

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

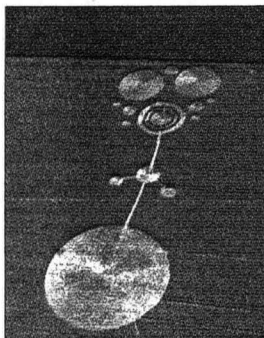
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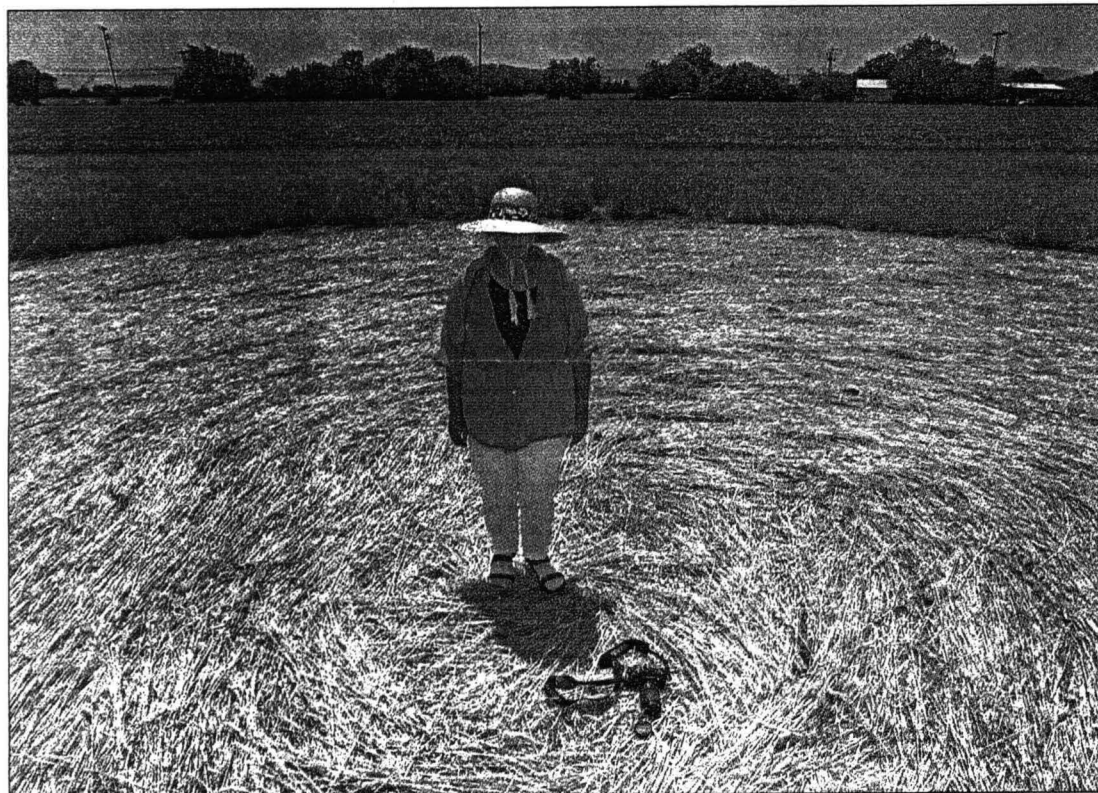
CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - July 3, 2003 CR: J. Laurino

Space aliens? In Solano?

The mystic set comes 'round to see
crop circles, feel the healing energy

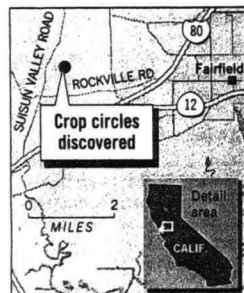


The mysterious crop circles that appeared in a wheat field in Rockville in Solano County on Saturday morning are drawing a spiritual crowd.



Photos by PAUL CHINN / The Chronicle

Carolyn North, who has written two books on crop circles, said she could feel a cosmic power after pacing in the circle about a minute.



Source: ESRI, GDT Chronicle Graphic

By Steve Rubenstein
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

True believers, visionaries, psychics and people in purple robes lay down Wednesday in the middle of a Solano County wheat field where vortexes were converging and all things were possible.

"I feel like I'm melting right into the earth," said Lily Kyle. "It's intense. There's a coalescence, no doubt about it."

Kyle was among hundreds of

folks who have come to the field at the junction of Suisun Valley Road and Rockville Road, about four miles west of Fairfield. It was there, on Saturday morning, that a half-dozen crop circles were discovered in the waist-high stalks of grain.

The circles, measuring up to 50 yards across, are either a sure sign that alien spaceships zipped into town or a testament to what a couple of tanked-up pranksters can do in the dead of night with a piece of rope and a few strips of wood.

stalks, taking measurements, dancing, breathing deeply, humming and waving their arms to the heavens. Some snatched up handfuls of the crushed wheat and said they would take them home and either eat them, plant them in their gardens or sprinkle them on their ailing body parts.

"I feel vacillations," said Connie Pearson, who came from New Orleans. "Low vibrations. I feel reality, which is a function of agreement. It's very exciting to be here."

Crop circles began showing up in English fields about 30 years

Also feeling more relaxed was Sylvia Keita, a journeyman psychic from the Berkeley Psychic Institute, who brought her mother and her 12-year-old daughter to the wheat field.

"I can feel the healing energy," she said.

"It's real," said her mom, Michelle.

"I think it's making my asthma better," said her daughter, Danielle.

Kinetic reaction

Dozens of people walked up and down the wheat field, snapping pictures, lying in the crushed

Kyle must be included among those who believe in the first possibility. She had come from Ukiah to plop herself down on the ground under the noon sun and see if the circles' power could bring relief to her bad back.

"I think it's helping," she said. "I do feel more relaxed."



PAUL CHINN / The Chronicle

Lily Kyle, who traveled from Ukiah to Rockville to see if the circles' power could relieve her bad back, gathers flattened wheat stalks.

ago. Most authorities say they are the work of scamps — one scamp stands in the center of a circle, holding one end of a rope, and others walk around him, holding the other end to keep the circle round and dragging boards to flatten the plants.

But crop circles also have spawned a subspecies within the psychic commonwealth. Books have been written. Carolyn North, who dropped by the wheat field, has written two books herself. Crop circles, she said, are "authentic happenings" and "one of the genuine mysteries of our time."

She also said she could feel a cosmic power after pacing in the circle for about a minute.

"The energy is coming up toward my throat," she said. "I feel a sense of calm and of reassurance."

Late-night visitation

Also hanging around the wheat field was 12-year-old Pat Kavanagh, who lives with his family in a two-story house directly across Suisun Valley Road. He said his big brother, Charles, told him that something besides aliens was involved.

"He was driving home from work late Friday night," Pat said, "and the next morning, he told me that he had seen a large spotlight, like a motorcycle light, in the middle of the field. No flying saucers or spaceships."

The crop circles have spawned a miniature boom among the nearby fruit stands and restaurants. Rubberneckers paused to load up on strawberries and other goodies.

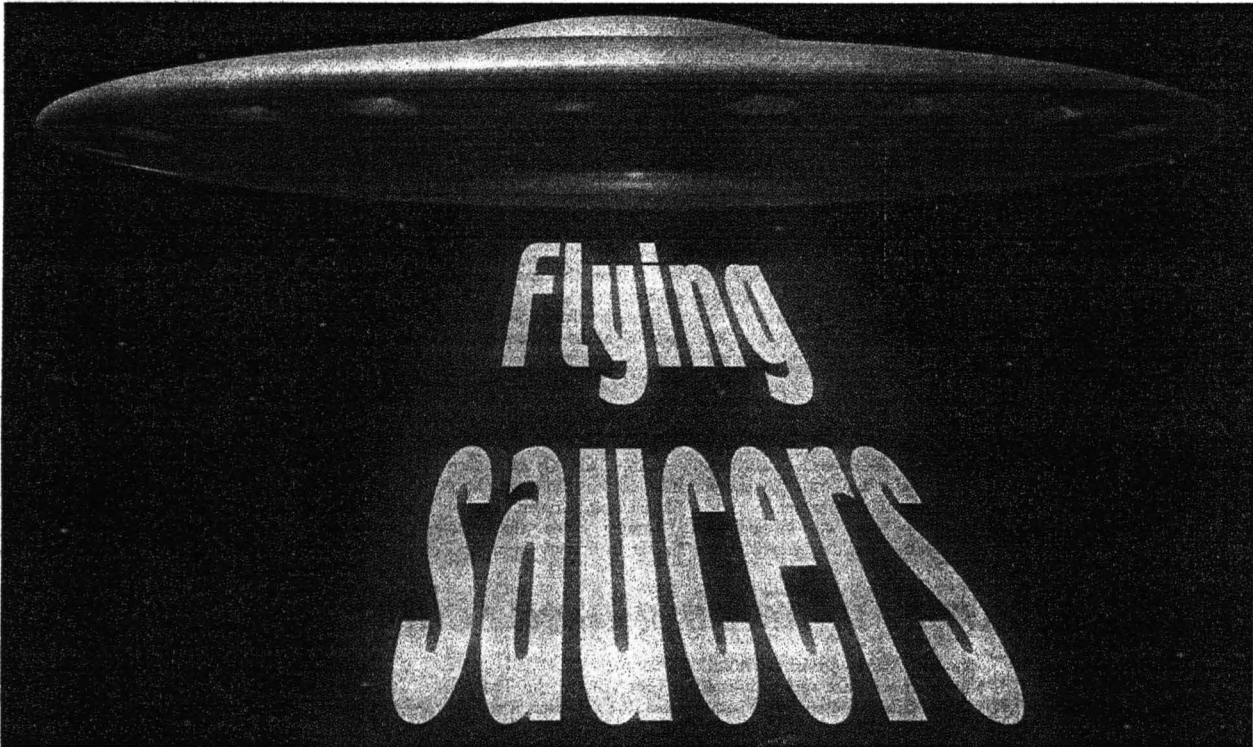
Farmer Larry Balestra, the owner of the wheat field, said he discovered the circles on Saturday morning and immediately concluded they were the work of late-night pranksters. He said he is growing weary of neighbors calling him "the chosen one." And he figures the stunt cost him about \$500, the value of the crushed wheat.

"Some people," he said, "have too much time on their hands."

E-mail Steve Rubenstein at srubenstein@sfchronicle.com.

World of Wonder

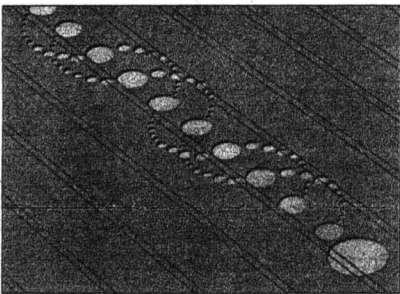
EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE & TECHNOLOGY



Since the beginning of time, people have wondered if humans are alone in the universe or if there are other inhabited planets.

Many people believe that extraterrestrials out there have visited the Earth in their flying saucers.

Crop circles



Crop circles are complex geometric patterns that appear in fields, often overnight, and can only be seen from the air. Some people believe that they are created by UFOs, while others believe them to be hoaxes or think that they were created by stationary whirlwinds or magnetic fields.

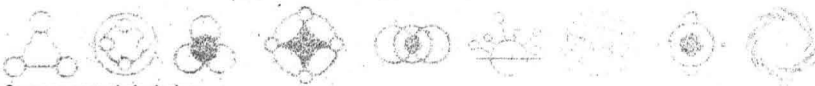
Many of the myths behind crop circles developed as a result of the nature of the circles



themselves. The plant stalks are bent, not broken, something that advocates of the circles' extraterrestrial origins believe would be hard to accomplish by people working on the ground in the middle of the night.

Crop circles in the Northern Hemisphere appear mainly between late May and September. They range in size from 3 feet to more than 500 feet across, but the average size is about 150 feet.

The circles tend to appear around ancient burial mounds or important historic sites, and often appear in fields that already have circles in them. Sometimes they are made next to existing ones. Other times, a new circle incorporates the old design.



Common crop circle designs

Close encounters

In 1972, Dr. Allen J. Hynek published "The UFO Experience: A Scientific Study." In the book, Hynek put forth a ranking system that has become the standard tool for recording human-extraterrestrial encounters.

Close encounters of the first kind — UFO sightings in which a witness sees bright lights or objects at a distance of 500 feet or less. The witness does not actually come into contact with the craft or its extraterrestrial crew.

Close encounters of the second kind — The UFO has an effect on something on Earth, such as leaving imprints from the spaceship when it lands on the ground or causing interference with a car's electrical system.

Close encounters of the third kind — The witness sees both the spacecraft and its occupants. The witness may or may not come in direct contact with an extraterrestrial.

Close encounters of the fourth kind — Close interaction with an alien, often an abduction.

Close encounters of the fifth kind — This includes cases of humans and aliens meeting purposefully to communicate. Some people who study the UFO phenomenon use this category for visitations in which the witnesses do not actually see the spacecraft, just the alien.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; The UFO Book of Lists, Stephen J. Spignesi; The Crop Circular online; UFOartwork.com; About.com

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2 -

BAXTER BULLETIN,

Mountain Home, AR - July 15, 2003)

Evidence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs)?

People who believe in extraterrestrial beings claim to have historical evidence to support their case. Artwork and artifacts from around the world provide ample encouragement for those who think we're not alone in the universe.

Some of the earliest visual examples of UFOs are cave and rock paintings.

Images have been found in Tanzania that are nearly 30,000 years old; in France, 20,000 years old; in Peru, 12,000 to 14,000 years old; in Italy, 12,000 years old; in the Sahara Desert, 8,000 years old; and in Australia, 5,000 years old.

The 3,000-year-old Egyptian hieroglyphic shown below is proof to some people that UFOs visited the Egyptians. Others believe that the helicopter and spaceship shapes are simply the result of hieroglyphic layers falling off the walls and revealing parts of older hieroglyphics underneath.



American Indians from the Southwest are responsible for a legend that has lived on for thousands of years through petroglyphs (rock carvings or inscriptions) that show two objects colliding in the sky. According to legend, one of the objects crashed near Death Valley and a strange people arrived in another ship to repair the damaged craft.

An illustration in a 10th-century Tibetan translation of a Sanskrit text shows objects that look like floating hats. One seems to have portholes in it. The text that accompanies the illustration describes the image as a circular or cylindrical aircraft that flew very fast.

A UFO sighting on Aug. 18, 1783, at Windsor Castle in England left witnesses claiming to have seen a brilliantly lit sphere moving back and forth on the horizon.

Early photographic evidence of flying saucers dates back to the winter of 1870-71. A picture of a cloud formation over Mount Washington in New Hampshire seems to have a cigar-shaped UFO within the clouds.

Many people believe that in July 1947 a UFO crashed in Roswell, N.M. People claim that the government recovered the spacecraft and its occupants to be studied. The military insists that the wreckage was a high-altitude weather balloon.

