

# UFO

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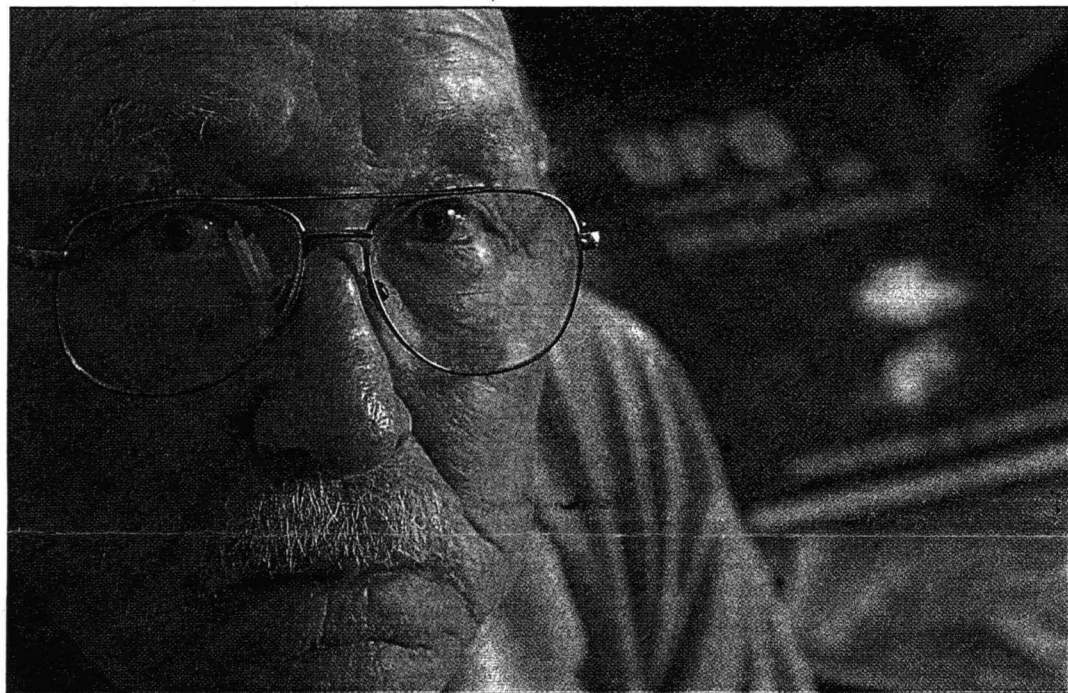
November 2003  
Number 412

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS - Oct. 5, 2003 CR: D. Tittler

"He had nothing to gain and everything to lose by telling his story. His account is one of the premier cases in the world. The bravery of his decision to reveal the abduction has stood the test of time with no recounting."

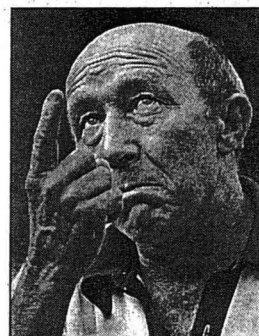
Budd Hopkins,  
UFO investigator

## Anniversary of odyssey



JOHN FITZHUGH/THE SUN HERALD

Charles Hickson claims he and Calvin R. Parker Jr. were abducted on Oct. 11, 1973, by three robot-looking creatures coming from a spacecraft on the shore of the Pascagoula River. Hickson's account of the story is told in the book 'UFO Contact at Pascagoula.'



DINAH ROGERS/THE SUN HERALD

Hickson in 1982. His book has been reissued.

After their release, Parker asked: "Charlie, shouldn't we tell someone? At least tell the military authorities."

"I'm going to be the laughing stock of the country, but I'll tell what I seen and what happened," Hickson said.

They contacted Keesler Air Force Base and were told to call the sheriff. At the sheriff's office they were questioned into the morning hours and secretly taped in what they thought was a private conversation that led law enforcement officers to lend credibility to their encounter.

In following months they would be interviewed by UFO experts and the military and undergo questioning while under hypnosis. Hickson passed a polygraph test.

"I have no doubt there are inhabited worlds out there in space," he said Thursday in an interview. He said he has received telepathic vibes since his encounter but would not go into detail until he fully understands what they mean. Earlier he has said he received communications telepathically from space: "We mean no one any harm. There is no need for fear. We will communicate again."

One point that hasn't been brought out, Hickson said last week, is "that under deep hypnosis I recalled seeing a window while I was in the spacecraft and there were some beings behind the window and they looked like us." He said robots were possibly used outside the craft because the beings from another planet didn't want to be exposed to earth's atmosphere.

He feels a visit from a distant planet is possible because of advanced mental powers allowing mind-over-matter space travel.

Hickson said he believes God created all of the universe. "Everything is possible with God. This experience strengthened my belief in God."

### No aftereffects

Hickson and his wife live in Gautier with regular visits by five children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

"That incident was the first

(continued on page 2)

## 30 years later, 2 men stand by their UFO story

By GARY HOLLAND  
THE SUN HERALD

**PASCAGOULA** — Shipbuilders Charles E. Hickson and Calvin R. Parker Jr. hoped to hook some trout or red-fish when they went fishing on the Pascagoula River near the U.S. 90 drawbridge 30 years ago this week.

What they said they found instead has had this county and country talking for three decades.

In interviews last week, Hickson, 72, and Parker, 49,

**UFO incident  
created  
frenzy, A-3**



MIKE RAMSEY/THE SUN HERALD/1977

Hickson stands at the site along the Pascagoula River where he claims he was abducted by a UFO. This picture was taken in 1977 when he was being interviewed by a film crew.

re-emphasized their account of three robot-looking creatures coming from a spacecraft, referred to as an unidentified flying object, and taking them onboard and examining them.

"This night would change our lives forever," Hickson said. He was right.

The night was Thursday, Oct. 11, 1973. Parker, then 19, lived with the Hickson family in Gautier and worked with Hickson at F.B. Walker Shipyard. Late in the evening, after getting off work, they fished a few spots between the grain elevator and drawbridge, and were at a dilapidated pier at the old Shaupeter Shipyard when it happened about 9:30 p.m.

"A zipping sound was all I heard," Hickson wrote in his memoirs. "Some type craft approached: no engine noise, just a pulsating blue light, about 2 feet off the ground."

He said the craft was about 30 feet long, 10 feet high, and shaped like a football but blunt at one end with a dome-like structure on top.

"An opening appeared in the end that was toward us and three things appeared through the opening. I shook from fear as Calvin screamed," Hickson wrote in his book, "UFO Contact at Pascagoula."

Three five-foot, robotlike creatures covered with rough looking material, not skin,

glided out and floated above the ground, he said.

Hickson said two of the creatures caught him by the arms and floated him into the spacecraft, and a third got Parker.

"Inside, the light was almost blinding but for some strange reason I couldn't close my eyes," Hickson said. "Something that resembled a big eye seemed to come out from the wall, and stopped about 6 inches from my face. The eye lingered there and then moved over my entire body."

He said he felt no pain but could not move during the scanning. "Then we glided through the opening to the place they had taken me."

He saw Parker standing outside with his arms outstretched almost in shock.

"There was more terror on Calvin's face than I have seen on anyone," Hickson said. "Many times I had seen men in shock in Korea," where he received five Battle Stars during 20 months service in that war.

"I started to crawl toward him, but I heard the zipping sound again and I saw the blue flashing lights and almost instantly the craft was gone."

### 'Shouldn't we tell someone?'

Parker remembered being carried to the door of the craft. "Everything was real bright and I passed out," he said.

and the last experience of that kind for me," Parker said in a telephone interview. "I don't have any aftereffects from it."

He called the encounter traumatic.

"I don't think or talk about it a lot, but my wife and I were talking about it this evening," he said Tuesday night. "I'm a private person and I really don't talk much."

He said he has not had any contacts with any aliens. "I can't say if the craft was from outer-space. I don't know what it was."

Parker stood by their original account.

"It's the same as it was 30 years ago," he said. "I haven't thought of anything new to add."

Parker said he is in construction work, is happily married and has a son and a daughter. He was reached at a central Alabama telephone number, but he declined to say where they lived.

Hickson has participated in UFO lectures, appeared on talk shows, talked at schools, churches and libraries, and co-wrote the "UFO Contact" book, which he sells. Parker, after some brief hospitalizations after the incident, has moved around in construction work. Except for the brief telephone interview, he has refused most, if not all, interviews on the incident.

Hickson and Parker received many letters of support from UFO enthusiasts. Locally, their account is believed by many,

some saying they saw it that very night, but doubted by others.

"I just told what happened and I don't care if people believe," Hickson said.

Budd Hopkins, an Oberlin (Ohio) College arts graduate who has spent 28 years investigating UFO abductions, said he has no doubt of any part of Hickson's account.

"He had nothing to gain and everything to lose by telling his story," Hopkins said. "His account is one of the premier cases in the world. The bravery of his decision to reveal the abduction has stood the test of time with no recounting."

Capt. Glenn Ryder, who has since retired with the Sheriff's Department, interviewed Hickson and Parker for hours right after the incident and said last week that he still believes they are telling the truth.

"They told the same story over and over in separate interviews, and the tape we made when we put them together in a room alone convinced me they weren't lying," he said.

He called the UFO incident the biggest event he experienced in law enforcement.

"I received hundreds of calls from all over the world," he said.

Capt. Mike Diamond with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department said his father, the late Sheriff Fred Diamond, who investigated the encounter, believed something happened to Hickson and Parker.

"He didn't disbelieve their story," he said.

POST, Denver, CO - Oct. 28, 2003 CR: D. Perkins

## Durango man reports a UFO

DURANGO (AP) — Sound engineer Tim Butler doesn't believe in flying saucers, but he believes he saw a flying boomerang cruise over Fort Lewis College last month.

Three Silverton residents said they saw a similar object also in September.

The 40- to 60-foot, silver boomerang appeared about 6 p.m. on Sept. 28, Butler said.

"I'm a scientist at heart so I'm a pretty skeptical person," Butler said. "I've been going to air shows in Oshkosh since I was a kid. It wasn't like any military

technology I've seen."

The Durango-La Plata County Airport reported no unusual activity that same day.

"Doesn't sound like anything we have coming and going," said airport financial director Don Brockus. "But anything other than airliners doesn't have to check in with us. UFOs never let us know."

Silverton residents reported seeing a similar object on Sept. 19.

The National UFO Reporting Center's Web site logged 408 sightings in September, including 19 on Sept. 28.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincoln, NC - Oct. 29, 2003

## UFO program has local connections

An upcoming UFO documentary "Rendlesham: The UK's Roswell" has a local connection and will be shown over the SciFi Channel on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Sponsored by the Freedom of Information Coalition organization and headed by John Podesta, former Chief of staff under the Clinton Administration, the program covers a Brentwaters USAF incident that occurred in the 1980's in England.

This UFO case involved the landing of a UFO near the airbase, both multiwitnesses (both military and civilian) and independent observers, severe animal re-actions, radar tracking, E-M (electromagnetic effects), tripod landing marks, increased

background radiation, photographic evidence, human psychology and physiological effects and even some reports of UFO occupants being seen, along with tree damage, etc. Unsolved Mysteries spotlighted the case several years ago.

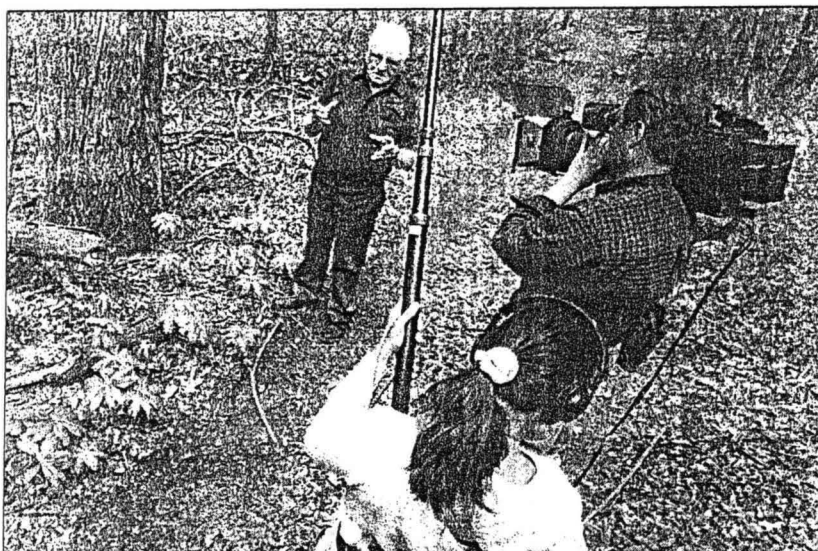
As a UFO investigator and researcher I have talked to several of the eyewitnesses and investigators. The final report was received by the late Gen. Charles A. Gabriel, former chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and a Lincoln County native, who died Sept. 4. Several books have been written on the case.

