a box of iced-down fish and was about to club it in the head.

But the fish began speaking in Hebrew, according to the two men. Mr. Nivelio does not understand Hebrew, but the shock of a

fish speaking any language, he said, forced him against the wall and down to the slimy wooden packing crates that cover the floor.

He looked around to see if the voice had come from the slop sink, the other room or the shop's cat. Then he ran into the front of the store screaming, "The fish is talking!" and pulled Mr. Rosen away from the phone.

"I screamed, 'It's the devil! The devil is here!'" he recalled. "But Zalmen said to me, 'You crazy, you a meshugeneh.'"

But Mr. Rosen said that when he approached the fish he heard it uttering warnings and commands in Hebrew.

"It said 'Tzaruch shemirah' and 'Hasof bah,'" he said, "which essentially means that everyone needs to account for themselves because the end is near."

The fish commanded Mr. Rosen to pray and to study the Torah and identified itself as the soul of a local Hasidic man who died last year, childless. The man often bought carp at the shop for the Sabbath meals of poorer village residents.

Mr. Rosen panicked and tried to kill the fish with a machete-size knife. But the fish bucked so wildly that Mr. Rosen wound up cutting his own thumb and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The fish flopped off the counter and back into the carp box and was butchered by Mr. Nivelio and sold.

The story has been told and retold, and many Jews believe that the talking fish was a rare shimmer of God's spirit. Some call it a warning about the dangers of the impending war in Iraq.

"Two men do not dream the same dream," said Abraham Spitz, a New Square resident who stopped by the store this week. "It is very rare that God reminds people he exists in this modern world. But when he does, you cannot ignore it."

Others consider it as fictional as Tony Soprano's talking-fish dream in an episode of the television series "The Sopranos."

"Listen to what I'm telling you: Only children take this seriously," said Rabbi C. Meyer of the New Square Beth Din of Kashrus, which administers kosher-food rules. "This is like a U.F.O. story. I don't care if it is the talk of the town."

Whether hoax or historic event, it jibes with the belief of some Hasidic sects that righteous people can be reincarnated as fish.

Unnatural occurrences play a part in the mystical beliefs of members of the Skver sect. On the other hand, some skeptics note that the Jewish

festival of Purim, which starts Monday night, is marked by merriment and pranks, which might be a less elevated explanation for the story.

Some community members are calling the two men an enlightened pair chosen to receive the message. Others have said that Mr. Nivelio may have been selected because he is not Jewish.

"If this was a story concocted by a bunch of Jewish guys, it might be suspect, but this Luis, or whatever his name is, he has no idea what this means," said Matisyahu Wolfberg, a local lawyer.

"If people say God talks to them, we recommend a psychiatrist, but this is different," said Mr. Wolfberg, sitting in his office with his black hat resting atop his computer terminal. "This is one of those historical times when God reveals himself for a reason. It has sent spiritual shock waves throughout the Jewish community

## The fish story that was told around the world.

worldwide and will be talked about throughout the ages."

Zev Brenner, who last week broadcast a show about the fish on "Talk Line," his talk radio show on Jewish issues, on WMCA-AM (570) and WSNR-AM (620), said that the story has fascinated the religious community worldwide.

"I've gotten calls from all over asking 'Did you hear about the fish?'" he said. "You can imagine, a talking fish has got people buzzing. This is going to be talked about for a long time to come, unless it's somehow verified as a hoax, which is hard to imagine, since the proof has been eaten up."

Mr. Brenner said that the story is so well known that it has inspired a whole new genre of wedding jokes for Jewish comedians.

"The station had an advertiser, a gefilte fish manufacturer, who considered changing his slogan to 'Our fish speaks for itself,' but decided people would be offended," he said.

As for Mr. Nivelio, a practicing Christian, he still believes the babbling carp was the devil. His wife told him he was crazy, and his 6-year-old daughter even laughs at him. "I don't believe any of this Jewish stuff," he said. "But I heard that fish talk."

"It's just a big headache for me," he added. "I pull my phone out of the wall at night. I don't sleep and I've lost weight."

"My phone doesn't stop ringing," Mr. Rosen said. "Always interruptions, people coming in and taking their picture with me." He paused and turned to Mr. Nivelio, who was cutting salmon for a customer. "No, too big. She wants appetizer."

# Bigfoot believers refuse to give up

■ Post Falls retiree helps club track Sasquatch

By BRIAN WALKER  
OF THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

POST FALLS, Idaho — Unless the continent floods and no Bigfoots rise to the surface, you're not going to tell Tom Akren there's no such creatures roaming the woods.