Test your knowledge

DOWN

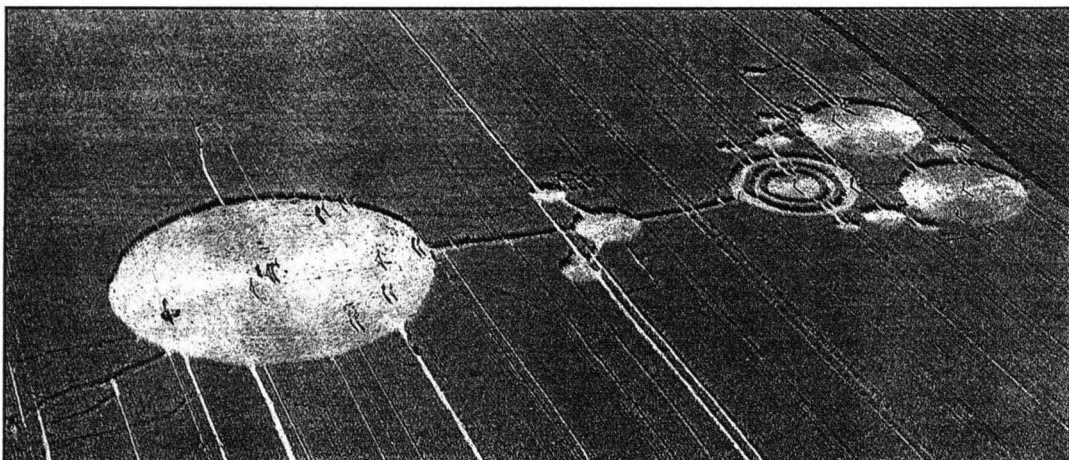
- 1 Rock carvings and inscriptions left by American Indians in the Southwest
- 2 This appears in fields (2 words)
- 3 An interaction with a UFO (2 words)
- 4 Some believe that a UFO crashed here in 1947
- 5 The end of the crop circle season
- 6 Characteristic of a close encounter of the fourth kind

ACROSS

- 5 Another word for alien
- 8 UFO enthusiasts believe that this culture may have had hieroglyphic evidence of UFOs
- 10 Location of a 1783 UFO sighting in England

ANSWERS
ACROSS
5 EXTRATERRESTRIAL
8 EGYPTIANS
10 WINDSOR CASTLE
DOWN
1 PETROGLYPHS
2 ARTWORK
3 CROP CIRCLE
4 CLOSE ENCOUNTER
6 ROSWELL
7 SEPTEMBER
9 ABDUCTION

Holistic harvest



This is an aerial view of crop circles from Tuesday in Rockville, Calif. Throngs of UFO enthusiasts, new age followers and assorted believers in the paranormal have

been flocking to California to take in the dozen or so crop circles that have mysteriously appeared in wheat fields in recent weeks. (AP)

Mystery circles keep packing 'em in

By STEVE RUBENSTEIN
San Francisco Chronicle

TSOLANO, Calif. — he folks with divining rods, aluminum foil hats, crystal pendants and arthritic dogs keep coming and coming.

They've been coming to a Solano County wheat field for almost two weeks. They come, and they believe, and they trample Larry Balestra's wheat stalks, and they take armfuls of it home, for souvenirs.

It's not letting up. It's bigger than ever. It's so big that crop-circle T-shirts are available, for \$12 each.

Folks have been coming ever since a dozen crop circles turned up in the field.

A crop circle is a large, round area of flattened plants. Dreamy-eyed believers say they are the work of space aliens, and mule-headed skeptics say they are the work of scalawags and scamps. And although crop circles are easily made by dragging boards in a circle while holding a taut rope fastened to a central point, no one has proved that the aliens did it that way.

Among the visitors was an old beagle named Barney.

"He's got arthritis," said Barney's owner, Mary Eichhorn of Sacramento, Calif. "We thought the energy here might help."

While Barney sniffed around, Patrick McCormick of San Rafael, Calif., walked through the wheat with a pair of divining rods. He said the energy

was making the divining rods wiggle. They wiggled like mad when McCormick got to the middle of one of the circles.

"It proves something is going on," McCormick said. And that was hardly surprising, said psychic Barbara Weisbeck, because she had asked her crystal owl statue whether the crop circles were the real thing, and the owl had said yes.

She was holding the owl in one hand and an amethyst pendant in the other. As she strolled through the wheat, she asked the owl whether the aliens would be returning soon. The pendant began to swing in a clockwise circle, which means, Weisbeck said, that the owl is certain of it.

"There's no mistake," Weisbeck said. "The owl knows."

Norma Pezzini, who was dangling two crystal pendulums over the center of one circle, agreed. The crystals were swinging in a north-south line.

"Some entity," she said, "is sending us a cosmic message. That's what's happening."

This week, the wheat field also has been visited by lots of folks wearing hats made of aluminum foil, who are sure that the metal will conduct needed

energy to their brains. Other believers have reclined on the crushed wheat and taken high-intensity naps.

Balestra, who has been growing wheat on the land for nearly 20 years, watches the procession. Sooner or later, he says, what is left of the wheat will have to be harvested, but Balestra doesn't have the heart to bust up the party just yet. Besides, Balestra said, his regular harvester is reluctant to run his equipment through a field full of zealots.

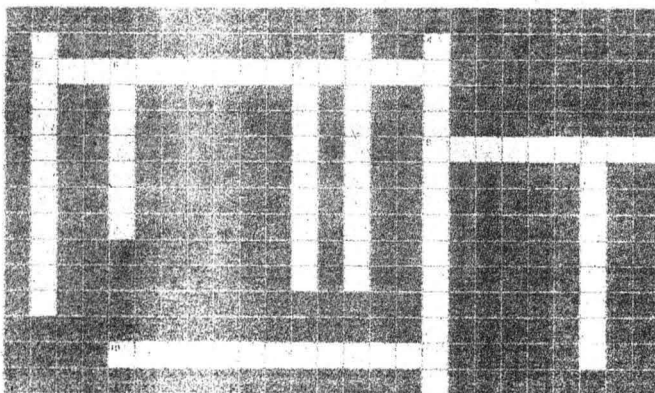
"All my friends say I ought to put up a fence and charge people \$2 a head, but that's not my way," Balestra said. "I'm enjoying this. People lying down in my wheat field, and wrapping their heads in foil. It's great."

Balestra is selling souvenir crop-circle shirts as a public service because, he said, his customers insisted.

He smiles as strangers depart the field carrying away his wheat. A stalk of wheat is not worth fussing over, especially with people clutching it so fervently.

"What can I do about it?" he said. "It used to be my wheat. Now it's their wheat."

(Distributed by Scripps Howard News Service, <http://www.shns.com>.)



An abductee's story

Robert Nott • The New Mexican

It's easy to make fun of the notion of alien abductions. But after reading Gloria Ann Hawker's *Morning Glory: Diary of an Alien Abductee* (Write to Print, 2001), probably the last thing you'd want to experience is just such a nightmare.

In her book, which chronicles nearly 13 years of encounters with aliens, Hawker talks of the horrors of being forced to participate in painful medical experiments by "the Greys" (aliens), of her abduction encounters with human military, government and political leaders (which, she acknowledges, may simply be alien reproductions of said humans) and of having her sanity and faith questioned, and she makes some disturbing predictions about Saddam Hussein's desire to use biochemical warfare.

Whether you believe it or not, this story is Hawker's truth. She changed the names of real people (including her family members) in the book to protect them. Hawker, who now works as a hypnotherapist in Albuquerque, is taking part in a book signing during Roswell's UFO Festival this weekend.

Pasatiempo: How long did it take you to write the book, and why did you write it?

Gloria Ann Hawker: It took about two years. There are so many human beings who are abductees, I thought, "If I can help even one abductee with my book, it will be worth it." That was my goal. After every experience, which I call real-life dreams, I would sit down and document it, write it down, so I had a lot of documentation to fall back on. When I completed the book, I felt free. I felt more acceptance of what happened in my life, and not only my life but my children's life and my husband's life, because it affected them as well.

Pasa: How did these events affect your relationship with them?

Hawker: After each incident I would tell my husband, Fred. He became the devil's advocate. Each of us, for instance, had seen the lights outside our house, and he would always have a different explanation for the lights. I was starting to wonder if it was because of everything we were going through in our lives. Was I taking all these things and letting my mind fabricate this to compensate for what we were living through — our personal and financial problems? I felt Fred was thinking that I was going crazy. He'd say, "I believe you," but there was something about the way he said it ...

But he asked me to begin documenting this from the very beginning, so we went and bought an audio recorder and I kept audio documentation as well as written notes. My daughter, Michelle, always wanted more information. And my son, Brian, the nonbeliever, would always make fun of us.

Pasa: Are these abductions out of body or do they literally take you? In other words, would your body remain, and they would just take your spirit?

Hawker: No, I think it's the whole physical body.

Pasa: Did you ever consider setting up a video camera while you were sleeping in case you were abducted?

Hawker: No, because when you're going through these things you're in a little shell, and once you're in that shell, you don't think about these things. You try to forget it and get your life straight, because you have a normal life to contend with every day from the time you wake up until the time you go to bed.

Pasa: Do you have any sense of how many people are abducted? Would you say one out of 100?

Hawker: Oh, no. Maybe — but I don't know how correct this would be — one out of five, maybe one out of 10. People still don't want to talk about it. I'm amazed at how many people there are out there who are abducted, but I understand the turmoil they go through. Since the book has been published, I've received letters and phone calls and e-mails from abductees.

Pasa: In your book you write about an incident in which you believe you strangled one of the Greys who came into your house, and you said the abductions stopped after that.

Hawker: I pray that it was a hologram that someone put on me, that I didn't kill him. I can't believe I killed someone, even of another species. I am a Christian and I love God. It's one of my principles that no matter how hard someone might abuse me, it would go against my principles to hurt them. And the abductions did stop for a while; they changed because they would not allow me to have full memory of the abductions.

Pasa: You mentioned God, and in your book you write of asking the Greys — specifically a friendly one, Raytheon, and his boss, the mean Grey doctor — about their belief system in a creator.

Hawker: I had drilled it and drilled it and drilled it into my head — when you want to ask them something, you have to drill it constantly in your head, and they will be able to understand what you are thinking.

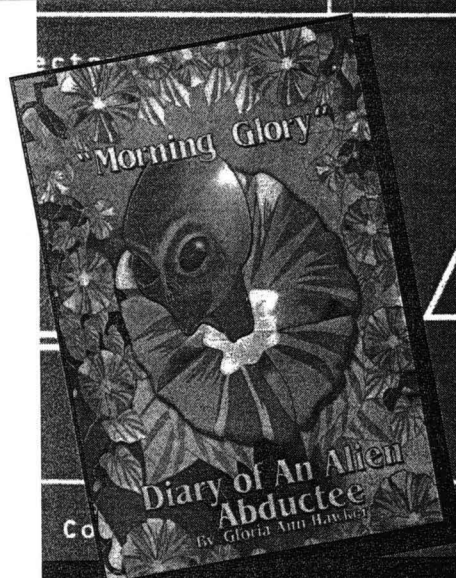
I had wanted to ask Raytheon the question. We were walking down a hallway [on the craft], and here comes Dr. Grey; and whenever I saw him, I would start to shake. As we got closer, Raytheon said to him, "Gloria has a question for you and I believe you can answer it."

So the mean Grey looked at me with his big, black empty eyes and asked, "What's your question?" And I asked him the question — did they have a creator that they lived their lives by and worshipped?

I was very surprised when he said, "Not even the most knowledgeable, the most learned theologian — not even the man you call the pope — will know until death, when you'll be able to see the most wondrous light, that we — all species — have a creator."



Jordin Thomas Althaus/The New Mexican



Author Gloria Ann Hawker in the bedroom where she says she has been abducted by aliens more than 50 times through a bright light emanating from the wall

After that, I saw a difference in the attitude from the doctor. He began to respect me as a human being. Before that, they had no respect for human beings. We were like lab rats used for experimentation; women's bodies were used for hybrid babies and perverted medical experiments.

Pasa: You've said that during your abductions, the Greys warned you about Saddam Hussein and biochemical weapons. If that's true, why do you think our government hasn't found them yet?

Hawker: This is one thing that's really upsetting to me. I know they're hidden in water. There's a green substance that I talk about in the book that Saddam Hussein received from an Asian man in a small vial ...

Pasa: The green substance has the ability to convert biochemical material to liquid?

Hawker: Uh-huh ... and make it stronger. They need to check the water. I want to say, "Check the rivers, check the dams ... drain them, you'll find it." I may be totally wrong, but my knowledge is that he hid it somewhere in water. But who's going to believe me?

Pasa: If these aliens decided to reveal themselves to us — land on the White House lawn, for example — how do you think we would react?

Hawker: This is what I've been told: that in a certain year, a certain month, they're going to let the human populace know that yes, this species — and not just the Greys, there are other species: the Nordics, the Reptilians, the Praying Mantises — will let us know they are here. But then it doesn't happen; they don't follow up on it. Because human beings, other than abductees or researchers, aren't ready. Can you imagine having ships appear?

There is a federation of these species. But human beings have not been asked to be in that federation. We can't even get along with one another here on earth. Once we can all get along and cooperate, and be one human species and accept one another and not be cruel to one another, then, yes, we will be included.

And that's when they will make themselves available to us. ◀

"Baffling!"

Story & photos • Teri Thomson Randall

The New Mexican

Why is alien art so much more creative than human art? Do other planets invest more funding in the arts than does Earth? Are art schools better on Uranus? Why do aliens seem to prefer English-grown wheat over all other varieties?

These questions came readily to mind during a recent visit to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, where you'll find an entire wall filled with photographs of intricate, mind-boggling crop circles opposite a wall of ho-hum art made by humans. Gone are the days when crop circles consisted of those amateur little doughnuts flattened in a farmer's field. During the last decade, crop circles have become artistic marvels — elaborate, imaginative and playful. And whoever (or whatever) is making them has in-depth knowledge of numerology, mythology and astronomical events.

The Heralding of the Shoemaker-Levy Comet Hitting Jupiter, for example, a formation found in a field near Devizes, England, appeared just before the Comet Shoemaker-Levy disintegrated in Jupiter's atmosphere in July 1994 and depicts the astronomical event. *The Great Turning*, found in 1992 near Silburn Hill, in Wilshire, England, charts the planets rotating around the sun. To give a sense of these patterns' size and complexity, the granddaddy of all crop circles, the 2001 *Milk Hill Formation*, had a diameter the length of three football fields, with a swirling pattern involving 409 circles.

The human-made art across the corridor is positively awful: paintings of comets in space, mammoth moons rising over alien landscapes, and sci-fi space ships flying past purple and green planets. No signs on the wall identify the artists, which made me wonder, are they traumatized abductees putting memories to canvas? Or are they students from some fifth grade art class? Baffling! is the word that came to mind.

The exhibit doesn't examine the authorship of the crop circles, but that seems on a par with some other material shown in the museum. Throughout the museum are photographs of proven forgeries displayed side by side with the unsolved mysteries. If you look really hard, you'll sometimes find some small print saying it's a fake — and sometimes not.

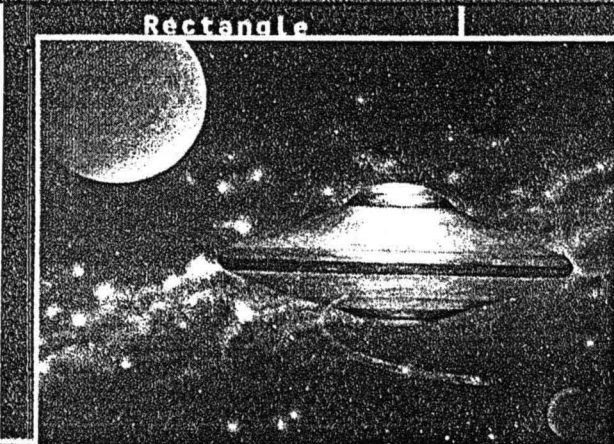
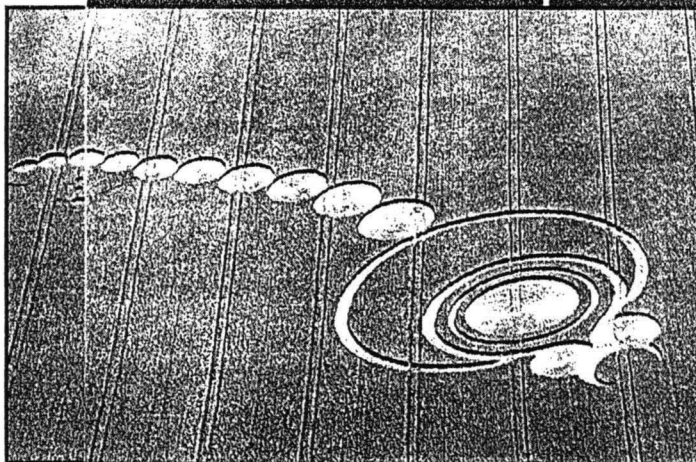
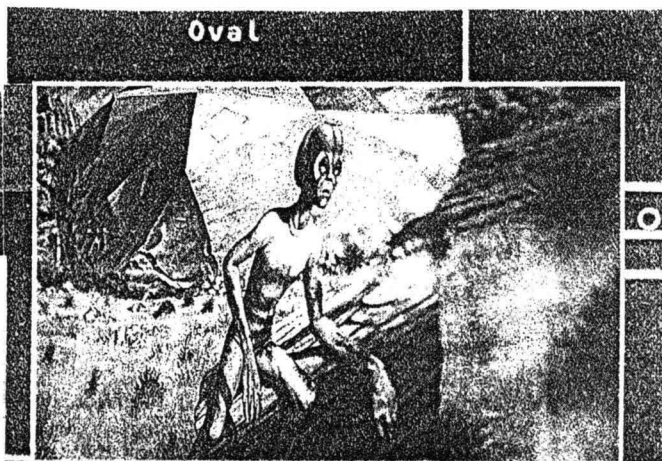
Back home, I went online and found many of these same photographs of crop circles on a fantastic Web site by a group of English artists called the Circlemakers, at www.circlemakers.org/seeing.html. The group claims authorship of many of these masterpieces and has the videos and other documentation to prove it.