The TV documentary should be well worth watching by both skeptics non-skeptics alike.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT  
Lincolnton

CR: G. Fawcett

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Oct. 24, 2003 CR: S. Gordon



A camera crew records the story of Bill Bulebush, a witness to the mysterious crash in Kecksburg.

## Sci Fi special puts Kecksburg mystery under a microscope

BY ANN SAUL DUDURICH  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

It has remained an enigma for nearly 40 years — a saga that began on Dec. 9, 1965, when a fireball was observed streaking across the Westmoreland County sky.

Many witnesses said the fiery object appeared to bank, turn and glide into a wooded ravine near the small Mt. Pleasant Township community of Kecksburg. At the scene, onlookers were told a meteor had crashed. More persistent curiosity-seekers were turned away by police and military personnel; some at gunpoint.

Over the years, many questions have been asked; few have been answered. Just what exactly took place in the woods that night? And why was the military so anxious to cover it up?

The Sci Fi Channel endeavors to "blow the lid off" the baffling UFO case in "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed," airing tonight. "What really happened in that little town, known to some as Pennsylvania's Roswell?" asks host Bryant Gumbel in his opening narrative.

What, indeed? The townsfolk remain very much divided. "I think it was something from outer space," says one local resident. Another smiles, emphasizing, "Once the cameras are rolling, people will say anything if they think they're going to be on television."

Regardless, notes Gumbel, eyewitness accounts remain consistent. Through a series of dramatic re-creations, the documentary returns to an evening that would forever change the dynamics in a quiet, unassuming community.

Eyewitness Robert Blystone remembers seeing a "controlled fireball" in the sky. A short time later, Bill Weaver, then 19, saw a bluish light — "like a welder's light" glowing in the woods. Johnstown resident Don Sebastian details a contingent of "probably 100 soldiers," as well as two "unearthly screams" he says he'll never forget. Pittsburgh jazz musician Jerry Betters says he observed an "acorn-shaped object with hieroglyphics" being hauled



Bill Weaver (left) and Ron Sturble attend the town meeting.

### 'The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed'

9 Tonight, Sci Fi Channel

Note: At 8 p.m., visit [www.scifi.com](http://www.scifi.com) for a live chat with UFO investigator Stan Gordon, of Greensburg, and California-based freelance writer, Leslie Kean, who has been following the Kecksburg case.

away on a flat-bed truck.

Viewers learn of the late John Murphy's efforts to ascertain the truth. Murphy, a news reporter for WHJB radio in Greensburg, snapped photos and interviewed many eyewitnesses that evening. Mable Mazza, the station's office manager at the time, remembers seeing one of the photos, depicting a "cone-like thing" surrounded by a lot of trees.

However, says Mazza, Murphy's enthusiasm for the case evaporated after he received several "unexpected visitors" at the station. Soon after, Murphy was killed in a hit-and-run accident in the state of California. The driver was never found. And the news reporter's notebooks, tapes and photos mysteriously disappeared not long after.

Coincidence? "If someone did away with John, it was because he saw and knew too much," says Bonnie Millsagle, his former wife. In an effort to further unravel the mystery, Sci Fi enlists the services of West Virginia University professors Dr. J. Stephen Kite (geology and geography) and

Dr. Ray Hicks (forestry), for several days of on-site research. With assistance from witnesses Bill Bulebush and John Hays, the investigative team locates what is believed to be the actual crash site. Their findings — the result of soil and tree core sample studies — indicate proof of a "traumatic event" at the site on or near 1965, Hicks says.

The special also offers several differing points of view: James Oberg, space consultant; Nick Redfern, author of "Strange Secrets," and Richard Dolan, author of "UFOs & The National Security State."

"The New Roswell" concludes with scenes filmed during a town meeting, held in August at the Kecksburg fire hall. The event was unprecedented; the first-ever gathering of believers and nonbelievers.

Additionally, the Sci Fi Channel announced earlier this week it intends to press forward with its request to obtain classified documents through the Freedom of Information Act. To that end, representatives of the cable channel detailed what could be a series of lawsuits filed to obtain records relating to the Kecksburg case. Lee Helfrich — of the Lobel, Novins & Lamont law firm — indicated she expects a suit to be filed against NASA within the week. She says action could also be taken against the Department of Defense and the Army if requested information is not released.



# New Sci-Fi program discusses mysterious Kecksburg incident

*National TV show this Friday evening*

BY JULIA CAVALLO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Do you know where you were when a possible UFO landed on Dec. 9, 1965 in Kecksburg? Better yet, were you someone who was an eye witness to the event?

"The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed" hosted by Bryant Gumbel will air at 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24 on the Sci-Fi Channel. In addition to the new television special, there will be a press conference at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to announce a legal challenge concerning government information on the 1965 Kecksburg incident.

The Sci-Fi Channel along with the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) are bringing a lawsuit against government stonewalling and accusing them of a possible UFO cover-up.

The U.S. Air Force reported that the fireball and light in the sky that night was a meteor and nothing was found. When U.S. military personnel arrived on the scene they cordoned off the area investigated and left without ever providing a full report.

Local UFO researcher and expert Stan Gordon has been pursuing this case since 1965 and will be attending the press conference tomorrow. He referred to this lawsuit as unprecedented. "The government knows a lot more than they disclose to the public", Gordon explained.

pictures of the UFO is still on. Anyone having information regarding the Kecksburg case can be assured that whatever they may tell Gordon will be confidential. He believes hundreds of people are involved in this case either directly or indirectly.

"What's so interesting is that so many witnesses are not from this immediate area," Gordon said. He explained that people started to come to Kecksburg when they heard of the object on the news. "Most of the witnesses don't know each other," Gordon expressed.

"One thing we have found over the years of investigating is that we are filling in more and more pieces of the puzzle. We're much closer now than we were to knowing what happened in 1965," Gordon explained.

A year ago, with the support of John Podesta, former Clinton White House Chief of Staff and



Photo by Ernie Silek

Bill Weaver, Mike Slater and Stan Gordon view a video excerpt from the Sci-Fi Channel documentary "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed" hosted by Bryant Gumbel. Weaver and Slater were present the night of the incident in 1965 and were interviewed for the television special. Gordon invited Weaver and Slater to his home to view the tape in advance.

don explained.

"This investigation into the Kecksburg case still continues. Even in the last year people with new information have contacted me," Gordon said, "We are still

asking people who might have important information (to come forward)."

"There is a different facet to this case because a lot of people saw it in the sky and a number of

people saw it coming down," Gordon said.

The search for witnesses who might have seen, heard or took

member of the Moynihan Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, the Sci-Fi Channel and the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) initiated an effort to obtain classified and other government documents on the Kecksburg incident.

As a result of continued delays and stonewalling by key federal agencies including the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force and NASA on CFI's Freedom of Information Act requests, Sci-Fi will announce its support for legal action to force various agencies to reveal what they know about the Kecksburg crash.

"The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed" will contain testimony from many new and old witnesses and release some new information. This special attempts to get to the bottom of this contro-

versy through a groundbreaking investigation that includes startling scientific finds from the crash site and a tireless pursuit of government officials.

Gordon has been conducting scene investigations of mysterious encounters in Pennsylvania since 1965. He was the Founder and Director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained which ceased in 1993. He remains active as an independent researcher and investigator and has been the primary researcher of the Kecksburg incident for many years.

Anyone who might have witnessed the incident in 1965 or took pictures is asked to call Gordon at 724-838-7768 or e-mail him at [pauf@westol.com](mailto:pauf@westol.com).

Meanwhile, you can check out the Sci-Fi Channel special 9 p.m. this Friday night.

# UFO pandemonium struck 30 years ago

## PASCAGOULA

**T**hirty years ago this week, UFO pandemonium broke out.

Folks feared an invasion from outer space. Others thought there was much ado about nothing. Everybody wanted more information.

From a newsman's view, I have never seen before or since so many people caught up in such a frenzy. It was over a report by Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker that a spacecraft had landed on the banks of the Pascagoula River and taken them onboard briefly.

"Everybody was seeing



by Gary  
Holland  
The Sun  
Herald

UFOs," recalled retired Mississippi Press Managing Editor Don Broadus.

A Pascagoula city councilman said he saw a luminous UFO the same night of Hickson's and Parker's report on the way to a church service in Vancleave.

"That's our story and we're

stuck with it," E. P. Sigalas said.

Pascagoula Patrolman Bill Gennaro stopped on Beach Boulevard to talk with a group of people and they saw an oblong-shaped, blue-haze object zip to the north.

About 3,000 motorists from Mobile blocked Interstate 10 when they heard of a possible rendezvous with UFOs at the Mississippi line.

A cab driver in Biloxi said a UFO caused his taxi to stall out on U.S. 90.

Ocean Springs aldermen failed to pass a motion to make it illegal for a UFO to land in the city. Mayor Tom Stennis broke a 2-2 tie, saying, "Let's welcome

them."

Then-Sheriff Fred Diamond's view: "Those men saw something. They underwent a dreadful experience."

UFO enthusiasts and news crews from all over the world called and many came to Pascagoula to gather more information about the stunning visit by a spacecraft.

"I estimate that we have received more than 2,000 telephone calls from news reporters from around the world wanting information, and from people in the area who wanted to report a sighting," Diamond said.

It was a media frenzy.

Networks and national publications showed up. The reports got wild and woolly. It was too much for two shipbuilders who had never been in such demand. They put out a memo: No more personal interviews. Our attorney, Joe Colingo, will arrange a news conference next week.

The space encounter was in the news for weeks. Hickson went on talk shows such as "The Dick Cavett Show." Parker went into seclusion.

I've followed the UFO account for 30 years and am amazed that Hickson and Parker have been so consistent with their account of what happened Oct. 11, 1973. Being a typical newsperson-skeptic, it's still too much to fathom.

Gary Holland is Jackson County associate editor of *The Sun Herald*. He can be reached at 762-0741 and e-mail [garyholland77@aol.com](mailto:garyholland77@aol.com).



MORRIS FRASER

## They have no doubts about UFOs

A different mind.

Gulf Breeze once was known for building great sailing vessels with its stands of live oak. Of late, it has come to be the destination of another sort of vessel — UFOs.

These ships come from distant places, but they seem attracted to this area. Reports of sightings are plentiful, virtually beyond dispute. Too many people in the region have reported seeing UFOs for the phenomenon not to have gained some credibility.

Not only have varieties of craft been sighted time and again, but people specify many instances of abductions by the creatures who pilot the ships. These residents are not odd folk at all. They are our neighbors. They dress as we dress, look like we look, walk and talk as we walk and talk.

Despite ridicule heaped on them, they persist in their beliefs. Some have banded together, such as in Unlimited Horizons of the Emerald Coast. This group, claiming 920 members (free membership may be obtained by signing up for e-mail reports), is staunch in its affirmation of the reality of visits from beyond our planet.

Its president, Alan Abel, openly admits he has been abducted several times. So it is not unexpected that when a special adductee speaks, they listen attentively.

Leah Haley, who has self-published two books about her abduction experiences, spoke at the group's October meeting. (Abel pronounced 120 in attendance, but apparently half of those were at some sort of abduction that afternoon, because only 60 were in their seats.)

Haley's primary tale is of her abduction some years ago (the date is not certain) near Gulf Breeze. She was captured and put aboard a UFO, which then was shot down by an electromagnetic pulse cannon located within Eglin property on Santa Rosa Island.

Haley is convinced of that fact, because she later took pictures of the cannon, which may be seen on several Web sites, including that of Art Bell, a noted late-night talk show host out of Nevada. (Bell's most recent notoriety came in 1999, when he predicted catastrophes would befall the world upon the advent of the new millennium. In this, of course, he was not alone.)

The photographs, clearly identifiable if grainy, show that the pulse cannon was disguised as antenna arrays.

Haley also courageously asserts she has been threatened at gunpoint not to reveal her secrets, that she has been followed by "blue sedans and other mysterious vehicles," and that she has been harassed by black helicopters.

Still, she displays a sense of humor, referring to the extra-terrestrials as "chalkies" because of their off-white skin tone and the military as OMAGs (Obnoxious Military/Government Agent).

Haley has had other experiences, which she details in her first book, "Lost Was the Key," and her latest work, "Unlocking Alien Closets." She chronicles that she was being monitored through her high-speed cable computer connection, only discovering that fact when, frustrated one morning at attempts to hack into her computer, she ripped the cable out of the wall — whereupon the helicopters lost track of her.

Maintaining an open mind, she now believes the more recent of her abductions have been accomplished by humans disguised as aliens.