Akren, a retired Los Angeles County, Calif., sheriff's deputy living in Post Falls, is among 25 curators for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which gathers sightings and evidence via bfro.net and follows up with research on the most promising reports.

"Our organization has gathered an impressive group of highly educated people," Akren said. "I'm not able to trample through the forest anymore, so I'm leaving that for somebody else."

BFRO, an all-volunteer group of about 500 that started six years ago, is "the only scientific organization probing the bigfoot/sasquatch mystery," according to its Web site.

The group's managers included Washington State University scientist Grover Krantz, who died last year. Others are a wildlife biologist from British Columbia, an anthropologist from the Navajo tribe, a lawyer from New York, an engineer from Seattle and an archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service in California.

"It's intentionally that way," said Matt Moneymaker, who heads the group and lives in California. "Because we're diverse, it can get contentious, but that's how we need to be."

Once BFRO determines that a sighting or evidence may be credible, it passes the information on to about 20 different scientists in fields from physics to biochemistry who are interested in the mystery.

"We were the first such organization on the Internet," Moneymaker said. "All the other organizations were people who could not get into ours, so they created their own."

Moneymaker said about one out of 20 reports gets posted on the Web site.

"After having read thousands of reports, we are able to pluck out the best reports and assign them to curators and investigators who are geographically closest to the location," Moneymaker said. "We're skeptical of explanations that don't make sense and we're brave and smart enough to look into evidence that points us to some conclusion."

"It's a very complicated subject that has been tragically oversimplified. I know for certain that (the BFRO) is not just a waste of time."

As one of the first curators in the group, Akren has a voice in how the BFRO is managed. He plays a role in screening reports and even people who want to become involved.

"We've had to kick a couple people out, but that hasn't been a big problem," he said. "This isn't for thrill seekers or publicity hounds."

Moneymaker said Akren's background is valuable to BFRO. As a teenager who grew up in Arizona, Akren said he never saw a Bigfoot but caught its smell and heard it and found tracks.

"It's a very intense smell — like

rotten eggs," he said. "You don't have showers in the forest to take a bath, so they get pretty ripe."

Akren is convinced Bigfoots aren't exclusive to certain areas. About four years ago, he was hiking near Blue Creek about 15 miles east of Coeur d'Alene and smelled the scent. He said he believes there's more than one 8-foot, 400-pound, two-legged beast roaming the woods of northern Idaho.

"I've been laughed at for years, but it doesn't bother me," he said. "There's no doubt in my mind that they're out there."

Akren splits time living in Post Falls and Arizona, so he can review BFRO reports from both areas. His police background gives the group a liaison with law enforcement.

"When people determine he is credible, they are likely to open up with him more than an average investigator," Moneymaker said.

"He's able to tell them about his own experience; then they know they are not being judged."

Moneymaker said BFRO isn't looking for more curators — the most recent addition was over a year ago with an Oklahoma biology professor who helps collect physical evidence.

When asked why a dead Bigfoot hasn't been found over the years or a clear photo hasn't been taken of the animal, Akren said those are the mysteries that keep him involved.

"These creatures seem to have ESP going for them and can sense humans before we show up," he said. "It may be that somebody knows something and hasn't come forward to tell about it."

People are reluctant to talk because they don't want to be ridiculed. That's where BFRO can help, he said.

"We're just trying to gather as much information as we can," Akren said. "We have a lot of tracks, reports and hair samples that are hard to dispute."



## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

## Bigfoot tracker, Freeman, contributed to solving mystery

"I'm going to find one of them (Bigfoot) ... I'm going to rub their [skeptics] noses in this." - Paul Freeman, 1982.

These were the words of a very determined man ... a man badgered by many people following his reporting in 1982 of his encounter with a Bigfoot in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla.

Paul Freeman was to see not only his own life, but that of his family altered following that reporting to his superiors at the Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest. He was a patrol rider whose job was to regularly check out the Mill Creek Watershed, a source of water for the City of Walla Walla. So it was after the incessant hectoring by scoffing disbelievers, Freeman declared he would search the Blues until he found a Bigfoot and prove to his skeptics that the thing existed.

In a period of several years Freeman did what he promised ... all but find one he could bring in for dissection and proof. What he was to learn should well have been the proof, but science demands a bit more than photography, plaster casts of huge hands and feet or hair that can't be identified in laboratories. Freeman lay all this and more before the skeptics and was as near a solution as anyone at his untimely death on April 2.