So all the crop circles mentioned are human art, after all. I felt some relief to learn that humans do have some good art in that museum — but also a little sad. It was nice to imagine that extraterrestrials are creating something beautiful on our planet to communicate with the human race. We need all the beauty we can get.

The Circlemakers' Web site also tells the story of Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, two Hampshire-based artists who had a few pints one night at the Percy Hobbs pub, near Cheesefoot Head, in 1978. On their way home, walking on a bridle path on the Longwood Estate, they decided to create a "flying saucer landing site" in a nearby cornfield. As the years went on, the two men continued their nocturnal circle making, drawing the interests of scientists and UFO believers worldwide. Other artists joined in, making crop circles of increasing complexity. Strangely enough, when Bower and Chorley came forward with their story in 1991, their disconfirmation only made some people more determined to believe that crop circles are made by spaceships or represent some message from outer space.

One human artwork at the museum did tug at the heartstrings. *Survivor, Roswell, New Mexico*, 1947, signed "Elmore 1997," showed a marooned, fatally injured alien sitting near his crashed spaceship. It got me thinking how tragic it would be to die not just on foreign soil but on a foreign planet. Imagine crashing your spaceship on another planet and dying in the hands of dim-witted, technically inferior aliens, which is how we could appear to our ET visitors.

The artwork made me ponder why we don't ever discuss the aliens' experience when we talk about the Roswell Incident? When are we going to stop thinking about ourselves and start thinking about the aliens' feelings? And if a work of art can stimulate my imagination that much, then I have to call it good. ◀



Top to bottom:

Survivor, Roswell, New Mexico, 1947; detail, 1997, by Elmore

The Heralding of the Shoemaker-Levy Comet Hitting Jupiter, 1994, crop circle in wheat; by unidentified artists; planetary affiliation hotly debated

Unidentified human art at the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell

Extraterrestrial Culture Day

Teri Thomson Randall | The New Mexican

It's not clear whether Daniel R. Foley, the Republican state representative from Roswell, considers extraterrestrials an important part of his constituency. One thing's for certain, though: he thinks their contributions to New Mexico culture, not to mention the Roswell economy (they don't call it the "UFO cash site" for nothing) deserve some earthly recognition. On March 10, 2003, he proposed an "Extraterrestrial Culture Day" in New Mexico. The legislation read as follows:

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a unique and dynamic mosaic of cultural anomalies; and
WHEREAS, extraterrestrials have contributed to the worldwide recognition of New Mexico through their

many and ongoing visitations, sightings, unexplained mysteries, attributed technological advances, experiments, expeditions, explorations, intrigues, provision of story lines for Hollywood epics and other accomplishments of alien beings throughout the universe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the second Tuesday in February be designated "Extraterrestrial Culture Day" in New Mexico to celebrate and honor all past, present and future extraterrestrial visitors in ways to enhance relationships among all citizens of the cosmos, known and unknown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted into space with the intent that it be received as a token of peace and friendship.

The proposal won approval in the House. ◀

'This is weird.'

— Larry Balestra, looking at crop circles in his wheat field —



Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC

Farmer Larry Balestra stands in the middle of a crop circle on his property at the corner of Suisun Valley and Rockville roads.

Mystery in the wheat

By Tim Fields
DAILY REPUBLIC

Circles adorn farmer's field

ROCKVILLE — The farmer stood alone at the edge of his 80-acre wheat field on Saturday, and in the early morning quiet, he stared across a sea of stalks and saw something strange.

Larry Balestra walked into the field and waded through the waist-high grass, and with every step, it slowly came into view.

After about 100 feet he stopped inside a massive circle stamped into his field, the stalks pushed down, flat. It measured about 140 feet in diameter.

"What the heck?" he said and grabbed his cell phone to call his wife.

When she answered he said, "You won't believe what I'm looking at."

'I guess some people have too much time on their hands.'

— Larry Balestra

Then he turned his head.

Across Balestra's wheat field on Suisun Valley and Rockville roads, he saw more than a dozen circles had been created by flattened wheat. The series of various sized shapes formed a symmetrical, abstract design and stretched longer than a football field.

Balestra has farmed the area since 1986 and has never seen crop circles in his fields before and he's never heard any other farmer in the

area having this problem before, he said.

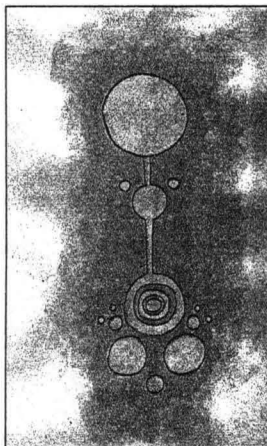
"The harvester can't pick this up," he said holding a broken stalk. "This is weird."

Balestra said he believes someone must've vandalized his crops on Friday night, however, farm workers that live in a house by the field told him nothing was heard or seen.

"I guess some people have too much time on their hands," he said, shaking his head.

While crop circles may be new to Solano County, reports of circles are centuries old and theories abound that explain what, or who, is making them.

The first known circle for-



Tim Fields/DAILY REPUBLIC ILLUSTRATION

The crop circles at Suisun Valley and Rockville roads.

mation was in 1647 in England and it comes from a woodcarving of a horned demon wielding a board and

a rope to make a crop circle, according to Crop Circle Central at www.paradigmshift.com. In the 1970s, reports of crop circles began to increase worldwide and by the 1990s circles began appearing with complex geometrical designs.

On average nearly 250 such formations are reported across the world each year and several thousand reports have been documented since researchers began keeping track, according to data from the Southern Circular Research, which monitors and surveys crop formations in England. England is a top spot for crop circles.

But who or what is making them?

Some say extraterrestrials are involved, others say Mother Earth is sending humans a message. Some stick to scientific reasons such as mysterious wind blasts that flatten the crops, or the circles are somehow caused by satellites and microwave energy.

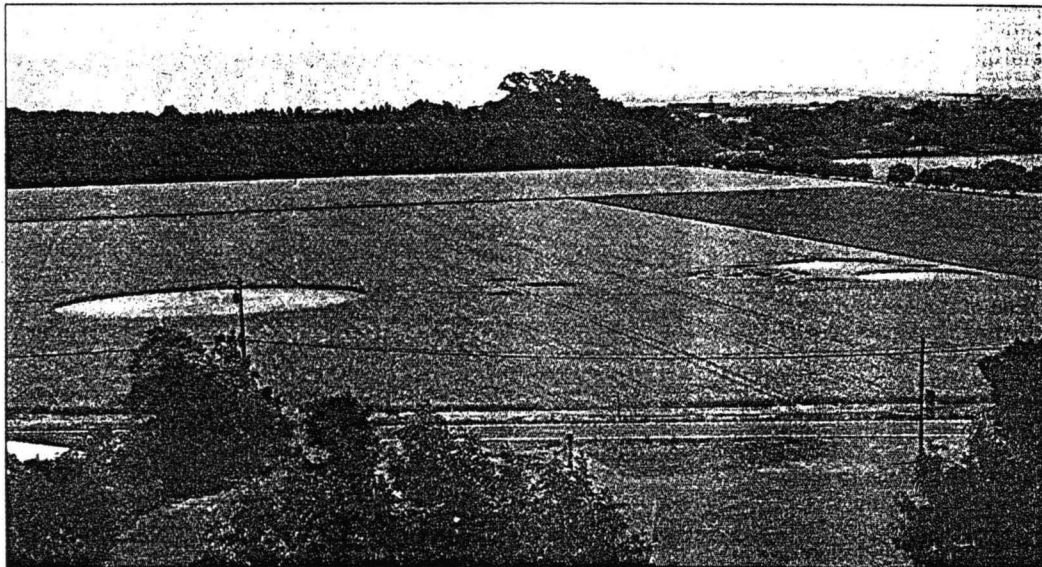
Some say it's all a joke.

In 1991, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley claimed they started the crop circle craze, using simple tools such as a rope and a plank to stomp the crops down. For decades, the English pub-loving duo allegedly drew out their designs ahead of time and went to work when the sun went down.

According to some crop circle makers, the formations are not done by aliens but people and are works of art, science and fun, according to the Circlemakers, at www.circlemakers.org.

To farmer Balestra, however, it's just a waste of wheat.

Tim Fields can be reached at tfields@dailyrepublic.net.



Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC

Balestra says he thinks the crop vandalism must have happened Friday night.

Curious crop circles

Editor — We followers of the crop circle are happy for press that familiarizes the public with the fact that there is a phenomenon. But mockery, born of ignorance, still plagues much of the reportage, as was the case with your recent crop circle feature story ("Space aliens? In Solano?," July 3).

The alternative is to make history as the Paul Revere who got the populace wised up to the fact that the aliens have landed. That this phenomenon cannot be attributed to human activity with boards and strings is incontrovertible, as you can conclude by examining the evidence. Here's some of it:

That it would take surveyors days to lay formations out. The astonishingly complex geometry with which formations are designed. The parallel, carpet-like lay of the stalks. Downed crop in lines far too narrow for people to pass through. Formations that are in fields with no means of access. Formations that arrive in rainstorms, that exhibit no muddy footprints.

The list actually goes on and on.

The mind of humanity is being met by something that doesn't fall into any known category for identification, and so it's natural to be skeptical about the otherworldly nature of this phenomenon. But, to close one's eyes to evidence that indicates the formations are outside human bounds is something else again. Since the awareness that we're being visited would be a great hope for humanity to change its mind-set at a time when we have become so dangerous to ourselves, it would be far better to greet crop circles with curiosity than with skepticism.

SUZANNE TAYLOR
Los Angeles



Gary Goldsmith/DAILY REPUBLIC

Crop circles discovered in a wheat field off of Suisun Valley Road has quickly become Solano County's hottest tourist attraction.

Strange phenomena in Fairfield

Complex circles in wheat field draw attention, UFO reports

By Tim Fields
DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKVILLE — The crop circle formation stamped in a local farmer's 80-acre wheat field is the largest and most complex design ever reported in the United States, researchers said on Wednesday.

While some findings at the site indicate the formation is by human hands, one observation is not so easily explained.

On Saturday morning farmer Larry Balestra discovered the formation of more than a dozen circles on the corner of Rockville and Suisun Valley roads. The shapes covered a distance longer than a football field and formed a symmetrical design.

A key finding at the site is that the circles are actually ellipses and that they have only one geometric center, said Nancy Talbott, of BLT Research Team Inc. The team is based out of Cambridge, Mass., and has hundreds of people worldwide who investigate crop circle sites for authenticity.

It's like trying to draw an elliptical circle with a compass: There must be two center points in order to create the shape, she said.

"This strongly indicates it's not man made," she said.

Some evidence, however, points to humans. The wheat stalks at the

Rockville site don't show characteristics of elongation and expulsion of moisture from the plant, which are seen in "genuine" crop circles, Talbott said.

"The wheat is so dry anyway that we're probably not going to see that," Steve Moreno said, director of PsiApplications, a non-profit paranormal research organization in Fairfield. Moreno and several others are collecting evidence for BLT.

Moreno said he still needs to take a magnet and run it over the perimeter of each circle to collect any residual iron particles. This is an indication of microwave energy in the area and is indicative of a genuine site, he said.

He took samples of wheat seeds from inside and outside circles, and both will be analyzed for changes in the way they germinate.

More evidence is needed to be sure if this site is a hoax, he said. Moreno has also rented a plane and will fly over the site today to get overhead photographs.

But researchers weren't the only ones in the wheat.

Hundreds of people flocked to the formation this week. Some stood in the circles busied with calculators. Some gasped as they stepped onto the flattened crops. And some carried handfuls of wheat from the fields as carefully as if it were gold.

One woman from Marin told Balestra that he was blessed and was the

chosen one.

"It's wild," Balestra said. "Many believe it's aliens. This is an eye-opener for me."

Some locals have reported strange events as well.

Someone living near the wheat field told researchers he saw lights over the crops on Friday night. An owner of a pair of Chihuahuas said the dogs barked incessantly all week, but stopped the day the formation appeared.

A woman from Vacaville said her daughter was driving and saw a UFO silently hovering over the interstate at Meridian Road more than week ago, and as she drove under it, she saw two, huge round lights. On Tuesday of last week, her daughter said she saw two more UFOs: One hovering over a field in the distance and the other over the freeway.

While he plans to harvest the wheat sometime this week, he will leave a 30-foot border around the formation.

People might be really upset if he disturbed it, he said.

Balestra has been swamped with media interviews this week from newspapers, radio and TV. "Yesterday, Good Morning America called me for an interview," he said. "Wow, I've lost count but the phone at home keeps ringing off the hook."