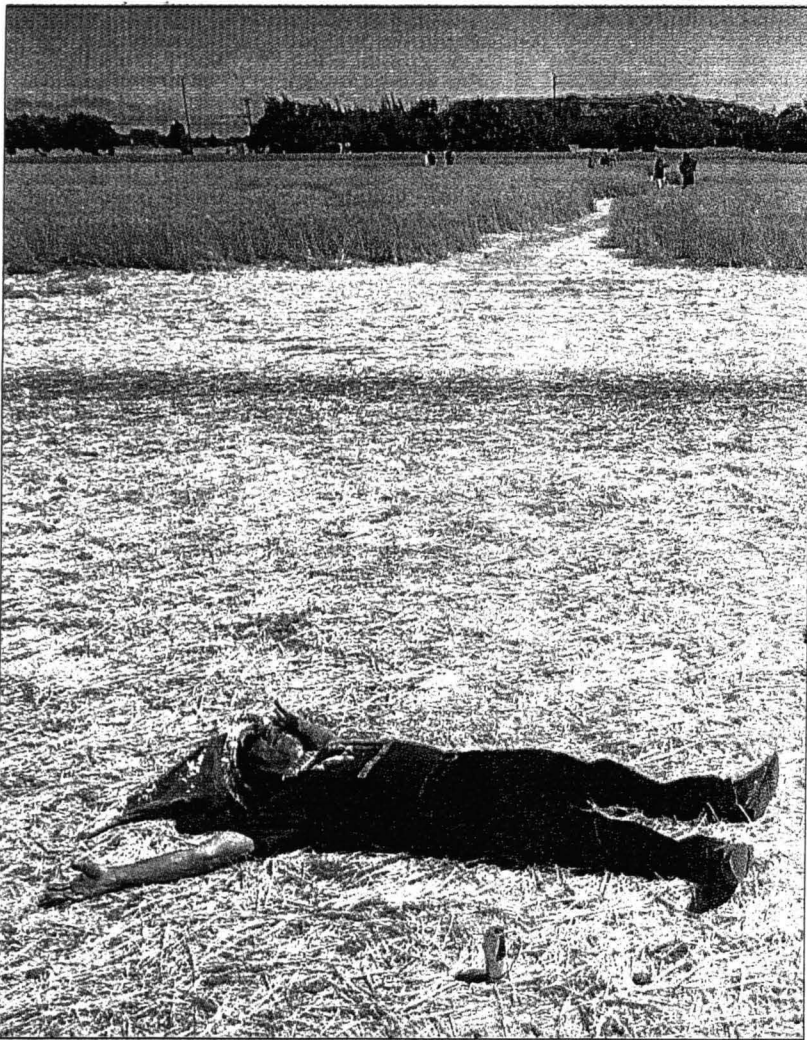
If, indeed, aliens are among us, certainly we are well accompanied by those who have met them.

Morris Fraser is a semi-retired writer and columnist for the *Daily News*. He may be reached at [moris@nwfailynews.com](mailto:morris@nwfailynews.com)

CR: R. Reid



## CROP CIRCLES DRAW THE CURIOUS



**TOM LOPES** of Berkeley, wearing an aluminum wizard hat in center of the largest crop circle, said Thursday that he came to Rockville to feel the circles' energy and to see other peoples' hats.

BOB PEPPING/TIMES

## Wheat field intrigues people as far away as Oregon

By John Simerman  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**E**xtraterrestrial calling card, super-magnetic power force, or elaborate student agri-prank?

Inquiring minds — some donning tin-foil hats with wings — want to know so badly that they have trekked from as far as Oregon to dwell within a series of crop circles that a Solano County farmer says he discovered in his wheat field June 28.

For nearly two weeks now, the convinced and the curious have pulled up along the dirt shoulder on Suisun Valley Road and carved paths through Larry Balestra's shimmering, golden stalks. They stand, lay and pray on the flattened circles that believers imbue with paranormal powers.

Some hold divining rods or crystals or wear blindfolds, aiming to harness a numinous energy force. Others sport cameras or smirks.

Joe Chapa stood there under a hot sun Thursday and pointed to the sky.

"Someone came out from someplace else," said Chapa, who drove up from his home near Bakerville. "This is what they do to get attention, just

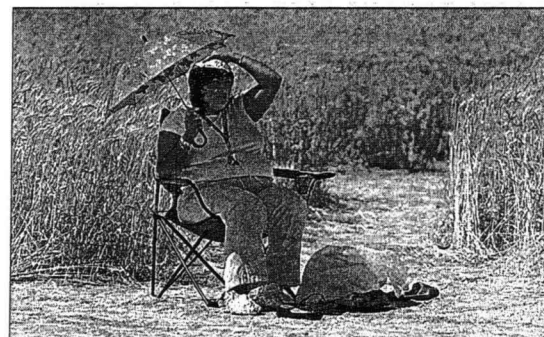


**ALEJANDRO LOPEZ** of Fairfield records the crop circles on an outing with Esbeyde Galvan and Yahaira Lopez, 4.

BOB PEPPING/TIMES

to say, 'We're out there.'"

Some visitors cover themselves in the flattened wheat. Others take armfuls home. They arrive at dawn, and some remain until 11 p.m. Hundreds came over the Fourth of July weekend, said Balestra, including a few "scientific guys" who



BOB PEPPING/TIMES

**JULIE SANCHEZ** of Castro Valley sits at the edge of a crop circle wearing aluminum slippers and cap. "It's supposed to be healing energy. ... I feel really honored to be here," she said.

promise to get back to him with lab results.

"They were doing all these tests with these machines," said Balestra, a farmer here since 1986. "This one guy was talking about plasma. He was talking so fast I didn't understand him."

One of the world's most persistent mysteries, crop circles are designs imprinted, usually overnight and with no witnesses, on fields of wheat or corn, and sometimes barley, oats or snow.

Skeptics see a bizarre worldwide hoaxfest. They point to a pair of British men who, following a spate of sightings in England, took credit in 1991 and said they used planks and ropes.

That doesn't explain the spread of crop circles across the globe beginning in the 1990s, believers say. They point to the complex patterns, and say it's easy to spot manmade crop circles from scrapes and other damage. They also cite a decade of scientific study that claims to have unearthed biochemical and biophysical changes to the crops themselves.

Research has found that crop circles show extremely high iron levels that rise on the outside of the circles, creating an abnormal magnetic field, said Linda Moulton Howe, a radio science and "earth mysteries" reporter and author of "Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles."

The hypothesis: "A spinning plasma vortex containing melted iron dust, collected in the atmosphere, is spun around and deposited in crop formations, leaving these high concentrations of magnetite," said Howe.

"What causes the spinning plasma vortex is the \$64 million question."

What causes a pilgrimage of thousands to mill around in a wheat field is another.

The circles, corridors and concentric rings in Balestra's field vary in sizes. The largest measures 140 feet in diameter. When he first found them, they were

"swirled perfectly. It was pretty," said the farmer, who runs a produce stand up the road and insists he didn't create the crop formation.

"Now it's dirt out there. They've harvested it and stepped on it. It just went crazy."

Betty and Chung Tung came up from Palo Alto on Thursday, laughing as they lay down in the center of one of the circles.

"If this is alien, it's a close encounter," said Betty Tung as she belled up to the earth. "I'm healing my tennis elbow."

Howe said scientists have been frustrated at their inability to reach crop circles before hordes of believers trample the evidence. Still, she understands the impulse.

"When you have something as mysterious as crop formations, it provokes in a lot of human minds that maybe the finger of God is at work here, and to get close to them and in them may be healing," she said. "That's a natural human reaction for centuries."

It's all new to Balestra, who said he was upset at first, but now marvels at the interest. The other day, a transvestite with a guitar was roaming around one of the circles, following a woman rocking a Native American shaker.

"These people, they've never been in a wheat field before," said Balestra. "I'm baffled. They just want to believe in something."

The wheat is part of a rotation, said Balestra. Last year, he grew sweet corn there. Next year it will be something else.

"From what they tell me, everything's going to grow better in that field," he said. "Maybe I'll grow some big pumpkins."

Balestra remains skeptical, though he now he says he can't dismiss the specter of an inhuman life force. As for aliens announcing their presence, he just laughs.

"Why don't they just come down, say 'Hi.'"

GAZETTE, Chillicothe, OH - Oct. 19, 2003 CR: J. Fry

## Aliens among us? Some residents report strange lights

By BROOKE BUNCH  
Gazette Staff Writer

It's a bird!  
It's a plane!  
It's a... UFO?

Local residents reported an Unidentified Flying Object Friday night while attending a Unioto football game. An unexplainable series of lights lit up the night sky according to Lonnie Caplinger and his son Bruce.

"I couldn't believe it," Bruce said. "It was too weird. It just makes you wonder what's going on out there."

According to Bruce, he just happened to be looking up at the sky when he saw two bright lights that

appeared to be moving toward him.

"Then of all of sudden, a third one appeared, then a fourth one, almost like a tear drop dropping out of the other one," he said. "They were in a horizontal line, four bright lights. Then they slowly turned orange and just disappeared."

Bruce said the Friday night sighting was almost identical to what he saw seven years ago, a reporting of strange lights in the sky which was recorded by a Ross County man and then broad-

cast on Channel 10 News.

"Coincidentally it was in the same area," Bruce said, "and at the same time of year."

But as Lonnie pointed out, what happened after the Friday sighting was far from comparable.

According to Lonnie, about 20 minutes after he witnessed the third series of lights, which happened in a period of 12 to 13 minutes, he saw what he thought were two fighter planes circling the area.

"Evidently they were from Wright Patterson (Air Force Base)," he said. "They came at a high rate of speed. They circled the area for several minutes and left."

Lonnie said the series of unidentified lights almost looked like a plane with four lights strung across the wing.

"But if it was a plane it was huge, huge, huge," he said.

Friday's night sighting was the third reported locally since 1986, when Barbara Herrnstein witnessed inexplicable lights during a session of stargazing.

According to Crystal Lavadour,

from the office of public affairs of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, there were no reports of strange lights Friday evening, and no calls were reported locally according to the Ross County Sheriff's office.

Lonnie stands behind his allegation. Unexplainable or not, what he witnessed at a Friday night football game was real, he said, and perhaps ... alive. "I believe there are other life forms," he said. "There are too many strange things that can't be explained."

(Bunch can be reached at 772-9372 or via e-mail at bbunch@nncogannett.com)

# Lil' green men, teenagers and the crop circles

Over the months, I've written about the little green men. I had no idea how popular they'd become.

Over the past couple of weeks, aliens allegedly invaded Larry Balestra's wheat field and made a pattern of crop circles. Thanks to movies such as "Signs," most people know what crop circles are. For the uninitiated, they are patterns pressed into crops, usually wheat or corn.

Pranksters sometimes make the crops, yet some folks believe that aliens are the sole source of the crop damage. The funky patterns were first reported in the 1600s, well before humans had flying machines or time to screw up important crops.

Solano County's first reported crop circle appeared two weeks ago. This has been a good thing for farmers who've suffered from bankrupt co-ops, wine gluts and foreign competition.

Maybe God talked to the aliens and asked them to help our farmers.

I decided to drive from my walnut ranch in Suisun Valley and look at the crop circles. I brought my 11-year-old daughter along. I couldn't know how the short trip down the road would change my life.

Dozens of people roamed the wheat field, some meditating and chanting, while others snatched up the magical wheat. In the center of the largest circle, I met some teenage boys and a Sacramento woman.

"These bozos say they made the circles," she said.

The young men didn't look like aliens, but

then I'd never met one before. The ones in the movies have big eyes and a hole for a mouth. They're usually missing a nose.

We listened to the teens for a few minutes as they explained their crop circles. "Nobody believes us. One guy said we looked too stupid to make the circles. How smart do you have to be?" I know from the movies the aliens are very smart.

I asked the teens for proof. One of the kids told me to wait while he went home to get a diagram of the crop circles. When he returned, he showed me a wrinkled paper with drawings and measurements that matched the circle layout. The boys also showed me how the wheat had cut at their legs, leaving red marks.

They went into a detailed explanation of how they made the circles, then offered me further proof. They would show me crop circles that nobody else knew about. They created them as



**Catherine Moy**

a practice run.

I got permission from the landowners and we checked it out. There they were: two linked circles.

Their stories held up to my intense questioning over three days. On the third day, I went to the experts — UFO believers. I met them in original crop circles. One woman, who said she was an alien in her previous life, assured me that aliens didn't do it. She would know, she said, because of her time as an alien.

Satya Pirnat meditated in the field. "I don't feel anything particular. It is just nice," Pirnat said.

I still don't know. But if I need to boost my walnut business, I'll pray for aliens.

*The author, a lifelong Fairfield resident, can be reached at Poohdo@aol.com.*

## '60s data for UFO report is out there

Release of research by CU, others details study

By Lianne Hart  
Los Angeles Times

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — In 1967, as unmanned orbiters landed on the moon and Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first successful heart transplant, a \$500,000 federally funded investigation of UFOs was well underway at the University of Colorado.

Led by prominent physicist Edward U. Condon, a team of scientists attempted to determine once and for all if UFOs existed.

Eight boxes of raw data collected during the study were made public by Texas A&M University in September, providing a behind-the-scenes look at what is arguably one of the most curious government investigations ever.

"We had quite an organization set up to look into reports of UFOs. It was all taken pretty seriously," said Roy Craig, the chief field investigator for the project, who donated his records to the university. "I went into the project hoping that I could find some actual, physical evidence that would pass muster."

To Craig's disappointment, he said, most sightings of alien spacecrafts were explained by science.