But, it was only a month after his reported Bigfoot encounter in 1982 that Freeman, with several friends, found lots of Bigfoot evidence ... evidence that backed up his June report. And, out of the fishing trip experience by Freeman and his friends, also came statements by a leading anthropologist (and Bigfoot believer) which further seemed to vindicate Freeman. The entire thing should have rated highly in establishing more credence of Bigfoot, but scoffers still held sway ... even among some leading Bigfoot seekers.

Following are excerpts from my account of the fishing trip

on the Wenaha South Fork River when six friends of Freeman caught "Bigfoot fever" (in Oct. 10, 1982 editions of the UB):

Six men who packed into the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area late in July on a fishing trip, caught more than a mess of trout.

They caught the Bigfoot "fever" in a big way.

The account which follows will not only tell of this experience, it will be an updating of the Blue Mountains Bigfoot affair which started in June with the sighting of this phenomenon.

The man who reported seeing a Bigfoot - a bipedal primate reported by many other people over many years from Northern California to British Columbia - was Paul Freeman. Freeman, along with Bill Epoch, rode the Mill Creek Watershed, patrolling to keep men and livestock out of the water source for the City of Walla Walla.

Anything resembling a routine ride around and through this sizable and rugged area of the Blues came to a halt June 10 when Freeman almost came face to face with a Bigfoot as it came off a steep bank and Freeman came around a curve on a mountain road.

Freeman reported to his superiors what he had seen and his life hasn't been the same since.

He says he quit his job with the U.S. Forest Service because of the "flack" he took about the Bigfoot sighting. He moved from Milton-Freewater to Athena and has since returned to Camas, Wash., from whence he and his wife, Nancy, and children had come when he took the forest service job.

But, Freeman has not given up on eventually finding a Bigfoot, if only to vindicate that he had truly seen the manlike monster.

Finding a Bigfoot is a vow Freeman made to himself when he got all the "flack." Seeking to fulfill it, he made more than one trip into the Blues before he

left Athena. One such trip came in July, when Freeman's boss, Allen Mitchell of Athena, mentioned a fishing trip he had planned into the Wenaha country. Freeman was invited to come along.

Besides Mitchell and Freeman, the rest of the party consisted of Russ and Mike Evans, Andy Ely and Rodney Bonifer. All live in the Weston-Athena area. All have spent time in the Wenaha and Mitchell says he has hunted and fished there for more than 25 years.

Unloading horses at Timothy Meadow, the party rode their horses down the South Fork Wenaha River to make camp near the mouth of Milk Creek, a favorite camping place of hunters and anglers.

Mitchell struck off downstream to do some fishing before it got too dark.

On his return to camp, he found the others buzzing about seeing big footprints and that Freeman had made some Plaster of Paris casts.

"I just said, 'Yeah ... okay,' and went off to bed," Mitchell said. "I've never been concerned with that Bigfoot stuff in the past."

The next morning, Mitchell and Mike Evans saddled up and took a ride up into the mountains toward Shoofly Creek. About a mile from camp, Mitchell became a Bigfoot believer, he says.

He and Evans found scores of big footprints - three different sizes in the lot - that he swears could not have been faked.

"Absolutely no way possible," he says.

"Don't disturb anything," Mitchell admonished Evans. "Freeman hasn't been up here yet."

A big man, it required three of Mitchell's steps to stretch from one of the big footprints to the other, he says.

"As near as I could figure, the Bigfoot would have to be right at six feet high at the crotch and would have to weigh around 1,200 pounds to sink into the mud as deep as those

prints' were," Mitchell says. "My horse weighs around 1,200 pounds and a walked him through the mud and he didn't sink as deep as those feet did."

"Nobody could have faked those prints."

Mitchell and Evans tied up their horses and followed the tracks.

"We found tracks all over the place for a quarter mile, including three different sets, and one was a cripple-footed one, just like Freeman had made a cast of back at camp," Mitchell says.

Mitchell figures the three creatures were in the bottoms of the Wenaha canyon when the party of six men rode in and then the three "spooked" and headed up into the rugged Shoofly Creek region.

The men weren't too far away from the manlike creatures, he says. Patches of melonweed were trampled and rolled in and looked like something had done it before they got there, he says.

Mitchell took pictures of the prints and Freeman has casts of the three different tracks found on the Wenaha.