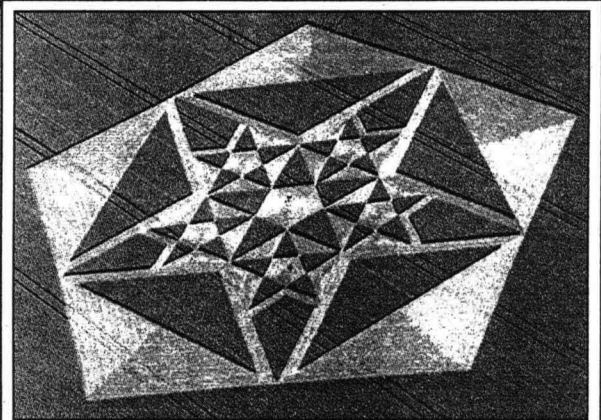
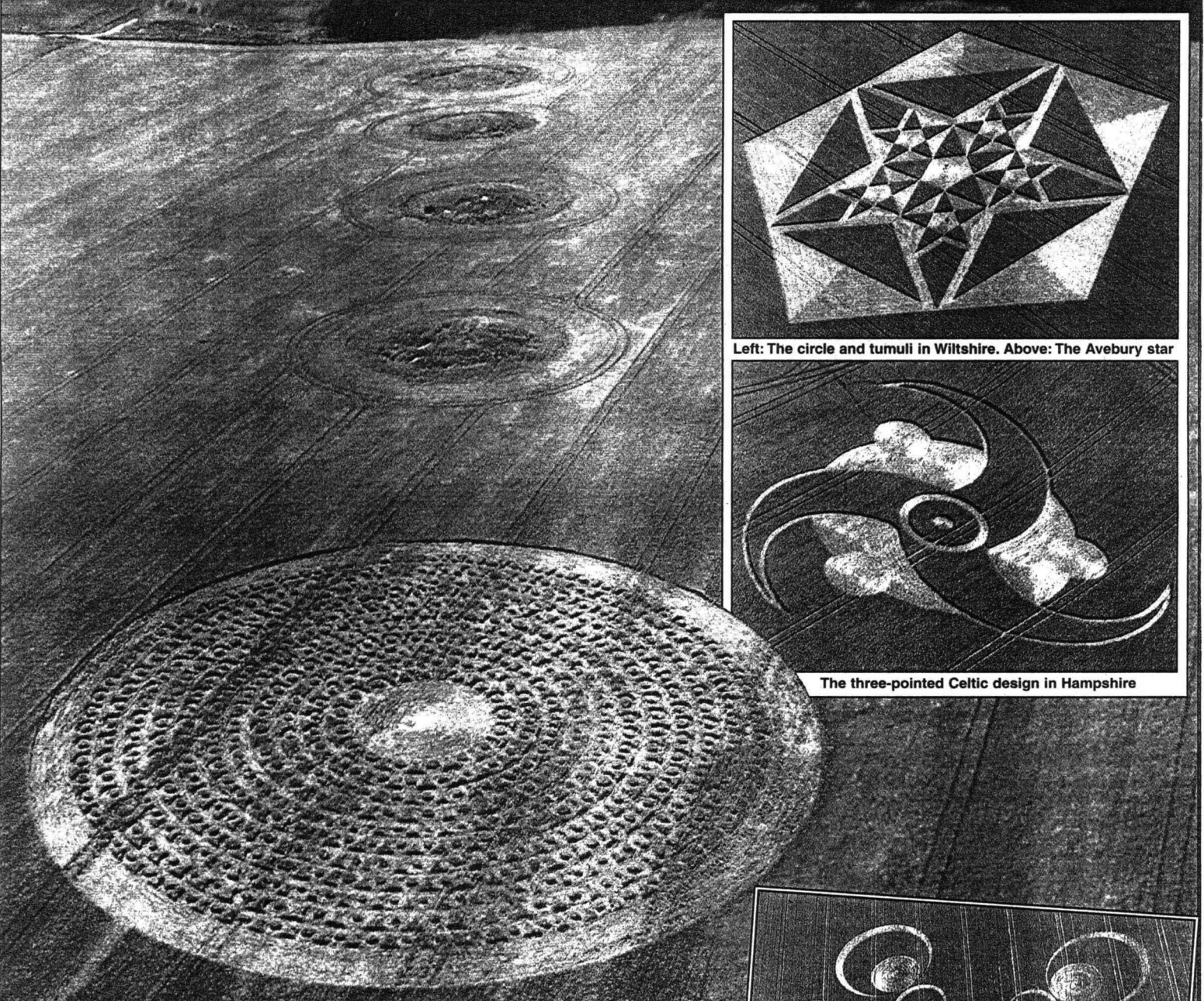
Tim Fields can be reached at tfields@dailyrepublic.net.



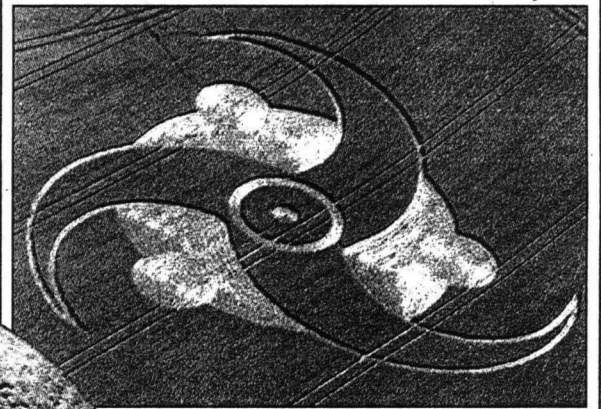
DAILY MAIL, London, England - July 11, 2003 CR: N. Oliver

They're back!

Are they messages from aliens or clever hoaxes? Either way, these shapes are the latest crop of tourist attractions



Left: The circle and tumuli in Wiltshire. Above: The Avebury star



The three-pointed Celtic design in Hampshire

TO THE believer, these vast crop circles are messages from some mysterious higher intelligence.

To the sceptic, they are nothing more than elaborate hoaxes by human pranksters.

Whichever side of the fence you are on, the overnight arrival of these intricate patterns in cereal fields is a sure sign that summer is here.

The first pattern of circles and rings appeared at Ogbourne St George, near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

On the ground, the 500ft-wide

Daily Mail Reporter

formation, a 40-minute walk from the nearest road, is a baffling maze.

But once you take to the air, its geometrical precision becomes clear. Lucy Pringle, who has been studying the phenomenon for more than 15 years, said: 'It really does take the breath away.'

'The geometry is very precise and I believe it must be some means of communication.'

The second shape - more of a star than a circle - appeared near the ancient stone circles at Avebury, Wiltshire. The third, a

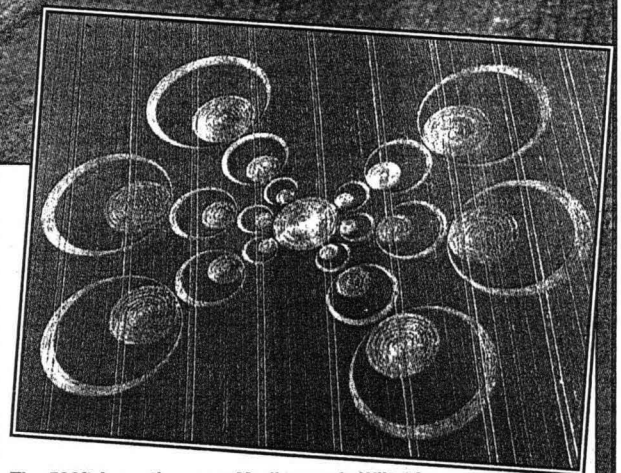
complex pattern made up of hundreds of rings inside a large circle, appeared five days ago in direct alignment with four 5,000-year-old burial mounds, or tumuli, on North Down, Beckhampton, Wiltshire.

The fourth circle, a Celtic pattern with three 'blade' shapes shooting off it, appeared at Litchfield, Hampshire.

Whatever the answer to the mystery, the circles have proved a boon to the West Country tourist trade, attracting visitors from as far afield as the U.S. and Japan each summer.

Pictures: LUCY PRINGLE

The 500ft formation near Marlborough, Wiltshire



UFO SIGHTING IN COUNTY'S SKIES

Stansted 737 pilot sees ball of light

EXCLUSIVE

by CHRIS WILKIN

chris.wilkin@thisissex.co.uk

A MYSTERY UFO was spotted over Mersea Island just 90 minutes before a passenger jet pilot reported a similar sighting at Stansted, the Gazette can reveal.

Police have confirmed the "experienced" Boeing 737 captain radioed air traffic control to report a UFO just two miles from the airport.

A police spokesman told the Gazette: "He thought he saw another aircraft flying in front of him, but there was no near miss. There was another report that someone saw what seemed like a ball of fire."

A ground patrol at Stansted also reported seeing shooting stars.

Police say the runway was checked as a precaution but nothing was found.

The control tower logged the incident as an "unidentified flying object".

Less than two hours earlier a former taxman was shocked to see a UFO shoot across the sky while out walking his dog.

John Wilson, 69, was near his East Mersea home when he spotted the bright ball-shaped light in the sky.

"It was very strange," he said. "It was just like a glittering white ball which came across the sky and disappeared in the distance."

Mr Wilson says the unidentified flying object appeared to come from West Mersea. It travelled across the bus turning circle, over Ivy Lane and out towards the oyster fishery.

"I probably watched it for about 20 seconds," he said. "It was going quite quickly in a straight line and wasn't very high - but it wasn't hugging the ground."

The strange sighting happened at 9.15pm on April 11.

Mr Wilson says it was a clear starry night.

"It didn't make any noise," he added. "Helicopters come over here quite regularly but it was nothing like that. And it wasn't one of the planets because they are much further away."

The stunned sky-watcher has also ruled out comets or shooting stars.

He said: "My initial reaction was that it was a UFO because I couldn't define it as anything else."

"I've never seen anything like it."

A police spokesman said there were no other reports of UFOs over Mersea Island that night. They are "keeping an open mind" over the Stansted incident.

● Did you see the UFO? Phone the newsroom on 01206 508419.

Not a first encounter

IT'S not the first time Mr Wilson, of Ivy Lane, has seen a UFO.

He was working as a trainee tax inspector in London in the late 1950s when he and hundreds of others witnessed a famous UFO sighting.

"That was a cigar-shaped object which hovered for five or 10 minutes then suddenly shot away and was gone," he remembers.

"Lots of people people saw it and it was in the national papers."

Mr Wilson added: "When you see something as clear as this, you know these things exist."

UFO experts probe sighting of glass dome-like structure

by Alistair Shand

UFO sightings in the Keighley area are to be spotlighted on national TV.

Expert Nigel Mortimer - who lives in the Bracken Bank area - will debate local phenomena next week on top daytime programme This Morning.

Keighley is now recognised as a UFO hotspot, with dozens of sightings being reported over the years.

Recent sightings in the district have included a craft which had landed at Cononley. Human-type figures could be seen inside the glass dome-like structure. The report is currently being investigated by a Lancashire-based group of the Northern UFO Network.

Mr Mortimer said: "I am not directly involved in the investigation, but the sighting - early last month - has been mentioned at a conference in Blackpool. Back in 1994, the same type of craft was seen by two taxi drivers on Otley Chevin."

"The area around Keighley is still very prevalent for UFO sightings. Around 50 a year are reported and these are substantial cases rather than just lights in the sky. But a lot of people are reluctant to come forward for fear of looking daft, so the actual number of sightings is probably much higher."

Mr Mortimer's own interest in UFOs began after he experienced a sighting in 1980. For much of the last 20-plus years he has been an investigator, but now concentrates his efforts on the psychic side. He is to give a series of lectures at the High Spirits shop, in Low Street, Keighley, starting tomorrow with "UFOs - Activating Dimensional Doorways". Admission to the 8pm talk is £3. Further lectures are to be held on July 12 and September 13.

For more details phone the shop on 01535 669848 or Mr Mortimer on 01535 605997.

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford, England - April 25, 2003

BURTON MAIL, Staffs., England - Jan. 24, 2003

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE . . .

ALL over the world people have reported sightings of mysterious objects in the night sky.

Lights flashing, moving and merging and weird and wonderful shapes are just some of the descriptions which form the basis for thousands of websites, books, videos and magazine articles.

Aliens and UFOs are one of the universe's great mysteries. Do they exist? Is there life on another planet? Are these strange lights UFOs containing aliens monitoring our planet?

If they are monitoring our planet they seem to have taken a shine to Burton and South Derbyshire because there have been hundreds of sightings over the years of weird lights.

Anne Harvey has witnessed many of the strange lights herself from her bedroom window and has captured many on video camera.

The 65-year-old has made two videos using her amazing footage and has published two books explaining her encounters.

Anne, of Charlton Close, Linton, first saw the strange lights 25 years ago, but it was not until October, 1997, that they reappeared and she started to monitor them.

"The huge triangle lights can change size, colour and shape, sometimes from a goldish triangle measuring around 25in to a full moon size of red lights. Sceptics have once said these are meteors - no way," she says.

"In October 1997 I watched a huge triangle in the sky over the Sutton Coldfield direction. This stopped in one place, changing to a silver planet type of light, which circled around the TV mast for around an hour.

"This triangle then came this way, becoming smaller and again changing from gold to silver. It stopped above our garden like a planet, but was

by SUZANNE HARROP
NEWS REPORTER

followed by many flashing lights, these went off in different directions leaving the stationary one as a marker.

"The flashing lights then returned to the marker every so often - almost like they were reporting back."

The back of Anne's house in Charlton Close looks out onto an expanse of fields and this is where most of the sightings have been.

She says that some of the lights have sped over the top of the house, one of them coming very close to the bedroom window as she was filming.

She said: "I was amazed to focus on a small light about five metres above ground level. This suddenly shot up to the bedroom window with the appearance of an upturned goldfish bowl. This quite frightened me."

"The light went back down into the field to be met by another small light."

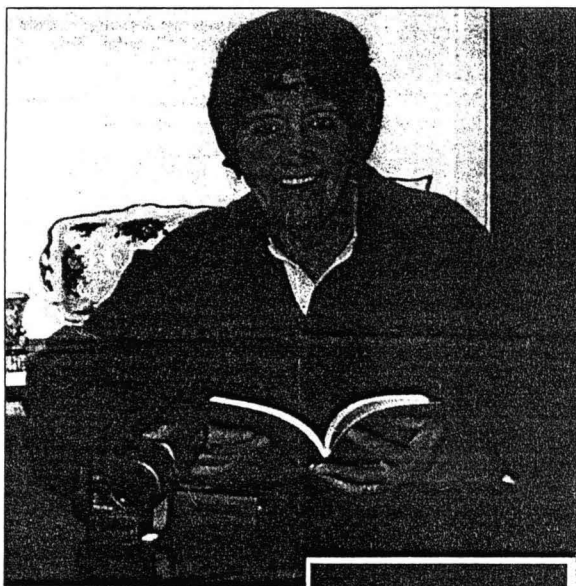
"The two lights go up to one another as though giving energy before joining together, occasionally coming back to the bedroom window shining a bright beam into the room. The light then disappeared into darkness."

The title of Anne's second book is *Are We Being Watched?* and she believes that maybe we are.

She has encountered frightening experiences when her video camera has been switched off as she filmed.

"I have had all sorts of weird experiences. Sometimes I wonder if these things are from Earth, but I think they must be from elsewhere. Whatever they are, they are more intelligent than we are."

Anne is not the only person in the area to witness these strange sights. As reported in Friday's Burton Mail, a family in Tutbury saw a strange light in the sky that changed



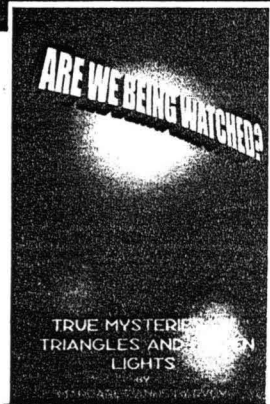
WITNESS . . . Anne Harvey

colour and shape and split into two. Neil Cottey from Burton UFO Investigations Group says there have been some fantastic reports of strange objects.

He said: "The sightings tend to be around the Drakelow Power Station, near vast expanses of water, such as reservoirs, near TV and radio masts and above Burton town centre."

So whether these unexplained lights are planets, aeroplanes, military aircrafts or even aliens . . . the truth is out there.

Unexplained sightings can be reported to Burton UFO Investigations Group by emailing contact@bufoig.co.uk.



THE SECRETS OF THE STARS?

The big question "Are we alone in the universe" has become the hot topic again. Science fiction buffs are becoming addicted to BBC2's new Steven Spielberg alien series *Taken*. And an exhibition opening at the National Space Centre in Leicester claims to give the photographic proof of life beyond Earth. Feature writer David Clensy met people who have experienced their very own close encounters.

TWO diamond-shaped craft moved swiftly and silently above the fields on the outskirts of Melbourne. Windowless and metallic, they sped bullet-like through the sky in close formation before disappearing into the clouds.

The sleepy Derbyshire market town remained generally unmoved, but one pair of eyes was fixed to the heavens in wonder.

Retired telecommunications worker Brian Hampson (66), of Station Road, Melbourne, contacted Derbyshire UFO expert Omar Fowler after seeing the UFOs last March.

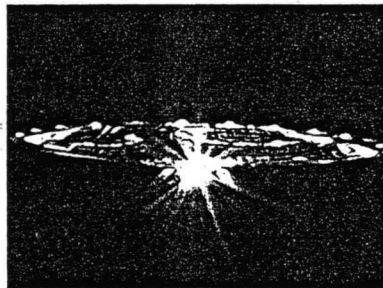
Leaning on the windowsill of his living room, Brian remembered the moment with a faraway gaze.

"I have a clear view of the flight path for East Midlands Airport from my front window," he explained. "So I am very familiar with the general comings and goings from the airport."

"I was watching an aeroplane coming in to land from the west on this particular evening."