Among his file folders stuffed with meticulous, hand-written notes are artifacts such as a silvery material said to be taken from an alien spacecraft.

It turned out to be a hunk of magnesium. A rusty muffler that flew off a lawn mower had some believing they'd seen a tiny spaceship with a tail of fire.

"Guys like Roy did what they could to come up with a result they could hang their hat on," said Hal Hall, curator of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Collection at Texas A&M. "Anybody can come in and look at the appointment books, memos and field notes, real background of what went into the report. They'll see the enormous amount of work that took place as they applied scientific principles to the evidence."

The project results, which came to be known as the Condon report, were an outgrowth of classified Air Force investigations that came under fire as UFO sightings increased in the 1960s.

"Some of the congressmen got convinced there were flying saucers out there and the government was keeping secrets from their constituents. They wanted to know whether it was anything they should be concerned with for national security," Craig said.

In 1966, more than 30 Condon commission staffers — including university professors, psychologists and scientists from private laboratories — began sifting through thousands of UFO reports, then went on field trips to collect evidence and interview witnesses.

Experts in radar and meteorology were drafted to help explain mysterious flashing lights. Elaborate laboratory tests were conducted on puzzling materials and photos of elliptical objects in the sky.

In September 1968, Craig wrote himself a note and put it in a file folder:

"The existence of either alien flying vehicles or unknown natural phenomena is not indicated by evidence as we have examined. We are left with no artifact of alien cultures, no direct or indirect physical evidence of anything extraordinary, few (if any) pictures that cannot be shown to be fake ... and many examples of impressive reports which lost their strangeness as their claims were investigated."

This view was reflected in the 1,000-page Condon Report released in January 1969, which the Air Force used to close its investigation of UFOs.

The report was denounced by UFO believers, who called it a sham meant to calm a jittery public.

A former project member criticized Condon, who died in 1974, for taking an anti-UFO stand from the start and wrote a book called "UFOs? YES! Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong."

Decades later, the report still rangles those who study UFOs.

"It's clear to many of us in the field that the government is trying to get the minds of the American people off the UFO phenomenon. It would not be surprising if the Condon report was sort of a red herring," said Peter Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center, which has posted 23,000 sightings on its website since 1995. "When one looks at the cases that the Condon commission settled on for investigation to the exclusion of other more dramatic cases, a reasonable person would come to the conclusion that these people did not want to get to the bottom of the phenomenon."

Still, Davenport said, he and other UFO authorities — who call themselves ufologists — can't wait to read the notes and materials donated by Craig. "It's a treasure trove for someone like me," he said. "Going through the pages line by line, comparing it with what we know, it's like gold mining. Every once in awhile you come up with a gold nugget."

Craig, now 79 and raising llamas on a ranch in Colorado, said he relished his time as a government-contracted ufologist. "Dr. Condon was sorry he had any part of it, but I had fun. It's a historic study that will never get outdated. I don't think anything is ever going to happen during most people's lifetimes that will change the conclusions of the study."

Skeptics can think what they may, Craig said, but "we gave it an honest try."





# Yorkshire X-Files

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - March 6, 2003

SOUTH SHIELDS GAZETTE, England - July 11, 2003



UFO SPOTTER ... Ronnie Tuke. (IRN 18186)

## MYSTERY OF GOLDEN UFO SIGHTING!

A STRANGE golden UFO has been spotted skimming across the skies in South Tyneside.

Early riser Ronnie Tuke was amazed when he saw what looked like a huge, golden light in the sky from his flat in Hebburn town centre tower block Westmorland Court.

Although not a great believer in little green men, Mr Tuke, 56, spent more than a minute watching the disc-shaped object moving across the Tyneside sky.

He said: "It was a soft, golden light, shaped like a disc and the sides were flat like panelling."

"It was slightly at an angle and it seemed to be skimming across the sky like a speedboat."

"It went over South Tyneside College and across the sky and seemed to head out towards South Shields and the coast."

Mr Tuke shared his UFO experience with a DJ at Radio Newcastle and is keen to hear from anyone who saw the strange apparition over Hebburn town centre at 4am on Sunday, June 22.

"I asked around and there was a driver at a local taxi rank who had seen the

shape while he was driving in the early morning.

"I've been in contact with police about this, but I'm surprised that no one else has come forward to say they saw the UFO as well," Mr Tuke added.

Mr Tuke takes medication for problems with his legs and feet and often rises early in the morning.

Although he has read widely about UFOs and mythology, the Sunday morning sighting was his first out of this world experience.

Sergeant Bede McCabe, community beat manager for Hebburn and Jarrow, said: "We have definitely had no reports of any UFOs over Hebburn."

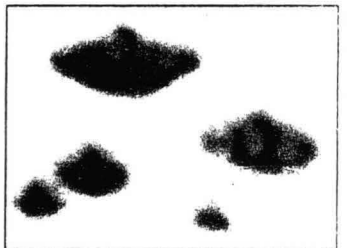
But Gazette columnist and paranormal investigator Mike Hallowell said: "We have had quite a flurry of UFO sightings recently."

"This incident in Hebburn would probably be described as a nocturnal light and I will check the relevant websites to see if anyone else spotted it."

"South Tyneside seems to be currently a bit of a hot bed for both daylight disc sightings and nocturnal lights."

By TERRY KELLY

## Police reports of close encounters are revealed by UFO-hunter Gary



BY BRUCE SMITH

CLOSE encounters reported by police officers in Yorkshire have been revealed by a UFO-hunter.

A computer database set up for police to report UFO sightings has unearthed a series of Yorkshire incidents never made public.

A year ago, when he launched the Police Reporting UFO Sightings (PRUFOS) database, Leeds-based Det Con Gary Heseltine, of British Transport Police, had only a handful of sightings.

Since then the database and its website - [www.prufos.co.uk](http://www.prufos.co.uk) - has received details of 80 incidents from 180 serving and retired officers across Britain.

Of these, almost 60 per cent involve incidents in which more than one officer saw the events. In one incident, a UFO was seen by 17 police officers in five different locations.

### Unreported

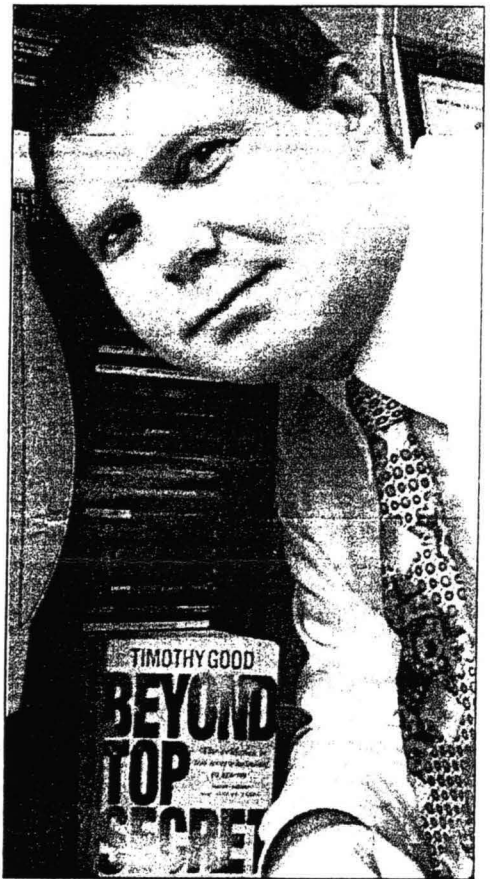
Said Gary: "The figures reaffirm my belief that there could be hundreds of unreported police cases in Britain over the last 50 years or so."

A number of Yorkshire incidents centre on the Todmorden and Halifax areas.

In one case in Halifax in 1983, an off-duty officer with his girlfriend saw a large orange UFO with spike-like protrusions, which disappeared suddenly with an angular movement. The officer never reported the sighting.

The year before, three officers, including a sergeant, were on duty in two patrol cars in Todmorden at 1.30am when they observed a bright light moving high in the sky for 30 minutes, before it rapidly went out of view. Again the officers did not report the matter, fearing ridicule.

In 1981, two officers on mobile patrol night duty pursued a UFO for several miles between Luddenden and



● UFO-HUNTER: Gary Heseltine's database is growing

Sowerby Bridge. In another case in 1980, two traffic officers saw a bright-coloured UFO in Littleborough at five in the morning. The object moved off towards Todmorden.

The officers later wrote to PC Alan Godfrey, whose sighting of a diamond-shaped UFO above the town a few minutes after theirs, is well-known.

"Many officers have been reluctant to make reports, for fear of being ridiculed," said Mr Heseltine.

"It is clear the Government and MoD know more than they are telling the public."

Gary Heseltine can be emailed at [heseitnegary@hotmail.com](mailto:heseitnegary@hotmail.com)

[bruce.a.smith@yppn.co.uk](mailto:bruce.a.smith@yppn.co.uk)

JOURNAL, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England - July 2, 2003

## Hitler and the hollow earth

TWO scientists believe they have found evidence of intelligent life deep inside the Earth.

Omar Hesse and Jorge Millstein have recorded electromagnetic signals and radiation originating from beneath mountains in Nevado de Cachi, Argentina.

They conclude the radioactive signals are not natural and originate from machinery operated by intelligent beings. Omar said that the oscillations "indicate that kilometres beneath the surface there is activity, alternating electrical waves, which means a power source."

Could this be proof that the inner Earth is inhabited by mysterious beings?

Some proponents of the hollow Earth theory believe Hitler and other high ranking Nazis made their way to the South Pole at the end of the Second World War and disappeared through an opening into the Earth. Some of Hitler's top advisers believed the Earth was hollow and the

Führer was rumoured to have ordered expeditions to the mines and caverns of Europe in search of an entrance to a subterranean world.

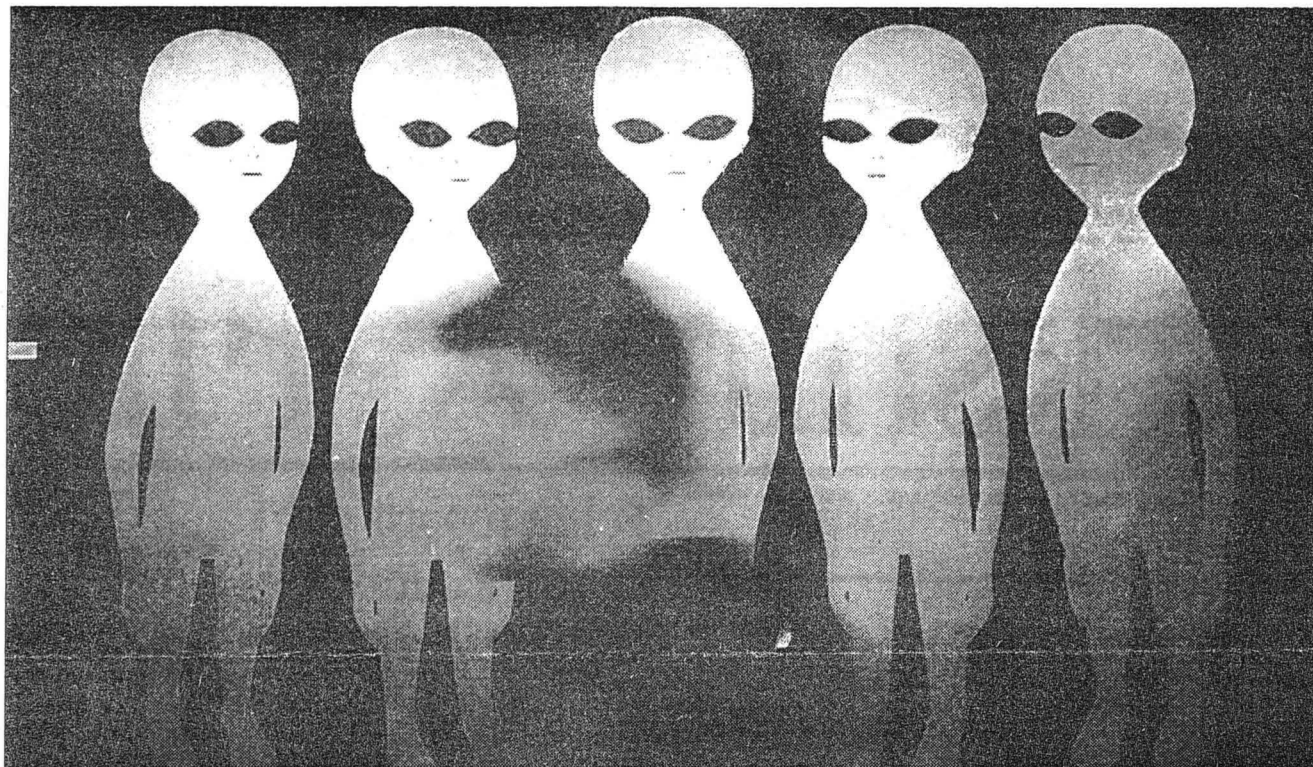
The hollow Earth is seen by some ufologists as the source for space craft. They believe UFOs are using the inner Earth as an airport.