As to publicity about his find on Shoofly, Mitchell said he didn't "care what you put in the paper; nobody is going to prove I didn't see the tracks ... I have proof the tracks are there."

"Print what you want; but that's the truth."

Plaster casts of the big footprints have been gathered by the thousands over many years over most of the Northwest and those gathered here haven't drawn any more credulity than the rest ... until recently.

Now, after examining several casts made at the time of Freeman's sighting of Bigfoot in Tiger Saddle, (the June 10, 1982 reporting) as

well as casts made of prints found inside the Watershed, an anthropologist feels these might be different.

Grover Krantz, WSU anthropologist, who was the first such scientist to express belief in the manlike monsters, has conservatively called the Freeman sighting "of good quality."

But, it is the footprints which have caught Krantz' attention in this incident.

"I've always found footprints more convincing than somebody's verbal account of a sighting," he says.

Why are the Watershed prints so significant?

Krantz was again conservative in his reply but said two casts are of the left foot, which have differences in the toe positions, which he termed "a very important feature."

Yes, very important feature indeed! A faked set of footprints would show left and right footprints but each left foot would be identical, and the same for each right foot. Not so with "live" tracks, as each foot print of a live person has slight differences, especially as toes move about in the striding process. Maybe the differences would not be noted by the untrained eye but they would stand out for the skilled tracker or anthropologist.

The Krantz statement indicated proof Paul Freeman had truly seen something in his June 10, 1982, encounter.

I believed Freeman had witnessed a very live Bigfoot that day and have continued to believe him over the years.

Paul Freeman's overall contribution to the solving of this mystery of our mountains was sizable ... make no mistake ... and he should be given that recognition.

WEEKLY, Boise, ID - April 16, 2003

## CURIOUS WORLD

BY ANDREAS OHRT

A weekly roundup of newsbites from the "truth is stranger than fiction" department.

## EXPOSING BIGFOOT'S LURID PAST

Cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, who recently made news with the publication of his new book *Bigfoot! The True Story of Apes in America* (in which he claims that many "witnesses" have had sexual encounters with Sasquatch), is now planning an expedition to Iraq, in hopes of finding proof of the ancient existence of a gay Sasquatch-like creature which used to roam Mesopotamia having his way with the local

human population. Coleman contends that ancient myths have their basis in factual events, and points to the Epic of King Gilgamesh, a 5,000-year-old manuscript which describes the creature "Enkidu"—a large, hairy beast which engaged in cross-species gay sex and threesomes. Now that Saddam Hussein's regime is gone, Coleman hopes archaeologists can go into what's left of the ancient sites, and do some "serious research" into ancient Bigfoot relics. (Wireless Flash)

## Paranormal Groups Plan State Conference

YORK (AP) — Ghost hunters, UFO buffs and even Bigfoot believers will gather in Gettysburg in March for a conference on ghostly doings in Pennsylvania, and participants say the venue has some spooky features of its own.

The Pennsylvania Paranormal Conference will be held March 22 at the Holiday Inn Battlefield. The event, organized by Lancaster author Rick Fisher, will focus on paranormal events in the Keystone State.

Fisher said he chose Gettysburg in part for its central location, but also because the battlefield area "seems to be a hotbed of ghostly activity."

Fisher, founder and director of the Pennsylvania Ghost Hunters Society, said he believes the trauma of the bloody 1863 Civil War battle has left a permanent imprint on the land.

He said audio tapes he made in the area have voices and noises he did not hear while recording them. Pictures he has taken show balls of light and mist that were not visible when he snapped the shutter, he said.

And, he has heard many stories about strange encounters on the battlefield.

"It's not uncommon for people to drive by and see a Confederate soldier walking along the road. They think it's a re-enactor, but is

it?" he said. "I believe, yes, that people do have encounters in Gettysburg."

Gettysburg's ghosts, the subject of many books and documentaries, will be covered in a lecture by "Ghosts of Gettysburg" author Mark Nesbitt at the conference. Other speakers will cover topics ranging from psychic phenomena to an alleged UFO crash in the state to reported Bigfoot sightings.

Greensburg resident Stan Gordon will talk about his research into events such as a 1965 inci-

dent in Kecksburg, when many residents reported seeing something falling from the sky one night and said the military later hauled something away.

"There are sightings in the state. Many of them have multiple eyewitnesses of very large structural objects seen very close," Gordon said. "There's something going on out there and we don't have all the answers."