"I could see the lights of the plane

UFO sightings suggest space is not such a lonely place



● **THE SKY'S THE LIMIT?** Steven Spielberg's mini-series *Taken* has revived our fascination for the unidentified and unknown. Many people are convinced that there is definitely something else out there.

travel over our house, but as I watched, a strange thing happened.

"Another set of lights appeared. They were moving along a strange trajectory, from east to west - it was a route that definitely was not a normal flight path."

"I started paying more attention because the lights appeared to be heading straight towards the landing plane, and I thought it could be a near miss."

For a moment, Brian stood transfixed looking out of the window, wondering what would happen next, but with a sigh

of relief, he realised that the craft was not going to hit the plane.

"The second set of lights was much higher, and there was no danger of them making contact with the plane," he added.

"But I carried on watching the lights because I knew there was no flight path in that direction, and I gradually realised that they were not the lights of an aeroplane."

"They were much paler in colour than aeroplane lights - they were amber

coloured, and they formed the shape of two diamonds."

Keen to get a better view, Brian rushed for his binoculars.

"Through the binoculars, I could see many more lights within the formation," he said. "I could even see what looked like metal ridges, lit up by the lights on the underside of the craft."

"I could tell that it was actually two separate craft travelling almost side by side - one was slightly behind the other."

As they travelled across the sky above Brian's house, the rear diamond moved forward, travelled for a while alongside the other, and then moved slightly ahead of the second craft.

"It is very difficult to judge their speed when you don't really know how high they were, but I think that they must have been travelling at about 150mph," he said.

"They appeared to be travelling perilously close to each other - just like when you see the Red Arrows doing one of those flying displays."

The craft then disappeared into clouds which were gathering in the west.

Brian said he remained open minded about the diamond-shaped craft. He be-

lieves that they could be some sort of secret military drone craft, the likes of which he has never seen, but he does not rule out the possibility that they could be the transport of an alien life form.

"You have to believe that these things are possible," he said. "There are just so many reported sightings of UFOs that you can't just dismiss them."

"And I also think that there is a lot of suppression of information going on with UFOs, so we will probably never discover the truth."

Omar Fowler, of the Derby-based Phenomenon Research Association, explained that Brian's experience was quite a typical encounter.

"This is the usual sort of thing that people see," he said. "It is normally just a matter of seeing an unusual shape moving across the sky, often for just a few seconds."

"Brian's experience does differ from the kind reported by most people, who see the shapes as triangles rather than diamonds."

Omar, who runs the society from his Sinfon home, is determined to discover the truth about UFOs by meticulously logging reported experiences.

He used to work at Farnborough air base, where he was involved with developing experimental aircraft.

"That work sparked my interest in extra-terrestrial visitors, and after years of recording incidents, I am convinced that alien life exists and visits Earth regularly," he added.

"While UFOs remain an unusual sight in the night sky, I would estimate that there are 15 or more types of alien that visit our planet every year."

For Patricia Winfield, UFOs are not an unusual sight. The 48-year-old, of Earls Close, Kirk Hallam, has seen numerous craft.

"I saw my first when I was 13 years old," she said. "I was looking out of the window of my parents' house in Ilkeston, and I saw a huge bright light in the night sky."

"It hovered there for quite a while, and then another light joined it, and a few seconds later, they both moved away very quickly."

The sightings continued after Patricia married husband Derek. On a visit to Barton-on-Humber 26 years ago, a menacing disc invaded their peaceful walk.

She said: "We were on a grassy hill in the middle of the day when the craft appeared. It hovered silently just a few hundred feet above us. We watched flabbergasted, but another man was terrified. He told us to get away from it - that it wasn't of this world."

"We don't tell people about the incidents, because I am afraid they will think us mad."

But an exhibition opening at Leicester's National Space Centre this weekend could prove that Patricia's experiences are not that mysterious.

Startling images claimed to be proof of aliens will be shown to the public. Hundreds of flying saucers were captured on film by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, a spacecraft a million miles from Earth observing the sun.

Nasa originally dismissed the images as being the result of a camera fault, and now refuses to comment. Investigators are convinced they are alien spacecraft - an intimidating prospect.

But Patricia and her family have never been afraid during the sightings. They saw another UFO just three months ago.

Patricia's 11-year-old son, Ian, was watching television when he saw a cigar-shaped UFO through the window.

"He called Derek and me over to look at the craft, which was clearly visible through the French windows," Patricia said.

"We went outside, and it hovered on a slight tilt for a few minutes. It had no windows - it was just a solid dark mass edged in lots of red lights. After a few minutes, it moved on, and we were left unable to believe what we had just seen."



● **NIGHT WATCH:** Brian Hampson says he has seen a UFO, and (inset) Omar Fowler, a member of the Phenomenon Research Association, is adamant they exist.

Picture: Johanna De Winter (JW210103E1)

Patricia also contacted Omar to report the sighting.

"The Winfield family's is quite an unusual case," Omar said. "I think that the ability to see these craft can sometimes also be based on psychic abilities, and I think that this family is particularly strong in that field."

But with any amount of psychic ability, the busy industrial back streets of Osmaston seem an unlikely setting for alien activity.

Yet 80-year-old Roy Crabtree says that he regularly sees a UFO in the skies over his Osmaston home.

"It comes back every two months,"

Roy explained as he pointed up at the grey sky above Grosvenor Street.

"Regular as clockwork it is - a big triangle of lights, just hanging there in the sky."

"I first saw it six months ago, and since then it has come back every two months."

"I can't quite put it down to a day, but I know that it will be back in about another five weeks or so."

"It doesn't move at all. It hovers, as though they are just monitoring us. Sometimes it stays for just a couple of nights, but sometimes it stays for weeks."

"I've drawn a sketch of it," he ex-

plained, taking a scrap of paper from his pocket.

"It is made up of hundreds of little yellow lights, which just look like stars. But they bunch up together to make three triangles."

Roy has no doubt about the source of the lights.

"I believe that we are not alone," he said. "There are bound to be other beings up there, watching us."

And with a last glance up to the massing grey clouds, he stepped in from his back yard with a shudder.

"But we shall just have to wait and see," he chuckled. "Just wait and see."

CHRONICLE, Essex, England - July 18, 2003

Lights in the sky spark UFO fears

Stanford-le-Hope -- Darting lights spotted over Stanford-le-Hope have prompted a dispute between a UFO expert and a group of sceptics. Two people filmed the lights floating above Cornwell Crescent, Stanford-le-Hope, before they zoomed away at 3.30pm on Sunday [July 13]. One of the witnesses - who asked not to be named for fear of ridicule, said: "I thought it was a UFO as there is no other explanation. These definitely were not terrestrial aircraft. They looked more like small

suns. They must be from outer space."

The video footage is being examined by Contact International UFO Research. Spokesman Michael Soper said UFO sightings coincided with "high velocity solar winds" and he suggested alien craft sheltered in the Earth's atmosphere to avoid the space storms. But a spokesman for Essex-based group, the Skeptics, dismissed the alien explanation and suggested it could be milkweed seeds floating in the air.

RETIRED DETECTIVE GETS ON THE TRAIL OF BRADFORD UFOs

Did you see the little green man in a pointy hat?



IMAGE: Could this be the little green man seen in a Bradford street in 1954, now hunted by UFO detective John Hanson, inset

by JANET FAULKNER

T&A Reporter

As far as close encounters go, it seemed a strange place for aliens to land.

Not for them the White House or even Roswell, New Mexico.

But a little street off Manchester Road, a stone's throw from the city centre, became the focus, it is said, of a visitation from another world.

It was 1954, a young Queen Elizabeth reigned, and the biggest ever crowd of 102,000 watched a Challenge Cup Final replay between Halifax and Warrington at Odsal.

Just a few short months later, the aliens, perhaps intrigued by the vast crowds at Odsal, descended on the city.

It was 4am on August 16 and a 'creature' was seen creeping around Roundhill Street by a lorry driver.

And now a retired detective is on the hunt of the Close Encounter of the Holme Top kind.

John Hanson is writing a book about UFOs and other unexplained phenomena and is hunting for anyone who witnessed the little green man with a pointy hat.

The lorry driver described the creature as about four feet tall and said it was walking in a peculiar manner before it disappeared down an alleyway.

Witnesses of other "alien sightings" have reported a similar strange walk, he said.

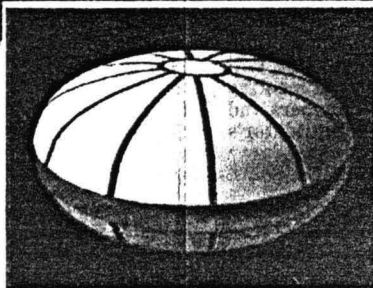
As a CID officer, Mr Hanson was sceptical about reports of UFOs and aliens - until he heard about something he simply could not explain.

An orange ball of fire was reported in the sky above a suburb of Birmingham on January 19, 1995.

When police officers went to investi-



SPACE: Images in the sky that John Hanson is hoping to track down and identify



gate, they saw a blue object with a bar of orange light in the centre.

Mr Hanson said: "Prior to January 19, 1995 I was a sceptic in such matters."

But he was unconvinced by the official explanation that the object was simply a shooting star.

Since then, he has spent hours of his time researching other sightings of UFOs.

"I decided to carry out my own research into the subject, working sometimes six or seven hours a day, writing up

accounts given to me by people, some of whom I had to track down from the early 1950s. I'm obsessive to say the least!" he said.

He believes that many of the unexplained phenomena are connected with ancient "energy fields" which are linked to the planet itself.

"This would suggest that we are dealing with a phenomenon which is as ancient as man himself, and likely to be indigenous to the Planet rather than examples of visitations from E.T.," he added.

What is clear is that 50 years of research have not found an explanation for the creature seen in Roundhill Street.

With the help of readers who remember, John Hanson hopes to get closer to the truth.

Please email Mr Hanson with any reports of UFO activity: john@recardo76.fsnet.co.uk or write to him at 1 Bunbury Gardens, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 1BA.

Stargazers keep eyes on the skies

by Jamie Goodwin

THE truth is out there – and Hull's very own Fox Mulder is out to prove it.

Sean Tierney has been a member of the Hull UFO Society for five years.

In that time, he has seen things no-one can explain.

And Sean, 41, believes if more people watch the skies, they too would be fascinated by the phenomenon they were sure to experience.

"I definitely believe there is something out there – whether we see it in our lifetime is another thing entirely," he said.

"I think a lot of people walk around with blinkers on. If they just looked up, they might see some very interesting things."

Hull UFO Society meet every other Tuesday at The Friends Meeting House, Percy Street, Hull, to discuss issues – including any recent sightings in the area.

Getting TOGETHER

UFO Society

Sean added: "People can report any sightings. We will only discuss the case, not their details."

"There is always talk of other worlds watching over us."

"The first thing I say to new people is that a UFO is not necessarily an alien, it is just something we cannot identify."

"There was one incident where I was in Scarborough with some friends when I noticed two lights hovering in the sky."

"I phoned my son back in Hull and told him to look towards Orion, and he could see them too."

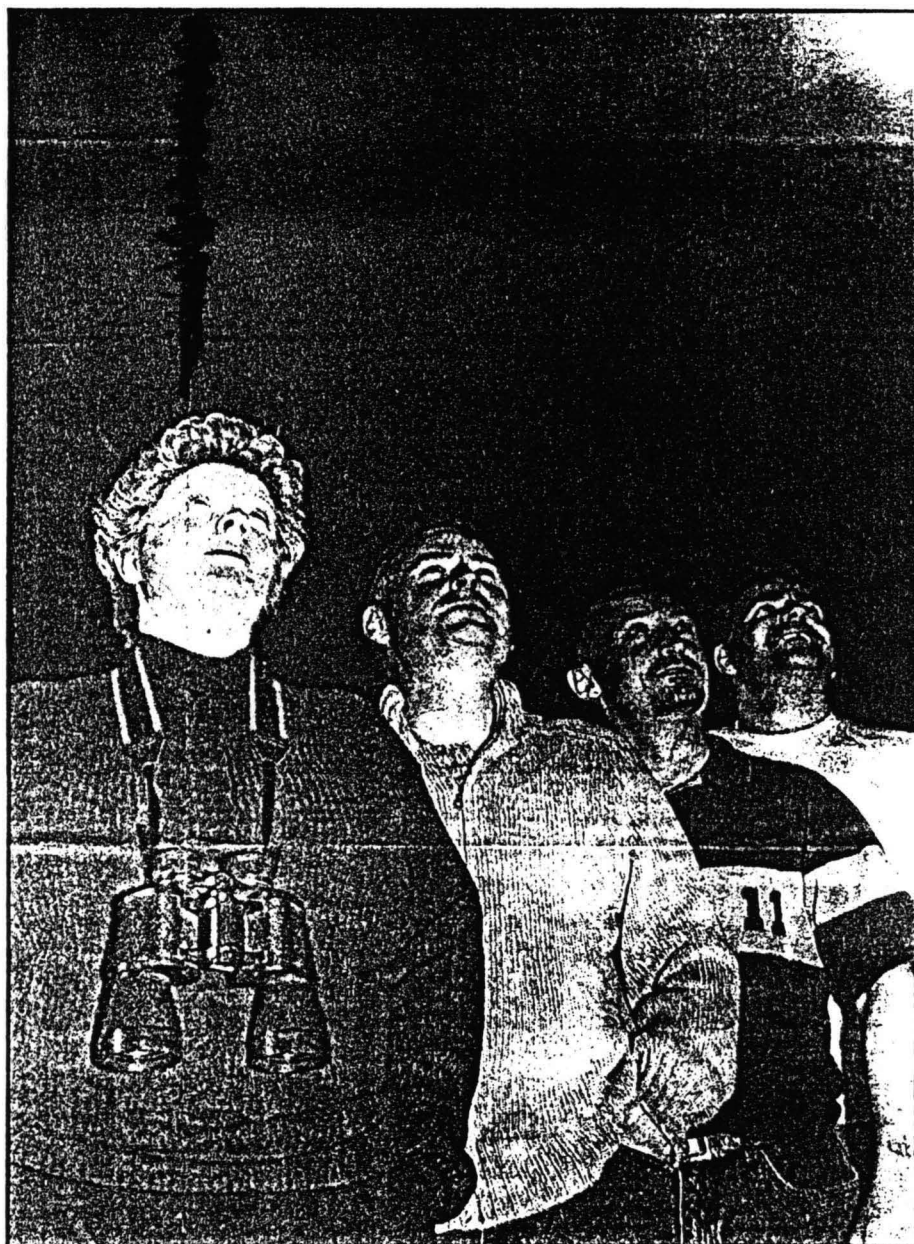
"He got out the video camera, and shot about two-and-a-half minutes of footage of the lights."

"We later heard there had been sightings in Leeds and Nottingham, so it was obviously something high in the sky."

"The RAF and the MOD both said there was only one rescue helicopter operating in the area, so that would not have been high enough."

"It cannot be explained, therefore it is a UFO."

The group next meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 7.30pm.



Staring in to space: From left, Vikki Skelton, Darron Railton, Tony Barker and Sean Tierney gaze in to the night sky

INCONTACT

For information about attending the Hull UFO Society's meetings, or to report a sighting, call organiser Sean Tierney on (01482) 219887 or 07754 036536, or visit the group's own website at www.hufos.karoo.net

I've never had a real sighting

RITA Jennings has never had a UFO sighting of her own.

But that hasn't stopped her cultivating her interest in the paranormal over the past five years.

She said she can never decide whether sightings are genuine or not.

"When there are so many people who say they have seen something, I start to think they can't all be real sightings," she said.

"But there are so many reports I start to think they must be true."

"I've never had a sighting, but I think if I had ever seen anything like



Still waiting: Rita Jennings

that, I would probably be under no doubt of the validity of the claims."

"I don't particularly want to though."

Rita, 59, said anyone who has ever been curious

should visit the club.

She added: "They are a very friendly group. People who come down are not left in the corner, they are introduced to people and made to feel welcome."