In 1977 The International Society for a Complete Earth (ISCE) was founded by Captain Ritter von X - a member of the German navy.

Captain Ritter said the ISCE's goal was to enter one of the polar openings and make contact with the "tall, blond, blue-eyed super race" called the Arianni which rules the inner world.

The Arianni spoke a language similar to German and lived in cities of shimmering crystal, according to Captain Ritter.

They patrol the skies of the surface world in saucers called "flugelrods" - meaning winged wheels - keeping a watchful eye on the human race.



ERIC DRAPER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aliens seem to watch a visitor to the UFO museum in Roswell, N.M. Halifax is hosting a symposium on UFOs this weekend.

# Watch the skies and harbours

## Halifax UFO conference attracts skeptics and believers

BY JENNIFER ROBINSON

HALIFAX • Blame Ed Wood's spinning pie plates, the Raelians's obsession with cloning and theme parks, or maybe Erich von Daniken's premise that ancient gods were travellers from outer space. Pop culture and crackpots have hijacked the scientific study of UFOs, turning it into a running joke, says UFO researcher Chris Styles.

Best known for his work on the 1967 case of a suspected UFO crash in Shag Harbour, N.S., Styles was expected to be among five experts speaking this weekend in Halifax at an international symposium on unidentified flying objects. For him, proof that UFOs exist can be found in an unlikely place: Canadian government documents. Through federal access requests, he's found detailed reports from RCMP officers and Defence Department officials chronicling decades of strange sightings in our skies.

"A lot of what goes on nowadays really isn't ufology, it's what I call alienology," says Styles, co-author of *Dark Object*, a book about the Shag Harbour incident. "Everybody's already got their answers and they're just trying to make the data fit the answers they want to believe in. I don't know what UFOs are and I think that's where you have to start from."

The official reports about what happened at Shag Harbour offer detailed accounts from police officers and an Air Canada pilot who witnessed a strange object in the sky. The reports suggest that a large object crashed into the waters off southwestern Nova Scotia on Oct. 4, 1967, leaving behind a trail of yellow foam and bewildered fishermen who sailed to the area to search for survivors. Though navy divers mounted an extensive search and RCMP officers talked to many witnesses, nothing was found.

"If there was a police investigation and follow-ups and reports filed to defence

headquarters, you know there was probably something there," says Styles, who was 12 when he saw the orange object above his home in Dartmouth, N.S., before it crashed into the ocean. But he says scientists, pilots and other people in high-ranking positions are afraid to speak out because they don't want to be "tarred with the kook brush."

Scholars and the media, for example, have heaped scorn on popular authors such as Von Daniken, a former Swiss hotelier who has sold millions of books suggesting aliens, not humans, populated Earth's ancient civilizations.

In Hollywood, filmmakers continue to churn out conspiracy-theory movies about secret agents dressed in black chasing little green men. Cheap special effects have heightened the absurdity, compliments of B-movie directors like Ed Wood.

The Raelians, a Quebec-based group that insists life on Earth was started by

PEOPLE ARE AFRAID  
IF THEY SPEAK OUT  
THEY'LL BE 'TARRED  
WITH THE KOOK BRUSH'

aliens, have become international pariahs for their fantastic claims of successfully cloning humans.

Though physical evidence, such as a recovered aircraft, has remained elusive, studies show a growing number of people believe there is life elsewhere in the universe — but they're not so sure aliens are visiting our planet.

"In the 1950s, it was a simpler scenario: You either believed or you didn't believe," Styles says. "But nowadays many of the harshest critics say, 'Yes there's life, it just hasn't been here.' The differences are more subtle. The landscape is more confused."

Michael MacDonald, a Nova Scotia-based filmmaker and co-creator of the symposium, admits there's a lot of crackpot ideas out there.

"But you just can't ignore all the information, all the reports, all the sightings," he says. "When people say to me, 'Prove to me that they exist.' I just say to them, 'Prove to me they don't.'"

MacDonald, who is filming the symposium for a documentary, says Canada has a wealth of flying saucer information it can share with the world. Unlike U.S. officials, who "hoard and hide" their UFO reports, Ottawa shuffles information from department to department, unsure of where to file it, he says. "Rather than have a 'secret agenda,' they just pass it on."

As the local UFO expert in Halifax, Styles gets his share of calls and e-mails about strange sightings of dancing, zooming lights appearing in the heavens. He estimates that 90% of sightings are mistakes. The bright lights of the International Space Station passing overhead, for example, regularly trips up casual observers.

Convincing people they haven't seen a UFO is sometimes next to impossible, Styles says. "I think they want to have a little of the magic and be a part of it," he says.

"I hope we're not [alone in the universe]. If we are alone, I think that tells us something, too. We should be behaving a lot better if we're that rare and precious."

The Canadian Press

OBSERVER, Watford, England - July 25, 2003

## UFO sighting

RESIDENTS in Croxley reported sightings of a UFO which circled above them for ten minutes before vanishing without trace.

Mervin Harris, from Forbushs Newsagents on Baldwins Lane, Croxley, witnessed it yesterday (Thursday) at 4pm.

He said: "It went across in front of me."

Five locals are reported to have seen the strange craft.



**DID LOCALS GET A LAND?** Some believe these circles were caused by a spaceship



# THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE



## Drogheda crop circles mystery

**MYSTERIOUS** crop circles in a field of wheat just off the Dublin-Belfast motorway were most likely created by extra-terrestrials, according to the UFO Society of Ireland.

The society says such events are commonplace in the UK and the appearance of two circular shapes on farmland visible from the motorway near Drogheda in Co Louth is not as unusual in Ireland as some would think.

By ELAINE KEOGH

"We have only recently asked people to let us know about them and they were probably appearing across the country but no one publicised them," said Betty Meyler, president of the society.

### Intelligent

"I believe they are caused by extra-terrestrial beings who are far more intelligent than us.

"I accept there have been hoaxes but some of them are so intricate and wonderful that we could not

have created them," she added.

Crop circles usually appear overnight and involve geometric and symmetrical patterns in the centre of a field with no apparent route in or out.

The aliens theory was dismissed by David Moore of Astronomy Ireland, however.

"I believe they were created by people and are not an astronomical event," he told *The Star*.

"People are well capable of doing them and I have seen a documentary where a very elaborate circle was made by a group of people who worked from dusk till dawn."

"There is no logical reason why aliens would want to create them and if you are looking for who is responsible, you should be looking for two legged aliens," he quipped.

The landowner, a local farmer, said he had not seen the circles in his wheat.

He put forward the theory that they could have been caused by the re-sowing of some wheat that now looks a different colour to the rest of the crop.

## Group's UFO link theory to quake

A group which researches sightings of UFOs believes there may be a link to the Dudley earthquake last autumn.

Stourbridge-based UFO Research West Midlands today warned there could be a repeat of the earthquake at the end of July.

The warning follows research into a reported UFO sighting at the epicentre of the earthquake, recorded at 5.0 on the Richter Scale on September 23 last year, in Brick Kiln Lane, Gornal, two months before.

Uform member Peter Kimberley said Wombourne resident David Rose contacted the group after he photographed a strange object in the sky near Wombourne last July.

And a photo he took of buzzards at Kingswinford Railway in March had a mysterious rod-like object in the foreground.

"We are now intrigued to see if anything happens around the latter end of July," said Mr Kimberley.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - June 20, 2003

## WHAT'S BEHIND THE MYSTERY?



SIGNS: Gibson

**CROP** circles designs have become increasingly complex over the past 15 years.

They usually appear in wheat fields and have proved especially popular in England since the late '80s — although evidence of their existence goes back to the 16th century.

The hugely complex geometric designs have led

many to claim that aliens are trying to communicate with us through the designs.

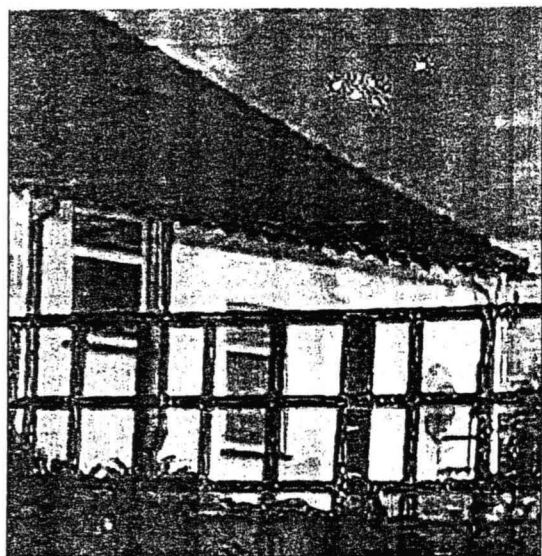
That possibility was explored in the Mel Gibson blockbuster *Signs* last year.

The evidence, however, points to the work of pranksters — with studies showing that even the most amazing design can be completed in a few hours by a motivated team.



A new book examines the evidence in Merseyside behind the question that has haunted man since the dawn of time. **David Charters** reports

# Is there anyone out there?



**SEARCHING THE SKIES:** Tony Eccles, right, is one of a dedicated band searching for life beyond the stars or, more importantly, evidence that those beings are visiting us, above, an unexplained cluster of lights in the night sky above Halewood

Main picture:  
MARTIN BIRCHALL



**T**HE scene is a newsroom, somewhere in Britain, in the wee small hours. The paper has been put to bed. The sticky remnants of coffee are chilling in the plastic beakers under a light dusting of cigarette ash. Yawns come wide and fast as the news editor and the late reporter check their watches.

Suddenly the phone trills. The news editor stretches his legs across the desk. "That'll be old Doris," he says to the reporter. "Another frustrated alien will be tapping on her bedroom window."

Yes, we have the cynics, but you have to admit that reports of strange and mysterious objects arriving uninvited in what we regard as "our world" have been remarkably persistent, dating back to the dawn of recorded history.

Here, in the North West, we have had numerous sightings and bizarre visitations; close encounters, as the science fiction fans would say. Others, though, maintain there is nothing fictitious about them. They are as real as the butter melting in your breakfast toast.

There have been blobs of vivid colours waltzing in the sky, triangular craft winging to unknown destinations, saucers and discs suspended above us, creatures with pointed heads and phosphorescent beings hovering over the banality of domestic life - all these are the props and players in the theatre of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Regular scientists dismiss most of these sightings out of hand. No evidence, they say. But regular science draws its conclusions from facts, not the imagination, and even then it can be wrong.

Meanwhile the rest of us gaze from our windows at night and wonder. Is it just possible ...?

It is a question which has haunted Tony Eccles who is sitting under the Gothic entrance to Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, examining his newly-published book, *A Different Sky: Unusual Sightings and Strange Phenomena Over Merseyside*.

The section headings alone make this 60,000-word volume almost irresistible. When you see "Buzzed by UFOs in Childhood" or "An Unforgettable Meeting in Bootle", you read on. Our own lives seem so dull by comparison.

For example, one passage about the strange goings-on in Bootle reads: "The creature turned and bent over Penny's face. It seemed to be peering deeply into her eyes.

It raised one of its hands, its fingers were long and pointed. She wondered what was going to happen to her. With one finger, the creature reached out, and touched the middle of Penny's forehead. In that instant, all of Penny's fears disappeared. She began to feel calm and relaxed ... comforted and under the creature's control ..."

Tony finishes by observing, "Penny seems to attract weird experiences, and she and her family have come to accept that strange things just happen to her."

Of course, down the years, Tony has accepted his share of ribbing. "The fate of ufologists," he says with a sigh and a shrug followed by a smile.



BUT this 39-year-old, a regular contributor to Radio Merseyside's Roger Lyon Show, is not a believer in the popular sense. But his mind is keenly receptive to the ideas and experiences of others. From their words, we can all learn.

Only a fool would claim that we have explained all there is to explain about the universe. In the vast, untouched mystery of the planets, there must be other forms of life, but at the moment we can only dream about their form and style. If, indeed, they did come to us would we be able to see, smell or touch them?

To the sceptics expecting to be confronted by a social misfit or a nut-case, Tony provides a challenge. He was brought up in Halewood by his parents, Robert, a maintenance technician, and Guadalupe Pozas Eccles, a seamstress.

From St Andrew's Junior School, Halewood, he advanced to St Francis Xavier School, Liverpool, and on to Halewood Comprehensive, securing the three A levels necessary to enter the Institute of Archaeology at University College London, where he graduated with a BA (Honours).

**THE MEN IN BLACK.** Since the 1950s they have been seen all over the world, including Merseyside, usually at about the same time as a UFO sighting, always wearing dark clothes and arriving in black vehicles. They vanish quickly.

**NEAR ANFIELD** football ground, on a Saturday

evening in the spring of 1966. A bright light came from an egglike body spotted by a family. It hovered in the vicinity for half an hour.

**MAY 16, 1996.** A huge luminous UFO with hundreds of green and blue pulsating lights chased a housewife's car on roads approaching the Runcorn/Widnes bridge.

**EGREMONT PROMENADE,** Wallasey, July 1996. A number of people see an object like a black, oval space craft rise from the Mersey and ascend to the skies.