"There are a lot of people out there who see things, but very few want to report it," he said.

# WildSide

By BRIONY PENN

## Sasquatch Watch

Tracking the elusive possibility that bigfoot really exists

I have big feet. They are so big I can't find shoes to fit, so I spend rainy winters in gumboots and parched summers padding barefoot or in sandals. I can't dress up in the conventional sense because whatever I wear has to be accessorized with rubberwear, unless I want to run free like a Sarah Bernhardt-meets-Sasquatch. In a Mayan village that I stayed in years ago, I was known as Nim Le Pai, or Bigfoot. I am not a fan of Fats Waller since his response to colossal pedal extremities is that "I hate you cause your feet too big."

And so over the years, I have developed a certain empathy for any creature that walks the earth with big feet. Here on Vancouver Island there have been more than 100 sightings of such a creature and/or its footprints, and it is not my big feet nor my unconventional dress that have been sighted.

It is probably Sasquatch, and until another more plausible theory comes along, or a specimen turns up to confirm its existence categorically, I believe the best theory out there is that people are seeing North America's other primate. No one can prove the non-existence of an animal as long as evidence of sightings and tracks continues to come in; and it has been coming in for thousands of years.

The case for an open mind with Sasquatch has been building with me over the last three years, and was cemented this month with the opportunity to interview eyewitness accounts in Clayoquot last month.

It all started during a trip to Coldfish Lake in Spatzizi Plateau, where I spent a fortnight with Dr. Jim Pojar, a renowned botanist who has spent a lot of time in the field and who felt no need to discount the possibility of an ape. Coldfish Lake was the scene of a sighting in 1999 by two hunters who knew the megafauna well enough to know that this was no grizzly scavenging at a moose kill. Spatzizi is full of things we don't understand, and the possibility of another mammal there seemed reasonable. After all, western science only documented and collected the first specimen of the pygmy chimpanzee in 1929 in Zaire.

Pojar talked to me about the work of Dr. John Bindernaegle, a wildlife biologist born not long after the pygmy chimpanzee was first described. Bindernaegle has been doing wildlife consulting all over the world for the last 30 years, much of it for the United Nations.

In the course of his work here in British Columbia, which routinely includes gathering anecdotal accounts of wildlife like grizzlies, black bears, etc., he had run up against an interesting phenomenon. Hunters, fishers, prospectors, guides and villagers from remote communities routinely took him aside—because he is a friendly, open-minded sort of guy—at the end of the day and whispered in his ear, "I just wanted to ask you a question about something I saw a while back and can't explain. It wasn't a bear, I know what bears look like. It was big, wide, hairy and looked like an ape. What could it be?"

After 30 years and over 100 of these types of asides on Vancouver Island alone, anyone would begin to think it worthy of putting some scientific scrutiny to the subject. That is what Bindernaegle has done in the last few years as he heads for that

delightful place of retirement and independence from the constrictures of academia and consulting.

Denying the possibility of Sasquatch is a prerequisite for professional credibility, and I know why, because I am of that impressionable generation called Sasquatch Suckers. (We come between the Boomers and Generation X).

I was an impressionable seven-year-old when that famous and controversial 16mm film, of Sasquatch running away in an opening in the forest, taken by Americans Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, flashed across the new colour TVs. It sparked a whole era of Sasquatch marketing and hence cynics.

Harrison Hot Springs, epicenter of Sasquatch watching as I believed, was full of apes selling everything from postcards to Pontiacs. If you asked me what Sasquatch was a few years back, I would have said a clever marketing gimmick invented by early B.C. Liberal/Socred W.A.C. Bennett.

er seeing a 60-pound spring salmon in the creek than a 300-pound monkey on the shore.

I know for a certainty that it was not Ray Wallace who scared the daylight out of Bert Tom's dog. Tom is a clam fisher from Opitsaht on Meares Island, who described to Bindernaegle and I his sighting of a large, eight-foot, hairy creature with a flat sloping face and long arms raiding the village garbage dump. It happened a month before Wallace died, and this ape was no ailing primate. Tom himself is a quiet, regular kind of guy who sees bears every day of the week. His dog typically barks at bears when he is the bush. While he was out chopping wood near the dump, his dog suddenly ran back to the village, which made him wonder what the dog had seen. He walked up the boardwalk and there was an upright creature foraging in the dump. He had about a five-minute look at the back of the animal, then it turned, saw him and fled.