I enjoy club's social side too

DARRON Railton has been there since the Hull UFO society first took off in 1997. He said people would be surprised by the atmosphere at the club.

"I'm not one of these nerdy geeks who thinks everything I see is from outer space," said the 38-year-old.

"I've always been interested in astronomy and that kind of thing."

"I saw one or two things in the sky when I was 15 and I guess we are all just looking for answers we will never get."

"It's as much a social thing as anything, though. People expect to just see a bunch of anoraks, but it's just a cross-section of people. There are a few odd-bods, though."

Darron said any new



No geek: Darron Railton

members would be made to feel welcome.

He added: "If someone new comes, they aren't just left to sit in the corner by themselves."

"They will be introduced to everyone."

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.]

July 10, 2003 — *La Estrella del Loa*, Chile — CHILE: Mysterious Disappearances in Pampa Union — Human beings appear to be left "out in the cold" whenever reason cannot explain events that are not self-explanatory. This is the effect that Pampa Union has had on many visitors and even those who, having been to the site, perhaps prefer to forget about it. The events and enigmas contained in this ancient campsite are legion, as can be attested from the numerous phone calls to our newsroom.

One of the most chilling and still-unsolved ones was experienced by Nora Suarez when she spent a day in this settlement in the company of her sister Mireya and their relatives. In the blink of an eye, Mireya walked away from the family group, causing concern among them and prompting them to search for her. Despite their best efforts, Mireya was never seen again among the ruined walls of Pampa Union. Her mysterious disappearance is an unsolved mystery that has many incredible details. The case reached the law courts, before which any and all who might have something to say about the matter were summoned to appear. However, all those called by the court to testify in the girl's disappearance died under unexplained circumstances without ever telling their stories.

The family has made heroic efforts to unravel the bizarre situation that has remained unsolved for so many years. Nora Suarez has even appealed to Carabineros (state police) and television broadcasters in the search for her missing sister.

There exists the theory that she may have vanished in Bolivia, but not even this hypothesis has aided the efforts to find the whereabouts of that girl—today a woman—who vanished forever in Pampa Union.

The Story of Pampa Union

Pampa Union was a camp that provided support to the various nitrate companies located between Calama and Antofagasta, reaching its heyday in the first half of last century. It was a site which rose and dwindled along with the fortunes of the nitrate workers. Old residents of Sierra Gorda, a town some kilometers away from Pampa Union, say that it was a settlement "without God or law." This fact led to many deaths and events which in the light of history and paranormal research, left each corner of the town "charged."

It is for this reason that many of the accounts that have reached our newsroom concern strange apparitions, wagons bearing ghostly characters who carry out their daily affairs as though time had stopped in another dimension. The happy days of Pampa Union are long gone, but among its ruins the wind seems to emulate the whispers of a vital and important town, an oasis in the desert.

One of the accounts received by our newsroom was that of Gustavo Pojas. He said that he had undergone a chilling experience some time ago as he drove through Pampa Union, keeping it to himself until now. He says the time was roughly 1 a.m. as he drove through the ruins. He saw a man dressed in black, wearing a top hat and wielding a walking stick, very much in the style of the early years of the last century. He seemed to be waiting for someone to pick him up. Concerned, Rojas slowed down to help him, but when looking through his rear-view mirror, he noticed the man was gone. The driver returned to Calama bathed in a cold sweat and gripped by fear, a typical reaction among those who have had experiences of this nature. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 12, 2003 — *La Estrella*, Valparaíso, Chile — CHUPACABRAS GETS A BEATING — A couple from Vina del Mar went through a horrifying experience after becoming aware that a strange animal, allegedly the Chupacabras, had entered into their back yard where it attacked the family's ducks. One of the ducks suffered a perfect perforation in its spine; the remaining three animals disappeared.

Most stunning for the protagonists of the event was that they managed to see the animal, face it and even strike it repeatedly with a metal cart. But the intruder managed to escape; its escape path was not ascertained.

This strange event was recorded early Wednesday morning this week (July 9). The witnesses were Juan Siliva Torres and Veronica Vildosola, residents of Las Maravillas street in the town of Santa Julia. Both were hesitant about disclosing their experience, since they feared they would not be believed. Curiously enough, this episode is similar to several other similar ones recorded in different parts of the area and the country which have been attributed to the legendary Chupacabras.

A horrible experience

Veronica Vildosola states that on the day in question, around 5 a.m., she heard strange noises: "First I heard blows on neighboring rooftops. It was like something jumping from one rooftop to another."

She added: "I suddenly heard something like a very heavy bird that landed on our roof. It immediately started to scratch the rooftop with its claws."

Faced with the fear that the animal or bird would attack the ducks kept in the backyard or the hens in their coops, she woke up her husband so he could go and take a look.

The attack

Juan Silva says: "Upon going outside, I saw an animal that wasn't a dog in spite of looking like a dog. It was in a corner, hunched over the spine of one of the ducks it had caught."

"I got closer, hurling the wrench I held in my hand against it. But since it didn't move, I began to strike it with the handle of a metal hand cart that was in the yard. The animal made some strange sounds, like moans of pain. Had it been a dog, it would have barked and yelped. But that wasn't the case." Silva adds that the creature "had very shiny eyes."

His wife continued the story. "I was holding a stick with which to strike what I thought was a dog. That's when I saw the critter trying to escape. It did so in a semi-erect position, as though walking hunched over on two legs. It looked at me and I also saw its shiny eyes. I don't know if I was paralyzed out of fear or for another reason."

The couple indicated that neighboring dogs began to bark like never before.

Footprints

They stated that the duck over which the animal had crouched had a deep hole through which its blood had been drained. Since the animal was caught in the act, the bird had traces of blood over its feathers. Reporters from *La Estrella* saw that the attacked bird had an orifice 2 centimeters across; it was a perfect incision, as though created by a precision instrument. The family noted that three ducks had disappeared. "We found a wing belonging to one of them, but the other two we couldn't find, even after going out to the

street and looking for it.

But the mysterious creature's escape was also a subject of high strangeness for the protagonists of this event. "Later on, we tried to see which way the animal could have escaped, but we didn't find any point through which it could've crossed. We think it could have only flown away," said the woman.

They noted that the animal only left some claw marks on the dirt. "These don't match dog paws either," stated Juan Silva.

Valparaiso, Vina del Mar and Quillota have been the scene for similar episodes in recent 1 years. No logical explanation has hitherto been found for them. For this reason, those affected by poultry deaths have ascribed the attack to the alleged Chupacabras.

Furthermore, the case recorded in Santa Julia coincides in several aspects with the two latest ones known in Quillota. One of them is that the creature appears during the early morning hours, jumping from rooftop to rooftop. The other is that when faced with humans, these notice strange eye-glow which has even left them paralyzed. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 17, 2003 — *Diario La Cuarta*, Chile — CHUPACABRAS IN LA PALMILLA? — ***Terror spreads among farmers of La Palmilla, 6th Region. Guard dogs did not bark*** — ***Chupacabras Stomachs 29 Chickens*** — Sedate residents of the La Palmilla sector of the peaceful commune of Rauco in the 6th Region were startled to find 29 hens with their legs in the air, completely exsanguinated and with twin holes on their necks. The peasantry was shocked at the find and without thinking twice, assigned blame to the now-legendary "Chupacabras" who had attacked again.

They had no doubts in their minds, because aside from the holes, the hens--which were all egg layers--were completely dry, as though some unknown beast had sucked their last drop of blood.

Still trembling from their fear of the "Chupacabras" and concerned by the loss of the birds, the residents noted that the deaths had occurred simultaneously in two neighboring houses on Tuesday morning.

What is strange about the matter and causes the belief in a supernatural animal partial to vampirism is that no resident heard noises, which is very strange given the fact that hens tend to be very vocal if attacked. Even the guard dogs in both houses never realized what was going on, and never made a fuss.

The first attack affected the home of Maria Carolina Bravo, who lost 24 hens. According to this woman, upon inspecting the henhouse she found a hole through which some animal or the "Chupacabras" could have gotten through. The woman did not hear any sounds either. Martha Varas was left speechless when she found five dead hens, slain in the same mysterious fashion, in her backyard.

Carabineros (state police) of the Rauco Barracks appeared immediately and witnessed the inexplicable hen slaying for themselves. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 21, 2003 — *El Centro*, Talca, Chile — CHUPACABRAS PRINTS TO BE STUDIED BY GEO GROUP — CURICO — The prestigious GEO Group, devoted to the study of UFO phenomena, is studying the prints left by the alleged "Chupacabras" which apparently attacked thirty chickens during early morning hours last Tuesday in La Palmilla, Rauco commune.

A total of 24 birds were found exsanguinated within a henhouse belonging to Maria Carolina Bravo. In another nearby henhouse, five more hens experienced a similar attack; no explanation is forthcoming regarding the animal [whose fangs] pierced their necks and drew their blood.

Alfredo Nilo, a Curico-based researcher of UFO phenomena, visited the site of the incident and made casts of the prints which could belong to the legendary "Chupacabras". He was also able to secure samples of hair, whose origin shall be investigated. In this regard, and in order to perform more detailed studies, Alfredo Nilo took the samples to Santiago, specifically to the GEO Group, which specializes in UFO and paranormal phenomena. There he met with Alberto Urquiza, the group's president, who also participates in the "La Ley de la Selva" television show, in order to deliver the casts and perform an analysis.

"We were able to compare some of the prints of the most recent attack of this being, which occurred in Viña del Mar, and which have some similar characteristics with the Rauco evidence in the type of claw. However, the prints were left with GEO for a more thorough analysis, since they have the necessary materials and instruments," said Nilo.

In this meeting, Urquiza made known his intention to visit the area in order to see the site where the "Chupacabras" attack allegedly occurred. Even though no specific date was given, it could take place within a few weeks. Alfredo Nilo said that for the time being they await the analyses to be performed by GEO in order to ascertain the type of animal or strange being that exsanguinated the hens from Rauco. He also noted that they are waiting for the report to be drafted by the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) based on the hens that were removed from the site. The prints taken by Nilo from the site where the birds died correspond to one of the animal's legs, which is characterized by not being "retractable" (sic) like those of a dog. Furthermore, reddish hair was located which could eventually shed more light on the matter.

"We were also interested in the fact that the birds' feathers appeared to have been chopped off as if by a knife. When a dog tears at something, it pulls out the feathers and they come out by the root. We are faced with the fact that a sharp object was responsible, and the prints show that the attacker had claws as thin and sharp as a knife," he said.

Nilo also recalled that a resident of La Palmilla is devoted to looking for water to build wells and tanks. He used his tools in one of the chicken coops where the creature or animal attacked the hens and found that the tools had acquired radiation and a strange energy.

"We believe it's an extraterrestrial pet, a programmed being, a hybrid or cloned species designed to extract bodily fluids or liquids from the birds in order to feed itself, or with another purpose altogether. It is associated to the UFO phenomenon and is very intelligent. For this reason it will not be captured," he added. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 24, 2003 — *Rio Negro On Line*, Argentina — CHOELE CHOEL (AVM) — The cattle mutilations caper, which was brought to a close among some officials with the explanation that the animals were attacked--after dead--by a strange red mouse, continues to be a source of bewilderment in Valle Medio as mutilated animals continue to appear.

Last Tuesday, personnel from the Sociedad Rural, a veterinarian and a farmhand from a local ranch found a cow -- showing incisions similar to the ones seen last year -- in a rural locale some 60 km from the city.

The animal--they said--presented clear signs of mutilation: it was missing an eye, its udders and its reproductive organs. These had been removed with surgical precision and there were no tracks near the animal that would enable determining exactly what attacked it.

"As a whole, whenever an animal dies a natural death there is much kicking, or rigor mortis shortly afterward, but there's nothing like that here," stated an astonished Enrique Sanchez of the Sociedad Rural. "Another surprising factor was that it was a young animal that was with its calf, but the calf did not approach the

carcass."

Veterinarian Carlos Montobbio pointed out that "the animal was found in the El Gualaguay ranch belonging to Arsenio Ferrarino, a rural cattleman with years of experience. But like his farmhand, who made the find, he has never seen anything like it." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 24, 2003 — *El Diario*, La Pampa, Argentina — MORE MUTILATED CATTLE IN LA PAMPA — General Acha (Agencia) — On Wednesday, July 16, three calves and a cow were found mutilated in fields adjacent to this city. "Until one sees it, or it happens to [one's animals], one doesn't believe it," said a cattleman whose property is located some 30 kilometers from General Acha and who asked *El Diario* to keep his identity confidential.

The cattleman said that on July 16, 'two calves and a 'masked' calf, weighing some 200 kg. each," were found mutilated some 500 meters away from his house in a flat open field. "The males were missing an eye, an ear and their tongues, while the female had its nipples sheared off with surgical precision," he noted, betraying his surprise when he said "when we found them, they were still issuing some sort of smoke or vapor from their carcasses, as though recently dead."

"All of the animals had their heads pointed southward," he pointed out, noting that he was "certain that the animals had been alive the previous evening."

"We did not dare get close to them or touch them, but on the fourth day, no animal, predator, fox or chimango (vulture) came close," he said. Finally, the confused cattleman said, "We plucked up our courage, got them together and burned them."

Another cattleman who told a similar story explained that on that same Wednesday, "a very docile cow that was near the house vanished, and was later found two sections away from where it normally grazed."

The livestock farmer explained that "these are 200 hectare pastures" and that the mutilations on the cow were similar to those which have been reported on so many occasions. He added that in this case, "the cow was very docile and would have never jumped over the barbed wire fences that divide the three sections, because the gates were properly closed and no fence was broken." In both cases, livestock farmers indicated that they did not file reports with the police or with the courts, since they understood that such complaints would not be taken seriously.

[For more information: <http://www.eldiariodelapampa.com.ar/provinciales.htm>] — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 27, 2003 — *CALAMA UFO CENTER*, Calama, Chile — WITNESSES TO THE INCREDIBLE: Winged Weirdoes and Imps — **A preliminary warning** — In considering both the relevance and the exclusive nature of the following accounts, I must caution that this testimony was cited in an independent fashion, attesting that there was total agreement between their different versions. The eyewitnesses were approached by me and it was not they who stepped forward with their version of the events; they were initially reluctant to do so given the spectacular nature of their claims. Furthermore, all was done extemporaneously without the opportunity to craft the events discussed herein at an earlier time. — Jaime Ferrer R., researcher. — The time being 17:00 hours on July 23, 2003 at Calama (Chile), four 16 year olds have made extraordinary and relevant statements to CUFOC (Calama UFO Center).

The first of these occurred recently on Tuesday, July 23 this year. However, the second one represents a previously unpublished event: it was possible to contact four of the five witnesses for the first time, who had been able to observe in utter astonishment how six strange humanoid beings attacked and mutilated a lamb.

The First Case - "It was a moment of terror"

Diego, a young student living in the city of Calama and who is in his first year of middle school, frequently travels to visit his grandfather, who lives in a sector adjacent to the tourist site of San Pedro de Atacama. He is always accompanied by his friends and neighbors, Jonathan and Carlos.

These days, taking advantage of the winter academic recess, the friends travelled to San Pedro to visit his grandfather. Since the area is dense with vegetation, they took advantage of the opportunity to walk around and have fun assisting Diego's uncle in rounding up his goat herd, which is located 500 meters away from the grandfather's house.

On Tuesday, July 23 of this year, the time being approximately 20:30 hours, the three youths decided to return to the grandfather's house and spend the night. Diego lit the stove to boil water and serve tea with some loaves of bread they had brought from Calama; his grandfather was out of the house. His only source of light came from a candle, since the area lacks electricity.

At around 9:05 p.m., moments after the boys were serving up their supper, they could hear the dogs on the property issue strange moans and howls; furthermore, they could hear the canines running from one side to another as if frightened, a situation they couldn't help but notice.