**MORETON,** May 1997: Seven people outside a hall reported seeing a line of large, silent bright red lights,

gently pulsing and drifting towards the West.

**CALVERS** area of Runcorn September 20, 2002. A young woman was terrified by 7ft creature with greyish-green marble-like skin and a very long forehead. Although she knew it was watching her, the eyes were black and pitted, like empty sockets.

Now he is an assistant curator at the Liverpool Museum.

But his mother, who was brought up in Madrid, and his father both saw strange objects in the sky as children. Even so, Tony only had the natural interest of a schoolboy in the worlds beyond our own - until he was gazing from the bedroom of his home in Halewood in the early hours of October 20, 1988, when he was studying for his A levels.

There were two red, blurred balls of light moving slowly over the roof. Then he saw several more balls of light moving in a north-westerly direction. Each one had a very small set of white lights that were continuously blinking around the body of the sphere in a clockwise direction. He contacted Liverpool Airport, not far away in Speke. They said that there had been nothing peculiar about the sky that night. The Liverpool Echo said there had been no other reports about mysterious sightings.

Undaunted Tony, who was certain that he had not been the victim of an hallucination, made further enquiries. Finally being given the hotline number to the UK Independent UFO Network. Although he completed their witness form, Tony heard no more from them.

However at university, he was introduced to the long-established British UFO Research Association and entered their course from which he emerged as an accredited investigator. In February 1996, he co-founded the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA).

Since then he has investigated hundreds of sightings.

Nine out of 10, he says, have a rational explanation. Some of the others are included in his book.

"When I had my own experience, I had a sensation of being half-frightened and half-excited which I had never before had in my life," he says.

"It changed my life and I regret it in a way because of the amount of embarrassment and ridicule I have had, which come along with the subject. But I find it a profound subject because it is about human beings."

As he warms to his subject, the towering figure of Tony becomes more animated and his delivery of words quickens.

In the routine of his work, he studies the ancient cultures of Peru and Mexico, and in October he starts a Liverpool University course teaching Mexican architecture.

Native Americans have always felt an affinity with the stars linking them to the agricultural seasons of sowing, growing and reaping. This led them to accurately predict the appearance of stars. But this knowledge does not incorporate strange and unexplained visitations.

Some also interpret religious experiences, such as St Paul's blinding on the Damascus Road or Moses' wonderment at the burning bush, as ancient examples of the UFO phenomenon.

Tony is not persuaded. "I tend to believe that we are visited by an intelligence that is not so far away," he says. "They are not really travelling and, if they are travelling, I do not believe they are in nuts-and-bolts flying craft from distant stars in our galaxy. My slant is that it required more dimensional efforts where the intelligence is able to manipulate the physical environment and appear at will."



"SOME say that the entities are composed of thought alone. They can literally 'think' themselves into different places.

"Well, I don't know how true that is," says Tony, who is single. "We are told many things. Is it really the result of the imagi-

(continued on page 11) 10



(continued from page 10 - DAILY POST,  
Liverpool, England - July 14, 2003)

nation? Are we connected to something else? Are we truly seeing so many different entities, which claim to come from different stars and are travelling here fascinated by us? I find that difficult to believe. I don't know what I believe at the moment. I just need to follow the evidence and be as objective as possible.

"Scientists are working on one theory that there is a plasma energy generated by the earth deep below the ground which could be released by something like an earth tremor. On its rise to the sky, it can interact with people giving the impression that it is intelligently controlled. This could be caused by the ionised air causing an electrical atmosphere between the person and the rising energy. It is the same as thunderstorm sprites.

"Science can be applied and science will be able to produce an explanation for a good number of these sightings. But there are sightings which remain unidentified and we don't know what accounts for them."

As the film title suggested, there are three ways of encountering a UFO. Close encounters of the first kind involve an observation with no contact, the second kind happens when the UFO leaves behind some physical evidence and the third kind deals with sightings of a spacecraft and its occupants.

"The evidence for these tends to be subjective," says Tony. "People might not appreciate how special we are to have a carbon-based life form, to have two arms and two legs and a head. On another planet, I am sure life exists. There has to be other life, but life is unique and therefore it will take a different form and a different shape and develop in different ways. That is the fascination and excitement of space exploration - that one day we will find it. Whether we will be able to communicate is another matter."

■ A Different Sky by Tony Eccles is published by Bluecoat Press at £5.99.

davidcharters@dailypost.co.uk

ECHO, Lincolnshire, England - July 8, 2003

# Fracture proved to be his lucky break

**A**N unfortunate fracture turned out to be one county resident's lucky break as he celebrates the launch of his first novel this week.

Although T. R. Thompson was interested in writing from an early age, successfully winning certificates and prizes for his efforts throughout his schooling, his following careers working as a brewery technician and travelling with the Royal Naval Reserve left him little time for literary pursuits.

However, when he suffered a bad accident, snapping his knee in two, he found himself off work and with time on his hands to complete the novel he had been working on over a nine-year period. That book, *Elder Tapes*, is due to be launched on Friday at an evening event held in the Sun Café in Lincoln.

A science-fiction novel, *Elder Tapes* grew out of another of the author's interests.

Before moving to Lincoln in 1995, T. R. Thompson ran the UFO group in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, for more than five years. His knowledge of the subject led him to be interviewed for shows such as ITV's *The Time Place* with John Stapleton. When embarking on writing about the

subject the author decided to take a fictional rather than factual perspective, however, believing that this format may reach people in a different way.

"I see my writing as scenario-disguised truth," he explains.

"The novel is 50 per cent fictional and 50 per cent based on my life experiences, both encounters with UFOs and psychic experiences."

"I hope that it will help to promote an awareness of the different dimensional worlds surrounding us and extra terrestrial life."

Being busy promoting his first novel has not deterred the author from beginning his second book, which is already nearing completion.

In *The Illuminating Flame*, T. R. Thompson is set to highlight further mysterious themes, this time exploring more magical and cult-based subjects.

The initial success of *Elder Tapes*, which has been accepted for sale by national retailers such as Waterstones Bookshops, Heffers of Cambridge and Norfolk outlets, and his progression with his second novel have also led to a major publisher expressing an interest in his work requesting to see the first five chapters of *The Illuminating Flame*. City readers will not have to wait for

their decision to hear the author read from his first book as T. R. Thompson will share glimpses of *Elder Tapes* through his readings on Friday night.

The audience will be able to find out about the Two Specials Richard and Jefferson who, compelled to pilot a UFO, are taken on a journey into the realms of the unconscious to be taught of Man's true nature.

Their return to Earth does not signal the end of their adventures, however, as they must help to face a hellish epitaph left by two dying aliens that threatens to consume humanity - but even the audience will have to read the book to find out if they are successful.

■ *Elder Tapes* by T. R. Thompson is published by Cambridge Publishing, priced £11.99.

■ *Elder Tapes* is on sale at outlets in the county including Mystical Traders and the Sun Café in Lincoln and Autumn Leaves Book Shop in Nettleham.

■ The book launch for *Elder Tapes* takes place this Friday in the Sun Café, St Mary's Street, Lincoln at 7pm. T. R. Thompson will be reading from and signing his work.

■ Call the Sun Café on (01522) 579067.



CAPITAL NEWS, Okanagan, B.C., Canada - Aug. 15, 2003

## Seeking witnesses to UFO

To the editor:

I am requesting your help with a large case I am working on. My name is Brian Vike, I am a UFOlogist here in Houston, B.C. I own and operate HBCC UFO Research and have been working on a rather large case which involves many residents from your area who witnessed two strange things on the night of July 27, 2003 at approximately 12:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.

First of all a huge, bright, white-coloured object was witnessed by a number of residents who have already sent in their reports to me.

Also just after this object passed through the night sky, a ray of white light was witnessed sitting stationary in the sky from horizon to horizon. Within the ray of light it rotated and had a black line, or shadow on the one side of it. This lasted for well over an hour and stayed stationary, didn't move at all until it disappeared.

As for the object which was first reported, I do know the International Space Station was visible around the time of the sighting. But

after speaking with so many, the object folks witnessed moved along very slowly and at a very low altitude which leaves the space station out.

As for the beam, or ray of light, we believe this was left behind from the object itself, but certainly have no idea at this time to what this was.

I believe I now have some 23 folks who have come forward who have reported either the object, or the ray of light seen that night. If you have any information regarding the above events please call 1-866-262-1989 or email hbccufo@telus.net to make your report. Your readers are welcome to view my Web site at the following address: <http://www3.telus.net/public/wilbur8/hbccufo> research.htm.

Brian Vike,

director,

HBCC UFO Research

Editor: Canadian Communicator—

Paranormal Magazine

CR: G. Conway

## Seeking witness to sighting of UFO

I AM a retired CID officer from the West Midlands, who has been compiling a chronological journal of UFO activity which has taken place over the UK embracing the period 1943-1982.

It is split into two volumes and I hope one day to publish.

I came across an account given by a Clacton journalist, which took place on the 28th September 1980, when she reported having been pursued by a blood orange-coloured globe of light while travelling between Colchester and Clacton at 1.45am.

Frightening experiences involving the motorist being pursued along the highways of the United Kingdom are nothing new to me. I have many similar accounts on file.

It has always been my stance to try and trace the witness concerned, understanding that quite often people who experience such encounters occasionally are involved in at least one or two other inexplicable phenomena.

I am also hoping readers may be able to locate another missing witness, a Mr

Duncan, who was the owner of a pet farm at Weeley, who reported having sighted a landed object at his farm some weeks previously.

I look forward to hearing from any reader who may be able to help me with my project.

Please write or telephone 07788773340 and take a look at my website at <http://mysite.freemove.com/UfofoverGreatBritain/index.html>

JOHN HANSON  
31 Red Lion Street,  
Alvechurch, Worcs

# Is the truth really out there?



Malcolm in the middle ... of some of his alien figures.

Picture by Karen Ward

EALING GAZETTE, Middlesex, England - June 27, 2003

by Sarah Graham

"I HAVE always been interested in strange phenomena. It is my goal in life to investigate these strange occurrences and find the answers that at present elude us," said paranormal investigator Malcolm Robinson.

It is this passionate curiosity that drove the 46-year-old to form Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) in Scotland back in 1976.

Outside his day job at a telecomms firm in Tottenham Court Road, Mr Robinson works and travels tirelessly to try to uncover the truth behind ghost and UFO sightings in the UK.

He spends every evening and weekend at his home of eight years in Hale Gardens, Ealing Common, answering e-mails from people around the country reporting what they believe to be paranormal activities.

He compiles extensive reports, seeks advice from fellow investigators and contacts mediums to arrange meetings with potential subjects.

When visiting a 'haunting' or attending a séance, he has to meticulously scour the site for any hidden hoax material - microphones, cameras, projectors - and size up the person making the claim.

Mr Robinson holds monthly lectures across London, the last being a debate on the authenticity of the lunar landing. Attendance is good, with an average of 70 people per meeting. He writes articles for UFO and paranormal magazines the world over and has appeared on too many television shows to name.

If he exercises caution when talking of his great passion, it comes from a story in a Scottish national tabloid some years ago. Mr Robinson had been given the impression that the reporter was conducting a serious interview. Instead, he was made to look like a fool.

A realist, he said he is always prepared for sceptics: "Oddly enough, we need sceptics. I invite them to our meetings."

Mr Robinson's enthusiasm for the paranormal stems from his childhood, which he spent in Scotland. He said: "I can remember as a young boy reading the Pan Book of Ghost Stories. That fuelled my curiosity. As I got older I started thinking 'this cannot be true' - I felt it was utter rubbish."

"In my early teens I desperately wanted to try to disprove these strange phenomena because I felt it was nonsense. I learned more about what was going on in the UK and formed SPI."

The remit was purely to investigate these claims. As I travelled through life meeting some incredible people with some fantastic stories to tell, I slowly came round to the fact there's no smoke without fire."

Mr Robinson has plenty of stories to tell. He describes a séance he attended in Chingford in February when a small Jewish girl's voice was heard by the group. She claimed to have died in Auschwitz.

In another case, he says he witnessed a medium illuminate a room with brightly coloured orbs. He is a campaigner too, lobbying former Prime Minister John Major to investigate multiple UFO sightings in Bonniebridge, Scotland.

"I thoroughly, thoroughly enjoy what I'm doing," he says with growing fervour. "People have asked me what would I do if it were proved ghosts were real, would I pack up and go home?"

"I would pack up and go home because I'd have the answers."

■ SPI can be contacted on 020 8993 6532 or e-mail [spi-spi@hotmail.com](mailto:spi-spi@hotmail.com). The next lecture is tomorrow (Saturday) at the Sols Arms, Hampstead Road, Euston. The subject is psychic faculties that exist between twins.

# TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

September 26, 2003 — *TERRA.CL*, Chile — CORPORAL VALDES CONFESSES: "TRULY, I WASN'T ABDUCTED" — The legendary corporal told *TERRA.CL* that he has completed a book--to be published by the end of the year--where the truth of the events is explained. — TEMUCO, September 26. — In an exclusive interview with *TERRA.CL*, legendary corporal Armando Valdes claimed that from the start he knew he had not been abducted. From his home in Temuco, he stated that his story had been misinterpreted, "although the matter of the beard and the wristwatch was true." He likewise spoke about his current project: a book that should appear by year's end in which he retells his version of the events which transpired on April 25, 1977 in Chile's First Region:

*Terra*: Recently, you have been engaged in discreet research into your experience. Is this true?

AV: Yes, in fact I've been fully involved in developing my book and furthermore, looking into my experience, since I wish to be as factual as possible in my story.

*Terra*: As a result of this research, have you returned to the scene of the events?

AV: Yes, I went back in November 2002--25 years later... Pampa Lluscuma and the remains of the horse stables where the events occurred. There, in the company of researcher and journalist Patricio Abusleme, we recreated the events and made a series of measurements, gathering very significant background information.

*Terra*: How did you feel about going back?

AV: As you can imagine, it was shocking. It was the first time I went back after two decades. It was a motivating experience which allowed me, first and foremost, to confirm or recall certain details which were lost with the passing of time.

*Terra*: While much was said about the "abduction" of Corporal Valdes, there was none. What's your version?

AV: Truly, I wasn't abducted. This is the reason for the sensitive nature of what I'm putting forth in the book. Some important background details are being released.

*Terra*: Did you think at any time that you had been abducted or did you always know this wasn't the case?

AV: Look, it's really complicated to explain all of a sudden. That's the reason behind my trip to Putre, my scientific studies and the book I'm writing, because it's all very complicated.

*Terra*: But did you think at first that you'd been abducted?

AV: I would say that I knew immediately how things had happened. What I'm explaining in my book [is making known] the reasons for which certain items went off on another track.

*Terra*: In other words, your initial story was misconstrued?

AV: Indeed. I didn't think at first that I'd been abducted, although the matter of the growth of beard is true, as well as the subject of my wristwatch. But for this reason I have taken to writing the book to explain the reasons behind all of these things.

*Terra*: Lately you have been silent in the media. Why is this?

AV: What's happening is that I'm engrossed in finishing my book. I wanted to work in silence until the task was done.

*Terra*: When can we expect the book to be published?

AV: In the book itself I say that it's been a serious mistake to promise dates. Many special situations have occurred--some very strange things--but I'm making an effort to finish it by the end of the year. I'm giving it my all, since I'd like to finish it as soon as possible.

*Terra*: Any options to publish the book abroad?

AV: Yes, there have been offers from abroad, but I don't want to entertain them until the book is finished. My greatest desire is for everyone to read it, since I have a message for all humankind in it. Therefore its publication in Chile or elsewhere is unimportant. We will decide where to publish it at some point.

*Terra*: I understand that you are a [born again] Christian and an evangelical. Is this true?

AV: Yes, I am, and a teacher of the evangelical faith.

*Terra*: How have your religious surroundings influenced your story? Or rather, how has your story been received?

AV: My story and explanations have been accepted to a certain extent, and I have told them certain things and in a certain manner. There are many who hold points of view different from my own and I don't have to deny that there are contradictions. But as I said, the story is mine and they have not influenced me at all regarding my book. In fact, there are those who may agree or not agree with my book tomorrow, and it will not stop what I'm doing.

*Terra*: Would you say that the experience you underwent in Pampa Lluscuma was more of a spiritual than a ufological event?

AV: There are mixed items. The term UFO today is contaminated by another type of thing, and I prefer to speak in terms of FANI (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena). I think that in my experience there is a bit of everything--a good measure of paranormal phenomena, strange effects, lights, many things acting in unison and this is what I am showing in my book, although it's been hard for me to convey on paper what I felt, what I experienced and what really happened.

*Terra*: Finally, are you in touch with those who also took part in the unusual event and who formed part of your patrol?

AV: Yes, over the phone more than anything. For some reason we haven't been able to have a closer relationship, but we are in touch by phone and I must say that we currently have disagreements over the events that occurred. Some are telling another story. — CREDIT: Roderick Bowen - Copyright 2003, Terra Networks Chile, S.A.

October 3, 2003 — *Altazor@yahoo.com* — EXPO AND FORUMS ACCOMPANY RELEASE OF OSCAR AIBAR'S "PLATILLOS VOLANTES" — Produced by Enrique Cerezo and Pedro Costa, "Platillos Volantes" reconstructs real facts and attempts to delve into the complex psychology of two Spanish laborers who fall prey to what was known in the late '60s as "Martianitis" or the UFO boom. The film captures a great part of this phenomenon in Spain, which coincided with the last years of the Franco regime, in which any association was investigated as a possible source of subversion.



To accompany the opening of "Platillos Volantes," expos on sightings reported in Spain and forums featuring the country's senior UFO experts shall be held in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. Furthermore, the film's official website ([www.plus.es/platillosvolantes](http://www.plus.es/platillosvolantes)) has opened a section to which photos of sightings may be submitted. These shall be subsequently included in the expos and chats in which users may discuss the possible existence of life on other planets. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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October 18, 2003 — *Primera Hora*, Puerto Rico — STALKING E.T. ENCOUNTERS IN PUERTO RICO by Mariela Fullana — Are humans truly alone in the universe or do we have company?

This question--the source of so much controversy and debate--shall be the subject of the Puerto Rican science-fiction film, "Encuentros" (Encounters), which shall be shown on October 28 at 8:00 pm through Telemundo.

Flying saucers cross the skies, scintillating lights illuminate the island and space aliens are only some of the special effects that will appear in this movie, created by engineer Carlos Vallenganes under the direction of David Aponte, who is also the creator of this script. Carlos Fontane, Alexandra Malagon and William Piedra are the protagonists.

"It's rather different from what has been done in Puerto Rico as far as special effects are concerned. I'm not a fan of the subject, but I do believe then in a Universe so vast we cannot be the only ones," said the script writer, who based himself on true accounts of people who claim having had some sort of ET contact, blending their stories with his own imagination.

The movie's stars coincided with the director in their appreciation of life on other planets.

"When I was young I visited El Yunque regularly, because my dad had a house there, and I saw things I could never explain," said Carlos Fontane, who acted and formed part of the production staff under New Dreams Entertainment.

Alexandra Malagon stated that "we cannot be alone in such a wide Universe. People close to me have told me that they've seen inexplicable things, and I myself have seen strange lights. I've always believed.

"Encuentros" tells the story of Steven Rodriguez (Carlos Fontane), an incredulous reporter who covers a series of extraterrestrial stories after the rumor of the existence of UFOs becomes known.

"We're not promising the best or the worst. Only a different production. We didn't want this to look like a soap opera, but rather like a movie," said the actor, who lost 25 pounds and grew a beard for the role. Regarding "Jessica," the role portrayed by Alexandra Malagon, the actress noted that "it's the first time I've played a character so much like myself. She's a good friend and wise and daring journalist, which took me back to the five years I worked as a reporter on Univision ("Despierta America" and "Noticiero Univision"). William Piedra, who acts the role of "Larry," praised the hostess of the "Atrevete" show for her work and for sticking with the production to the very end.

"She fell down, she scraped her knees, she lost a fingernail and still didn't stop shooting. Now, when she asked for a hair dryer and was told there wasn't one, she did stop the production," said the comedian amid much laughter. He too forms part of this film, which was recorded on digital stock. — CREDIT: Dr. Jose I. Gomez

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October 19, 2003 — *El Dia*, Chile — NEW ANIMAL DEATHS IN COQUIMBO REINFORCE CHUPACABRAS HYPOTHESIS — \*\*\*Simultaneously, residents in Caleta San Pedro claim young student is "possessed" by an evil force that has required religious intervention\*\*\* — By Armando Tapia — Paranormal events have strongly imprinted the weekly news in this region following several attacks by the alleged "Chupacabras" in the Pan de Azucar sector. To this was added a report of "demonic possession" in Caleta San Pedro: two enigmatic events for which there is still no conclusive answer, particularly taking into consideration the fact that mysterious animal deaths are still taking place in Coquimbo.

A new attack by the mythic predator took place yesterday in Pan de Azucar, this time on the property of Carlos Errazuriz of Hacienda Venus. Increasing the fear that is already felt by local residents since the first deaths occurred on October 15, the fact is that the landowner was faced with the death of 15 of his canaries through exsanguination. The birds were not eaten.

Before the startled eyes of the dwellers, who did not hear any noises during the night, the unknown entity opened the mesh screen of the bird cage to subsequently get in and slay all of these canaries, which were found dead the following morning and strewn all over the yard, showing the same strange marks which supposedly appear on the "Chupacabras"'s victims.

Errazuriz dismissed the possibility that a dog or other animal--such as a fox--could be involved, since considerable strength would be required to open the gate, and furthermore none of the birds was devoured or even bitten. "It's as though only their blood had been sucked," he said, looking at one of the prints left by the mysterious assailant. Due to their large size and shape, they do not appear to belong to any known animal.

The first time that a Chupacabras attack became known in this region was in May 2003, when 40 mutilated chickens were found in Salamanca. Although all suspicions at the time were directed at the strange creature's actions, the fact is that the official version finally determined that it was merely the work of a "wild animal"--an explanation that did not convince many.

One day before the "Chupacabras" attacks became known, a strange news item spread concern among residents of Caleta San Pedro, a tiny rural community in the La Serena commune. A 17 year-old student was the victim of a strange "malign force" that had possessed her, caused her to suffer convulsions and experience lapses of awareness.

According to the girl's relatives--whose name is being kept confidential--the teenager has experienced abrupt personality changes in which even her voice and features have been altered, to the extent of convincing everyone that she is possessed.

However, a local priest who visited the girl's home dismissed that any diabolism was involved, indicating that "nothing more than a strange health alteration" was involved. The fact remains that the event has caused a stir in the community, since the crisis still affects the student.

In spite of this, the Catholic church acknowledges the existence of diabolic possession cases for which "exorcisms" are the prescribed remedy, having the category of a sacrament, and which are only performed when all manner of psychological disturbances, or other ailments having a natural explanation, have been discarded. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez Orellana

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October 15, 2003 — *La Capital On-Line*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: BLACK DWARF RETURNS TO CASILDA — \*\*\*Residents in a Casilda neighborhood claim having seen a "black dwarf"\*\*\* — They claim that it appears by night at the Candelaria canal, that it is black and that its body is covered by hair.

CASILDA--The police crime blotter did not feature the usual felonies and misdemeanors that occurred this past weekend in the city and in the rest of the department of Caseros. Rather, it featured a claim which mentioned the appearance of an alleged "black dwarf" in the Candelaria canal.

The information was picked up with a certain degree of humour by the local media and gave rise to remarks of all sorts. However, residents from the Nueva Roma neighborhood, living in a zinc-roofed shanty town located on the edge of the "big ditch," as Casildans call the Candelaria canal, claim having seen "a little hairy black dwarf" a few nights ago. The diminutive creature did its best to frighten them or to at least mystify them.

The police continue to investigate as long as there are doubts about the matter; to many it is "little more than foolishness," although there are those who believe in the phenomenon, basing themselves on old local legends regarding imps.

"Since I heard my dog barking, I went outside with a flashlight to see what was going on. At first I didn't see anything, but then I pointed to another section and I saw a small, hairy and black thing scurrying to climb over the edge of the canal. I couldn't make it out very well because it was nighttime and very dark," says a woman who allegedly witnessed the strange apparition.

The young woman further claimed to have heard it making a sound "similar to a baby's burping" and said she was very frightened. "We're afraid because according to some legends, there are imps who appear to steal babies, and there are many young ones in this neighborhood."

A man allegedly saw the undersized nocturnal visitor "inside the canal and standing on some rocks." He also described it as "having a body entirely covered in hair."

According to locals, the alleged black dwarf was first seen last Friday night, although they say that it appeared elsewhere and that police were called in to survey the site, but found nothing.

"There are wells that weren't there before, but we don't know if he [the dwarf] made them or if an animal is to blame, the fact is that this is very strange," observed another woman. "It had the size of a 3 or 4 year-old child and was all hairy. Here in the neighborhood a few of us have seen it, but when he hears that people are searching for him and making noise, he doesn't appear." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

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November 1, 2003 — ANSA, Italy — [<http://www.ansa.it/ansalatina/notizie/rubriche/variedades/20031101123032741138.html>] — EXPEDITION CLAIMS FINDING ARK ON ARARAT — MOSCOW (ANSA) -- An expedition organized by the Russian "Unknown Planet" association claimed having discovered Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat.

The news was broken by mission director Andrey Polyakov, a linguist and documentaryist, at the "Unknown Planet" website, which makes films on Earth mysteries, as well as in an interview with the Russian press.

In the past, specialists had claimed that the remains of Noah's Ark--an enormous petrified wood structure which corresponded to the measurements given in the Bible--had been photographed from space.