Tom and his father, Eugene Charlie, took me to the dump to re-enact the scene. Charlie said that Opitsaht people have had many sightings over the years, but no one talked about it because who would believe them. Nu-chaal-nulth culture is full of references to wild ape-like creatures. And so are Haisla, Heiltsuk, Haida and Salish cultures. They all have their own names and stories. And surprise—white guys have provided eyewitness accounts too!

Even if I were to disregard several thousand years of traditional knowledge, I couldn't disregard two salient western facts. Tom is not someone I would even remotely describe as a marketing opportunist, nor was the Opitsaht garbage dump this century's answer to Harrison Hot Springs. His only motivation for telling me was that he trusted Bindernaegle and myself to accept the information in the spirit in which it was given—a naturalist's curiosity.

The first European naturalist to raise the question of another primate on the north Pacific coast was George Steller, the famous German naturalist, who described seeing in 1741 a

Sasquatchesque creature foraging in the sea—not an uncommon place for a sighting in the thousands of sightings that have been made.

As the famous writer, Corey Ford, wrote, "As trained and exact a scientist as Steller could scarcely have confused it with an otter or seal—the simple explanation is that the 'sea monkey' actually existed and that Steller saw it for the first and last time before it became extinct, like the northern sea cow which he was the only naturalist ever to observe."

It is not in the realm of impossibility that some primate other than humans is still out there and that it is not extinct. So I, Nim Le Pai, will stand amongst the ranks of eyewitnesses and their supporters that say until there is a better theory put forward, Bigfoot is with us and Fats Waller can go to hell. M

Watch Briony Penn on "EnviroMental," Sundays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. on The New VI, Cable 12. E-mail comments to [wildside@mondymag.com](mailto:wildside@mondymag.com)

### SASQUATCH

- sloping forehead
- no ears visible
- sunken eyes
- long hair (6-8')
- flat nose and flaring nostrils
- no neck
- long thick arms
- longer legs than bear
- upright walk/run and uses club/rocks
- found foraging on berries, clam beds, in salmon streams hunting for birds and on kills
- also swimming in the sea
- big feet



And so, says Bindernaegle, legitimate eyewitness accounts clammed up for 30 years, especially to the media—and in the face of the hoardes of hoaxers who put on plywood feet and monkey suits and trooped around romantic destinations where they hoped to attract tourist developments.

Recently, there was a little flurry in the media to remind us of that kitsch era of Sasquatch wannabes. Famous American hoaxer, Ray Wallace, died this winter and family members admitted that it was him dressing up in monkey suits fooling everyone up and down the coast since the Patterson film.

Well, that explains some of the fuzzy photos taken by townies on a Saturday afternoon in suburban Washington when Ray dropped in for a little fun, but how do you explain the eyewitness accounts of people who see an inexplicable large mammal at odd hours and in remote places from Hesquiat to Spatzizi? If it was Wallace, he sure got around and knew just when to parachute himself into a rainy, remote piece of wilderness to surprise some poor fisher, who would have been way happy

SPIRIT, Jeanette, PA - Feb. 13, 2003

## Stranger than life

Renowned investigator of the paranormal Stan Gordon reports the following strange events that occurred last year.

In February of 2002 Rick Fisher of the Pennsylvania Big Foot Society investigates a series of large odd shaped footprints which are about 16 inches long and eight inches wide and cover an area of about 1,000 feet around a reservoir in Adams County.

On April 15 in Indiana County two people traveling on Route 286 observe an elongated object about the size of a passenger bus hovering at tree top level.

On July 24 in North Huntingdon in

Westmoreland County at about 10 p.m. three people standing in a shopping complex parking lot observe a round and shiny solid object about the size of a tennis ball floating past them at a distance of about 10 feet and traveling in a straight path. The odd sphere, about six feet off the ground, keeps moving down the road until it is out of sight.

In September in Perry Township members of a family report observing a Bigfoot creature on two different occasions in a heavily wooded area. The most interesting event occurs on Sept. 27 as the driver was traveling along a back road. After hearing a noise

from the woods, the driver stops and, thinking some deer are approaching, sees at a distance of about 145 feet a tall man like creature covered with long brown hair and arms that hang down to its knees and estimated to be about eight feet tall, taking long steps as it crosses a field. The driver watches as the creature crosses over a barbed wire fence and measures 44 inches from ground to top.

If you want to report a UFO or Bigfoot sighting, or any strange encounter, contact Gordon at the UFO Hotline, 724 838-7768. It answers 24/7/365.