At around 9:15 p.m., strange knocking sounds rattled the door to the house, swiftly increasing in violence and accompanied by scratches, a situation which left the boys speechless and instinctively made them get up from their seats, running to one of the corners of the house. They intuited that the knocks and scratches were not the result of something natural; terror seized them and they feared for their lives.

There was a bed in the place where they sheltered. They desperately took hold of blankets and mattresses to cover themselves.

One can recreate the image of how they sheltered in that corner, being able to do nothing but pray fervently, believing that the door would yield at any time, allowing the beast to enter.

After 3 or 5 minutes of fear, the sound ceased completely. Diego got out from under the blankets, looked out the window and did not see anyone. He opened the door and didn't see anything either. "It's all right, boys, it's gone!" he said. Now the three were outside the house, trying to recover from the fright, when at a distance of some 15 meters--standing amid pear trees--they could see a horrifying creature standing a meter and a half tall, and sporting wings measuring at least 3.5 meters.

It was covered by glossy black skin, very clean and hairless. It appeared as though it had recently emerged from the water, but without being wet. It had a large head and a small beak, presenting a sort of crest which was apparently missing a piece from a fight. Its eyes were immense and completely black, but sparkled brilliantly. They thought it was a prehistoric being, since its wings had a strong resemblance to those of pterodactyls or bats, featuring bone-like protuberances which form the skeletal frame of the wings. Its legs were sturdy and had powerful claws like those of a carrion bird, but much stronger.

Suddenly, the being fluttered its wings, shaking the tree in front of it and rising into the air with extraordinary ease, losing itself in the dark of the night. Fearing its return, which fortunately did not occur, the three boys slept in a single bed that night.

If this story is frightening, the following one, without representing any further risk to bodily safety, is also relevant, since there had never been reports of eyewitnesses to the way in which certain animals are mutilated. This is the first time that 5 individuals provide complete details on these extraordinary events.

In this case, aside from Diego, Jonathan and Carlos, another friend named Mario was in the group along with Diego's uncle Emilio, 42, the owner of the animals. These were the privileged witnesses to the moment when six entities attacked and mutilated a lamb.

The Second Case

Before continuing with the story, I would like to point out that Diego, Jonathan and Carlos now feel that the presence of beings at night in the aforementioned area is almost natural. Diego states that with his flashlight he has been able to follow the activities--on more than one occasion--of small, strange beings which he does not hesitate to dub "imps".

"It's common to see these beings in this area; they're always cutting right in front of us or can be heard to run among the shrubs," he says.

"But I never saw anything like this."

On Thursday, May 22, 2003, the five aforementioned witnesses were rounding up animals at around 18:30 hours. It was just getting dark.

The group of youngsters, plus Diego's uncle, were returning toward the animal pens and just 10 meters short of their destination, saw six small beings, standing some 60 cm tall each, emerge from the thicket.

It is worth noting that, given the way they described these beings, the event was not out of the ordinary for them, since they claim that this is not the first time they have witnessed something unusual. However, Diego says that he was startled not by their presence, but rather, by the time and number of "imps" that showed up. The description given by each of them is quite frankly fantastic, and even appears to be drawn from the "Walt Disney X-Files". However, considering the large number of coinciding descriptions, and the seriousness in presenting their eyewitness accounts, I have no choice but to give credit to their words and declare that what they said was indeed true.

The details presented by each witness coincided entirely; but as is natural, some noticed details that were overlooked by the others.

The drawing corresponds to one of the witnesses; however, he states that [all of the imps] were different. These are the most relevant and coinciding details:

- Dark grey and hairless skin
- Large oval-shaped head
- Two large pointed ears
- Two relatively small, oval eyes
- Large nose (different shapes)
- Mouth disproportionate to the rest of the face
- Yellowed, separated teeth; or else lacking teeth
- They emitted grotesque, sarcastic and hoarse laughter.
- Their features were very similar to those of a human, and showed signs of cuts or injuries to their skin. Diego says that one of them had a chunk of nose dangling from its face, but this seemingly did not affect it all.
- Short neck, similar to that of a child
- Something similar to a necktie could be seen under their necks, but it could not be readily identified.
- Short arms with articulations (elbows and wrists)
- Hands similar to human, but ending in short but strong black nails
- Most of them presented bloated abdomens
- They were all dressed differently, such as flannel of various colors, but in tatters.
- They all had belts around their bloated waists, with different buckles.
- Their legs were short and strongly resembling those of a rabbit, but presenting long and powerful nails.
- Their manner of running is unusual: they take short steps followed by long jumps (like a kangaroo), achieving a height of up to 1.5 meters. They move sideways like people suffering from dwarfism.
- Judging by their size, these beings must weigh between 35 and 40 kgs; however, they believe they couldn't have weighed more than ten.
- From the moment they emerged from the thicket, the beings began to play, jumping into the air and bumping different parts of their bodies deliberately. They also scratched the ground, kicking up dirt and stones.
- During the entire duration of the incident--some 10 minutes--all perceived a strong odor of rotten eggs and sulfur.
- All claim that the beings looked at them and laughed grotesquely, a situation which surely inspired fear in them.
- The sudden presence of these beings created a state of stupor that left them paralyzed for several minutes, relegating them to the role of observers.
- After "playing" in front of the startled group, the beings headed toward the flock of lambs, which gathered together showing signs of great fear.
- One of these beings jumped on one of the lambs in a single bound, like someone mounting a horse. The rest of the animals huddled in one end of their pen.
- This being began to "play" with the lamb, squeezing it with its legs and then digging its claws into its neck. The lamb only shivered and moaned, not moving.
- Later, 4 of the creatures surrounded the animal, raining blows upon it until it fell. At that time, the 6 beings began clawing at the lamb's flesh with violent scratches and extreme hatred, as it bawled desperately.
- The witnesses could see pieces of flesh with that lamb's wool flying off, but could only be spectators to the event.
- In spite of this, Emilio, Diego's uncle, was able to shake himself out of the stupor and began throwing rocks at the creatures.
- All witnessed how the creatures dodged the rocks, laughing even more strongly and grotesquely, a situation which filled them with fear once more.
- But after this, they ceased their attack upon the lamb and regrouped, jumping and "playing" until they reached the place they had appeared from, vanishing into the thicket.
- The group immediately got it together and quickly approached the attacked lamb.
- The animal presented a large number of wounds on its body, drawing attention to some very fine cuts and circular holes in its throat which they ascribed to the first creature's claws.
- Given the seriousness of the wounds and the loss of blood, which sent it into spasms, Emilio

had to sacrifice the animal right there and then.

- Diego says that the area is very special and it is common to see certain groups engaging in strange activities in which black dogs and cats are sacrificed.

Personally, I can add that these beings represent only a small part of a complex world that has always surrounded us. Each of these beings has different means of attack; none is similar to another's, a situation that certainly causes confusion when it comes to investigations.

On the other hand, Diego, Jonathan and Carlos claim that months ago, along with another group of friends, they found a being dangling from a wire which was extraordinarily similar to another that had been found in Concepcion and which they had seen on TV. "It was identical, only taller, some 40 cm, with the same hand placement, large-headed and slant-eyed. It was completely dried out. Some persons who saw us with this being traded it with us for supplies. I don't know who might have it now," he said. — CREDIT: Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo (Miami UFO Center) and Jaime Ferrer (Calama UFO Center). For more information, please contact: ufomiami@prodigy.net

August 4, 2003 — *Diario Rio Negro On-Line*, Argentina — MORE MUTILATED COWS DISCOVERED — CHOELE CHOEL (AVM) — Three cows mutilated in a "mysterious" fashion were found yet again in the Valle Medio region mid-week. A veterinarian mentioned the discovery of an animal very near a ranch in the area known as Negro Muerto. The animal was missing its tongue, an eye, udders and its genitalia.

This is the third case in a number of days. In the middle of last month, in the location known as Chanares Altos, three cows were found—each missing an eye and with their tongues cut. Several theories emerged last year on the subject. From the purely specialized, scientific perspective, some veterinarians, who in most cases did not see the discoveries for themselves, stated that these were natural deaths and the mutilations were the result of predator damage. Others insisted that a rodent was culpable.

These ideas clashed with the beliefs of certain local residents, as well as those of professionals who have been unable to come up with a logical explanation for these cases, even over time. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 8, 2003 — *EcoDiarios* (www.ecodiarios.com.ar), Necochea, Argentina — UFO Seen from Barrio Norte — A resident of our city was startled last night by a strange flying object that crossed the sky. She alerted her neighbors to the sighting.

According to comments made to *EcoDiarios* by a resident at Inmediaciones 60 y 49, the sighting took place around 21:15 hours by a friend of hers who lives in Barrio Norte.

The startled woman defined the object as a "flying saucer," but did not provide greater detail on the surprising phenomenon. At the time, the sky was completely clear and viewing conditions were optimal.

For a number of years, our city had not recorded UFO sightings, or at least an account of this nature had not been made public for a long time. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma

February 13, 2003 — *El Norte*, Monterrey, Mexico — Mexico is "UFO headquarters", they say — Jessica Castafieda [Copyright Editora El Sol, S.A. de C.V.] — Since the July 11, 1991 eclipse in the Mexican sky, some 40 unidentified flying objects leave their light trails each day, says Sixto Paz Wells.

"This eclipse initiated a UFO wave that has not been recorded in any other country of the world," the UFO researcher and writer said.

"Mexico must be playing a leading and special role in the world order for these beings to manifest themselves with such special regard to this country."

Paz Wells has written several books and held conferences in 40 countries on what he claims is a contact with extraterrestrial beings.

"The earth is less than a grain of sand in an immense beach, there are hundreds of thousands of millions of galaxies and solar systems and planets, why would there only be life on earth, that's improbable," the 47 year old Peruvian says, "for instance, there is a lot of misinformed and prejudiced people that laughed and joked at the idea that man might descend from apes."

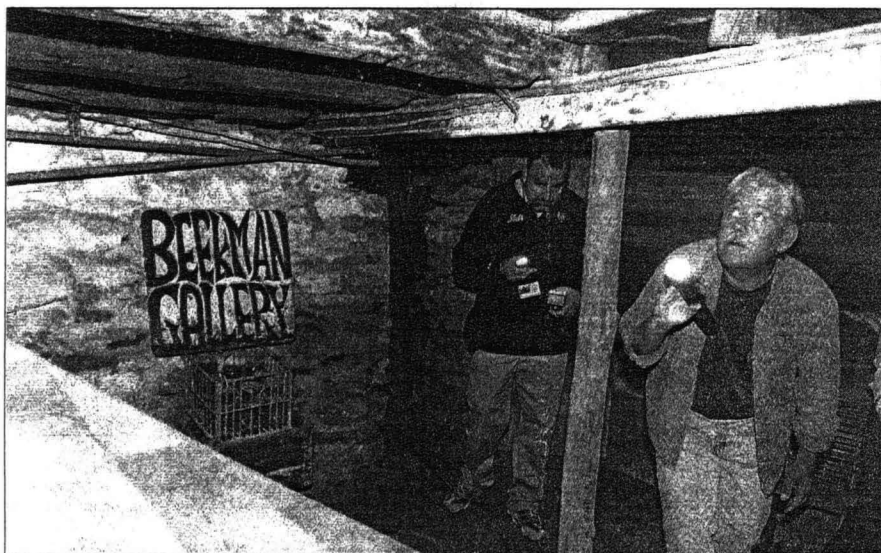
The specialist affirms there are things that must be accepted by logic and common sense; however, he cautions not everything that is presented to people as truth should be believed.

"I ask people to always doubt because doubt can lead us to the truth; what I ask of them is not to believe at first sight, but neither to reject anything," he adds. "In order to create the truth, instinct, intuition and intelligence must be used; there are things that seem very logical and coherent, but if inside you have a feeling that it isn't so, then..."

Paz Wells is in Monterrey and will hold two conferences today and tomorrow at 7 pm, about the cosmic plan, UFOs and the third millenium; also, on Saturday he will hold a seminar on contacts from 10 am until 6 pm. The place is on Camino al Diente, Km 2, towards the Carretera Nacional. More information will be given by calling 8317-8043. — CREDIT: Richard Heiden



POST, Washington, DC - Oct. 31, 2002



BY DOUGLAS HEALEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ghostbusters Clint Tibbs, left, and Frank Hatfield inspect the cellar of the Beekman Hotel, 66 miles north of New York City.

The Spirits Move Him

FAA Supervisor Skeptically Pursues A Ghostly Hobby

By KEITH L. ALEXANDER
Washington Post Staff Writer

From Monday through Friday, Frank Hatfield oversees 3,100 air traffic controllers who direct thousands of flights over an area stretching from New York to Virginia. Working out of offices near John F. Kennedy International Airport, he supervises the Federal Aviation Administration's operations that prevent planes from crashing into each other or veering into bad weather.

But on weekends, Hatfield, 51, often joins members of the New York Ghost Chapter—a group that search-



Unexplained phenomena at the Beekman Hotel, such as strange noises and objects falling off shelves, are being investigated by the New York Ghost Chapter.

es houses, graveyards and businesses, such as New York's Capitol building in Albany, for signs these sites are haunted.

Hatfield describes it as just another weekend hobby, and his boss, Arlene B. Feldman, FAA regional administrator for the eastern region, said she has no problem with his unusual interest. Even bureaucrats "need to have an

outlet," she said.

Hatfield sees some similarities between ghostbusting and his day job, where he has responsibility for air safety and the FAA eastern region's \$400 million annual budget.

Both, he explains, are driven by his love of science.

The attraction of ghost chasing, he says, is the desire to find scientific answers to unexplainable phenomena, such as the 60-pound iron doorstop he saw move across a level floor and the tug on his pants he felt when he was alone in a supposedly haunted house.

"It's an opportunity to gather and study data," Hatfield explained. In ghostbusting, "you look for the illogical things, the kind of things that don't make sense." He said he has been interested in the supernatural world since his youth. But it was not until his wife told him to get a hobby that he took up ghostbusting.

"With the day job, you have to take care of all the airplanes and people and make sure you have the best service you possibly can. That's demanding in its own right, and it's exciting because it's always a challenge," he said. "This is a different kind of excitement—a whole different kind."

Although he spends much of his free time searching for ghosts, he doesn't believe in them—yet. The scientist in him wants proof; he wants to see a ghost for himself. Until then, he remains what he calls "an open-minded skeptic."

In many ways, Hatfield is a walking contra-

diction. He's an aviation expert who prefers to drive (so that he is always reachable by pager or cell phone). His demeanor is often playful; he refers to everyone as "pal" and "friend," but he quickly switches to the quiet efficiency of a police captain when talking to air traffic controllers. He loves no-nonsense hard facts that can be charted but keeps a life-size ceramic figure of the Blues Brothers in his office, joking that he, like the duo, is "on a mission from God."

Thus, it may be logical that Hatfield would turn to technology and science to try to understand the spirit world.

For a ghostbusting assignment in Beekman, N.Y., earlier this year, Hatfield, his wife, Pat, and others in his group went equipped with digital cameras, tape recorders and flashlights. The group doesn't charge for its investigations but asks that expenses be covered if they have to travel outside New York.

Ghostbusting is usually done at night because that's when ghosts are most active, said Fran Bennett, a parapsychologist who founded the New York Ghost Chapter and is a true believer. (Bennett called "Poltergeist" the most inaccurate portrayal of the spirit world and Nicole Kidman's film "The Others" the most realistic.)

The potentially haunted structure in Beekman, 66 miles north of New York City, is a recently refurbished 18th-century hotel, with a general store attached to the side of the house. It has hidden passageways and false walls in the basement, where the former owners hid liquor during Prohibition.

The current owners, Paul and Amy Hyatt, bought the building a year ago, moved into the hotel and began selling antiques out of the general store. Soon afterward, the couple and their two sons began hearing voices and seeing objects fall off shelves. Occasionally, said Amy Hyatt, she had difficulty breathing. At other times, the temperature in the house dropped suddenly.

Paul Hyatt said new compact discs, especially by Johnny Cash or Elvis Presley, would skip or cut off. "They don't like Johnny Cash," he said.

Hatfield asked the couple his usual series of questions.

Did anyone die in the house? (Answer: No, but they used to lay out dead bodies in the parlor, where family and friends could view them.) Do they think the ghost is male or female? Old or young? (The owners thought it was a boy because the ghost would play with their 5-year-old son.)

While questioning the property owners, Hatfield looked for signs of alcohol or drug abuse but saw none. He also tried to figure out if the Hyatts would have anything to gain by getting him to declare their place spooked. They said they had no plans to market the haunting. (But more on that later.)

Next, Hatfield walked through the general store and placed digital tape recorders in several locations to capture any voices or sounds. Then, in a slow, relaxed cadence, he introduced himself to any ghosts that might be hanging around: "Hi, guys, I'm Frank. I have a bunch of people here with me. Nobody means you any harm. We're friendly, and I understand you're friendly. We're just trying to document the fact that you're here."

He continued: "If you could let us know you're here, maybe by reaching out and maybe touching one of us that's in the room right now. Anytime you want to make yourself known, make a sound. We can record your voice with this recorder. If there's something you want to say, it's on the table by the front door." Then he and the others left the room. "Ghosts like to interact," he explained later. "I'll say, 'I hear you like to touch people. Well, let's get it on.'"

The group split up. Hatfield explored the basement, shining his flashlight in dark spaces, searching for signs of paranormal activity, such as voices or objects moving unexpectedly. Armed with a flashlight, he walked carefully. The basement was cool and damp, with limestone walls and floors. After 20 minutes, his group emerged, covered with cobwebs.

Meanwhile, Bennett had set up several digital video cameras and motion detectors on the second floor. Everyone was told to leave the area. An hour later, a motion detector sounded an alarm, and everyone raced upstairs.

One videotape showed several large balls of light shooting from one room through the hallway to another. Bennett said those were orbs or spirits.

Amy Hyatt's eyes got teary as she heard Bennett's explanation. "I knew there was something. I'm just glad to have proof—proof that there is something here," she said.

Hatfield smiled and gathered his equipment. He later said he remained unconvinced. "Maybe it was mice. You don't know. It's an old house," he said.

The balls of light did not scare the Hyatts out. On the contrary, the general store now sells tarot cards and other items related to the paranormal. And the second floor is rented by someone who likes the idea that the room is haunted, Paul Hyatt said.

Hatfield, though, remains ever the scientist. "The jury is still out," he said. "If I say 'Yes, I believe,' then I close off my ability to be objective."



John Alfano, left, and Fran Bennett wield metal rods and electromagnetic-field meters near what may be unmarked graves in Beekman, N.Y. Bennett is president of the New York Ghost Chapter, whose members spend their free time investigating the paranormal.

GHOST HUNTERS

Seeking paranormal proof

Hot pursuit of haunts takes gadgets and a mix of psychic and scientific

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — At the Moon River brewery, built on the bones of an 1820 hotel, employees are afraid to go alone to the shadowy, vacant rooms upstairs. That's why Scott Flagg sets up here at midnight.

On the creaky floor, Flagg spreads out \$20,000 worth of gadgets — microphone, barometer, motion detector, video camera, digital VCR, thermal imager — linked by cables to a laptop.

With this high-tech mouse-trap, Flagg tries to catch ghosts. He attempts to record paranormal proof via a gossamer glimpse, a disembodied voice, a plunge in temperature or a strange electromagnetic flux.

"We're trying to determine how, if ghosts exist, they might influence the environment," Flagg, 28, says with the dry demeanor of a lab scientist. "It's a controversial thing, kind of a mismatched marriage between beliefs and a rational mind."

Flagg is the resident technical whiz for the American Institute of Parapsychology, a Gainesville, Fla.-based group that seeks to turn amateur ghost buffs into

certified field investigators.

During a Savannah conference last weekend, A.I.P. director Andrew Nichols held a workshop introducing 11 enthusiasts to the tools of the trade: ghost theories, technical equipment, codes of conduct and questionnaires to measure whether ghost witnesses have psychic potential.

"Too many people are walking into these houses and saying 'That's your Aunt Mamie's ghost wandering around' with no scientific basis," said Nichols, a professor of psychology and parapsychology at Gainesville City College. "It gives parapsychologists a bad name."

Nichols has been pursuing ghosts for more than 25 years. His interest was piqued at age 12, he says, when the apparition of his 19-year-old sister appeared in his bedroom shortly after she died in a car crash.

So what are ghosts? Most likely, and contrary to popular belief, they aren't spirits of dead people, Nichols says.

Nichols suspects traumatic events such as death release some sort of psychic energy that imprints itself on physical objects such as walls or furniture. When people report seeing a ghost, they're seeing a replay of the imprint.

"It's as though places or objects are capable of retaining memories," Nichols said. "The brain acts as a type of VCR and plays back these type of events."

Nichols thinks people who re-

port moving chairs or flying picture frames unconsciously move them with their own minds.

Investigations are tedious, Nichols says. Ghost hunters interview witnesses, looking for holes in their stories. They mark floor plan drawings in places sightings are reported, then compare them with impressions picked up by psychics.

Instruments such as infrared thermometers, which look like mini-radar guns, check for "cold spots" often associated with ghosts. Handheld meters check for unusually high electromagnetic fields, which Nichols says may "jump start" the psychic ability to see apparitions.

The problem with gadgets is

they pick up all sorts of anomalies that have natural causes, says Robert Baker, a skeptic who's investigated ghosts for 50 years and found not a shred of proof.

"I can take a spectrometer and use it right here in the house and pick up all different kinds of energy. It doesn't mean it's due to ghosts," says Baker, a retired psychologist in Lexington, Ky.

Of the 600 cases Nichols has investigated, he says, 90 percent could be explained away by anything from natural causes to outright fakery.

"But if you're diligent and keep at this," Nichols tells his students, "eventually you will have an experience that will blow your socks off."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 31, 2003

Loch Ness monster a myth, BBC says

Sonar, satellites show no signs of beast

BY SUE LEEMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The Loch Ness monster is a Loch Ness myth, according to the British Broadcasting Corp., which says a research team that trawled the lake came up with no signs of the famous Nessie.

The team used 600 separate sonar beams and satellite navigation technology to sweep the entire loch, but found no trace of a monster or any other large creature, the BBC reported this week.

Over the centuries, reported sightings of a big beast in the gray waters of the lake have led many people to believe it holds some huge creature, although a series of searches has found no evidence of one.

Some enthusiasts have even speculated Nessie might be a descendant of a plesiosaur, a marine reptile that died out with the dinosaurs.

The BBC researchers said they looked at the habits of modern marine reptiles, such as crocodiles and leatherback turtles, to try to work out how a plesiosaur might behave.

"We went from shoreline to shoreline, top to bottom on this one. We have covered everything in this loch and we saw no signs of any large living animal in the loch," said Ian Florence, one of the specialists who carried out the survey for the BBC.

The BBC team said the only

explanation for the persistence of the monster myth — and its periodic "sightings" — is that people see what they want to see.

To test this, the researchers hid a fence post beneath the surface of the loch and raised it in view of a bus full of tourists.

Interviewed afterward, most said they had observed a square object, but when asked to sketch

The BBC team said the only explanation for the persistence of the monster myth — and its periodic "sightings" — is that people see what they want to see.

what they saw, several drew monster-shaped heads, the BBC said in a program broadcast Sunday.

There have been reports of sightings of a "monster" in the loch since the time of St. Columba in the 6th century.

Many who have reported sightings have described a beast similar to a plesiosaur, but experts say the most recent fossil of one dates from 65 million years ago. Loch Ness is only 10,000 years old.

GUARDIAN, London, England - July 1, 2003

'Bigfoot' leaves a big puddle

(Associated Press) — China's version of Bigfoot has been spotted again, and this time it may have left a urine sample.

Six people, including a radio reporter, claimed to have seen the "mythical ape-like animal" in central China's Shennongjia nature reserve, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

Xinhua referred to it as a Bigfoot, after the legendary North American ape-man.

More than 100 sightings of the creature have been reported in Shennongjia in the forested mountains of Hubei province, about 670 miles south-west of Beijing.

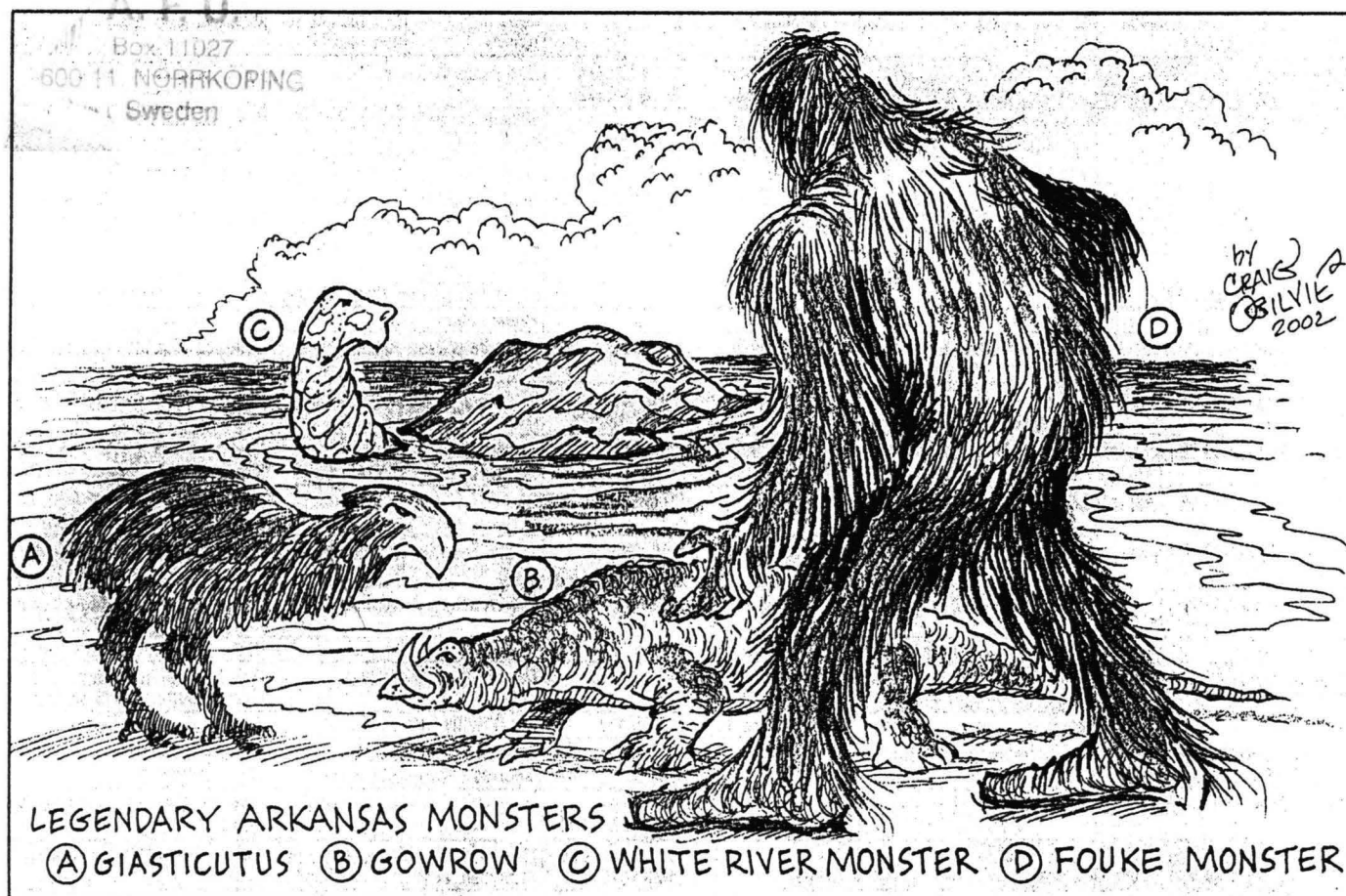
The latest witnesses were in a jeep on a mountain road on Sunday when they saw something moving quickly away from

the road. They claimed the creature was about 5 ft 4 in tall with shoulder-length black hair.

They found several 12 inch footprints, and a "10 ft long patch of foul smelling urine-like liquid," Xinhua reported. "An investigation is in full swing," the report said. One of the witnesses was Shang Zhengmin, a reporter for a local radio station. The others were local residents.

At least three scientific expeditions in Shennongjia have searched for the creature. Hair was found that researchers said did not match that of humans or known animals, but no other evidence has been reported.

Sightings of a similar creature have been reported in Tibet.



Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Legendary beasts creep, slither in the state's forests and waters

BY RON WOLFE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas is full of creepy-crawlies. Most haven't been spotted for many a Halloween, but that's what monsters do: They lurk.

Craig Ogilvie, a travel writer for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, tracked old newspaper and other accounts of monster sightings to log some of the Natural State's most unnatural residents.

For hundreds of years, people have claimed to see everything from monster frogs and giant apes to sea serpents in the state's dense forests, dark rivers and trackless swamps.

"I don't really believe in any of them," Ogilvie says, "but I enjoy

reading about them."

His report shows Arkansas has more monsters than you could shake a stick at — so don't. Never, never shake a stick at one of these:

■ **Monster-size bullfrogs and giant turtles.** Readers as far away as France and India gulped at explorers' accounts of these creatures in the 1700s.

Ogilvie credits many early tales to the state's scant population. "Isolated and with virtually no social activities, families entertained themselves with folk tales they had heard or ones they fabricated on the spot."

■ **Mr. Jones.** This old boy — really old — was said to have vanished into the cavern beneath Cave City after the Civil War. Chances are,

worried parents made up the scary tale to discourage children from crawling underground to see the river down there.

But if Mr. Jones is still there, still waiting ... be careful in the dark.

■ **The Gowrow.** Ozarks travelers feared this 20-foot-long, tusked lizard that was said to stalk along rocky ledges in the late 1800s. The story goes, somebody finally killed the scaly beast, but its carcass was lost en route to the Smithsonian Institution.

■ **The Galliwapus.** About the same time as all that Gowrow commotion, it paid to keep a wary eye out for the Galliwapus, a huge panther, and the **Giasticutus** that, Ogilvie records,

"walked upright and moved like a large bird."

■ **The White River Monster.** Sightings of this sea-serpent-like creature in the river near Newport go back to 1915. Another spate of monster reports surfaced in the 1970s. One "Aiii!" witness described the big dipper as "30 feet long ... gray all over, with fins."

In 1973, the Arkansas Legislature declared a section of the White River a "refuge" for the creature. It might be a cousin to Scotland's Loch Ness Monster, although a Chicago biologist, Dr. Roy Mackal, guessed "Whitey" is or was most likely

a lost elephant seal.

■ **The Fouke Monster.** Six-foot-tall, shaggy and stinky, the Fouke Monster supposedly has been slogging around the Sulphur River's swampy bottoms since the 1940s.

A 1972 movie, *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, and its couple of sequels made the monster famous. And with fame, came size. At his peak of celebrity 30 years ago, the creature was said to be a 10-foot-tall, 800-pound, extra-odorous monstrosity.

■ **The Heber Springs Water Panther.** Nature seemed to go crazy on this one: Part mountain lion, part Bigfoot, part ... fish? No wonder it screamed in the woods around Greers Ferry Lake. Who wouldn't?

Also, "residents in both Northwest Arkansas and the Pine Bluff area have reported Bigfoot-type creatures," Ogilvie finds.

The state's monsters have sold their share of souvenir T-shirts over the years, and might even count as tourist attractions.

"The Fouke Monster and White River Monster both brought news people, at least, to Arkansas. They brought film crews in to interview the locals," Ogilvie says.

Now, the monster-hunters may be gone, but the monsters — or tales about them, anyway — linger in the shadows.

"It's as much part of Arkansas' folklore as the headless horseman is to New York's," Ogilvie says.