Polyakov claims having obtained authorization from Turkish authorities for ascending Ararat, which is closed due to security reasons. "The Ark is not on Ararat's summit, but rather some 30 kilometers away," he noted. "The Bible itself states that it wasn't on Ararat, but in the Mountains of Ararat. It's an enormous petrified wood structure, 150 meters long, 25 wide, and 15 tall, resembling a vessel as large as a football field," he added.

Polyakov added that the expedition found traces of enormous rocks which could have been "anchors." "But there are so many that one could think of a flotilla of ships, rather than a single vessel." According to Kurdish sources cited by Polyakov, after a tremendous earthquake in 1948, the ship was severed in two halves--one of which points upward with a height of 2 meters. The other remains buried. "It is now a matter for academics to determine with certainty if it is indeed the Ark," said the researcher, who announced an upcoming mission to the zone. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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## CREDIT FOR ARTICLE AND TRANSLATION: Jane Guma

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July 24, 2002 — *El Tribuno*, Salta province, Argentina — UFO IN CAMP VESPUCIO, SALTA — In recent years the local newspaper in Salta province, *El Tribuno* (which has a commendable on-line version), has been generous in disclosing news related to the UFO subject, and it is significant that such a tendency should not be shared by other regional or national media, so that *El Tribuno* stands out from the others while prioritizing that kind of information, and it is so detailed that really useful data is being offered to the specialized researchers.

Without fear of being wrong, we could say that Engineer Manuel Borraz, from the Anomaly Foundation, is the most analytic of the present Spanish UFO investigators. In spite of him being thousands of kilometers away, he takes advantage of the wealth of information contained in a press article, reproduces it, then paragraph by paragraph, he filters it through the reasoning screen, adds precise cartographic and astronomical data, until finally he presents us with two things: his first thoughts—though very noteworthy—on the case and also a real model to be followed, a kind of didactic lesson on how to analyze a press report reading between the lines so as to extract more material than what the printed matter shows. The relentless Argentine chauvinism will feel insulted that a Spaniard should meddle in their business, but that's another story. — Ruben Morales

Date: 7-22-02

Place: Camp Vespucio, Salta province, Argentina

Summary: A luminous object the size of a rugby ball shocked several residents who saw it, remained motionless for 40 minutes and then left towards the West at incredible speed. Electrical failures associated.

Camp Vespucio

Secrets of a press article

By Eng. Manuel Borraz (member of the Anomaly Foundation, Spain), especially for Mitos del Milenio

The Argentine newspaper *El Tribuno* from the city of Salta, published on July 24, 2002, the following news:

Vespucio — The Phenomenon Shocked the Oilfield Residents — HUGE UFO SIGHTED — At the same time, telephone services went out in the whole area and there were failures in some of the machinery.

By Cristina Carrazan from *El Tribuno*

A huge and intensely luminous UFO was seen on Monday between 8.50 pm and 9.30 pm in the town of Campamento Vespucio, 7 km (approx. 4 miles) to the west of General Mosconi and approximately 350 km (217 miles) to the north of the capital of Salta. The event shocked the town which until a short time ago was the hydrocarbon capital of the Argentine northwest and which after the state company Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF-The Government Petroleum Company) was privatized, is now half empty. The presence of the object, which was visible to the naked eye above the tropical wooded hills of the San Antonio mountain which serves as a natural border of the area, was the size and shape of a rugby ball. The residents of Vespucio took to the streets to watch the object which remained motionless for 40 minutes, but then suddenly disappeared to the West at an "astonishing" speed, according to the witnesses.



A housewife--who preferred to remain anonymous--said "it was something strangely beautiful. The intensity of the light was enormous, although curiously, it was not blinding." The same woman said that "we were all amazed at first, but then we got nervous when we realized that at the same time, the phones stopped working and the electrical systems of several cars went dead, making it impossible to start them or to turn on their lights."

#### In Tablillas

The residents of the Tablillas area, located 3 km (approx. 2 miles) into the narrow pass where Camp Vespucio is set up, and possibly closer to the UFO, were not surprised by the event since, they said, "we are used to seeing these strange luminous things since 1999, and every time they appear, engine and electrical failures also occur."

A few families live there, all ex-YPF workers and employees, who after the privatization preferred to stay in that place which can be reached through a winding dirt road that leads to the operations area of the Pan American petroleum company.

The road also leads to other gas and oil wells that at present are inactive. The Olima family is one of those living in Tablillas. Formed by the couple and 13 kids, eight of which--between the ages of 10 and 24--live in their parents' home, was a privileged spectator to the event.

However, none of them was surprised--contrary to what happened to the Vespucio residents: "We are used to it," they confessed to the team of *El Tribuno* reporters that visited the area.

Gabriel Olima, 22, a former engineering student who for financial reasons could not graduate, works with his father in a repair shop in their home and is also a beekeeper, said that "we saw these UFOs many times since 1999. People wouldn't believe us either because of fear or skepticism, but the appearances are so common that we have even been able to determine that they are visible each year between July and August. Not sooner, not later," said the young man. Two people from a Buenos Aires TV channel came once, and we brought them here to film. They did the job, but I don't know why it never aired. They looked scared while they were filming and one of them said that "that bright thing" was nothing known, that it was something "very strange." They never returned.

Also, Fabian Olima, 24, said that "this or these objects seem to have a timetable because they always show themselves between 8 and 9 pm. They are there, stay for 40 minutes and then disappear at great speed," he claimed. Gabriel said that at one time, when the "thing" showed up behind a distant hill no more than 4 km (approx. 2.4 miles) from his house, he decided to investigate. "We wanted to see what it was all about. We left the house with my dad and went to the other hill. We ran through some paths but it suddenly gained speed and disappeared like a bullet."

"It's impossible to confuse it with a star because it's very low, at times it changes colors between light blue, red or yellow. We once got a pair of binoculars and discovered that with the bare eye it seemed to be stationary but through the lens it was moving all the time, as if trembling," added Sandra, 15, who together with her 14 year old sister Miriam, said that "the one most interested in solving this mystery is Gabriel."

"What changed--emphasized Fabian--is the distance. We used to see it very far away but Monday night it was closer than ever."

"Maybe they are getting bolder and will come closer every day," joked the other Olimas.

This concludes the *El Tribuno* article. What can be said about these statements? Fascinating. A large UFO--which suddenly stood still or displayed an amazing speed--EM effects... No wonder the locals are shocked. And not only that. The place seems to be an authentic "hot spot" where mysterious things have been showing up for some years.

The Spanish amateur researcher--these lines are being written in Spain--resigns himself to think: "What extraordinary cases occur on the other side of the globe; this doesn't happen here every day." He will surely deem it appropriate to add a new entry in his private archives: "Camp Vespucio (Salta, Argentina), 7/22/2002, 8.50-9.30 pm." He may even hazard a daring thought: could this sighting be somehow related to the wave of mysterious cattle mutilations that has been ravaging Argentina?

To ask oneself questions, that's good...

Could there be an extraterrestrial base in the area, hidden among some of the "wooded tropical hills"? Or else some "interdimensional portal" that allows for transit between parallel universes? Could this explain the unusual activity in that area, year after year? Well, maybe these wouldn't be the most adequate questions, at least for now. Of course, I don't think anyone could answer them. Better to ask other kinds of questions. Is there a microclimate in that area that is favorable for repeat appearances of globe lightning? Could globe lightning explain the failures "in the engine and electrical systems"? What if it were secret military prototype tests? The place is quiet, but what military power would go to the trouble of carrying out tests there and for what precise reasons? Is it a coincidence that it is an oil field?

But let's not hurry. Let's start with more simple questions

We don't have our witnesses around the corner to interview them. But there's nothing to keep us from questioning the article itself. We have no excuse. Nor do we have anything to lose.

For starters, what about the size of the UFO? The title is clear enough and refers to a "huge UFO," but... For instance, we also read "the presence of the object, which was visible to the naked eye above the tropical wooded hills of the San Antonio mountain..." It's strange, since it is an enormous UFO, it seems redundant to add that it was visible "to the naked eye," true?

Let's find something concrete about this. The UFO was "the size and shape of a rugby ball." This looks like precise information, but it's not. It often happens in UFO sighting reports. There is no way to interpret this. The UFO was the size of a rugby ball? Well then, should that be the case then it must have been really small! It could be less than two palms long. On the other hand we may think this is a comparison of the type: "it was the apparent size of a rugby ball at X distance." Now the comparison is not direct, but it refers to the apparent or angular size. A huge passenger plane can be seen the (apparent) size of a lentil held at arm's length, or of a rugby ball at the distance at which a spectator watching the game would see it. If we suppose this is a comparison of apparent sizes, then the problem is evident: the UFO was the size of a rugby ball, at what distance?

And this is only the beginning. Other doubts fill our mind.

Would the witnesses be good estimating sizes or would they be like those who exaggerate a lot? and how could somebody estimate the size of something he doesn't know what or at what distance it is? Distance and size. Size and distance. "Once, when the 'thing' showed up behind a distant hill no more than 4 km (approx. 2.4 miles) from his house, he decided to investigate," said an observer in Tablillas. At what distance could "the thing" be? Impossible to know with only the sky as background. They could hardly know whether it was in front or behind the hill, or even much farther away. Unless they had a radar or an aerial perspective of the scene, which was not the case.

Maybe that could be a clue. From what it looks like, it should have been a phenomenon perceived as something distant, located--apparently--a few kilometers away, not some hundreds of meters, to say

something. Therefore, it could be surmised that after all the angular size may not have been too large. In this sense this would explain the lack of details. No concrete details are mentioned about the shapes (except the comparison with a rugby ball), the structure, texture or possible accessories (appendixes, legs, windows, I don't know ... ) Talk is only about "luminous things" of an intense luminosity, true, but which "was not blinding." So, in principle, the luminosity would not hinder the observation of the kind of details we mentioned.

One of the Tablillas observers said "we used to see it far away, but Monday it was closer than ever." More questions. What made him think like that? Could it perhaps be seen as larger than before? Was it brighter? Or maybe lower?

Now, towards the end of the article we find a statement that is faultless: "It's impossible to confuse it with a star because it's very low, at times it changes colors between light blue, red or yellow." Apparently there's nothing wrong with this statement but if we read between the lines it is very clarifying. Implicitly, what the observer is telling us is that the phenomenon is comparable to a star, i.e., not too different from a star. If we see some kind of wolf in a wood, we wouldn't argue that "it's impossible to take it for an ant, because..." Maybe we could say there was no confusion with a fox or a badger, for instance. In the case of the luminous object we would have the confirmation here that what was seen, far from it apparently being "a huge object" like we maybe had imagined after first reading the article, could rather be a bright light that looks like a star, just as we first thought after reading it carefully. The same way we may suppose that the phenomenon may have been seen against the sky and not in front of some mountain or wood.

Obviously, should the latter have been the case, the witness would not have had to insist that it was not a star. And what reasons are we given to reject an astronomical confusion? On one hand, changes in color (light blue, red, yellow).

But any amateur astronomer knows that these color changes can occur, especially when the stars are low, close to the horizon, due to atmospheric effects on which we won't dwell here. On the other hand, it is argued that the object was too low to be a star. We must again warn that any amateur astronomer knows that if visibility allows, stars (and other celestial objects) can be seen at any height. Many stars come out (or set) in the horizon, like the sun, moon and the planets do. There is a possibility that a very bright celestial object could be seen in a strip of sky close to the horizon where--because of worse visibility conditions than at higher elevations--stars would practically be invisible, and that's why the observer made this statement.

Now, even admitting that "the thing" could vaguely resemble a star, it should not necessarily be thought that it was one. What about a plane or some other flying object? Stars move gradually, almost imperceptibly. They don't move at an "amazing" speed like this object may have done. Or wasn't it like that?

Actually, what stands out is the lack of movement: "...it remained stationary for 40 minutes"; "they are there, remain for some 40 minutes...". This apparent immobility makes us think again of stars, unless we tend to suspect some balloon or mysterious helicopter. But the observers even used optical instruments and didn't recognize any conventional vehicle. Of course, that's how they discovered some strange movements: "We once got a pair of binoculars and ..., " said a 15 year old observer. We would surely not be mistaken in supposing that should she have used the "binoculars" with a good support the mysterious movement would have disappeared... What to think then of the flashing movements that were mentioned? "It suddenly disappeared towards the West ... " "...afterwards they disappear at great speed"; "...but it suddenly gained speed and disappeared like a bullet." What do these descriptions have in common?

Curiously, they all refer to the disappearance of the luminous object. And what if the observers were simply describing their particular interpretation of the extinction of the light of a star? It's quite an obvious possibility. In other words, when they indicated "it disappeared at great speed," maybe they should have limited themselves to say "it disappeared quickly," even though that might give them the impression of it leaving until getting lost in the blink of an eye. After so many questions the time has come for an answer.

Fortunately, the everyday celestial fauna does not improvise its motions. This will allow us to cast a retrospective glance at the sky that could be seen that July 22 from Camp Vespucio. Indeed there was a star that could not be overlooked, a bright star. Most probably, the luminous object seen stationary in the west for 40 minutes was Venus. The planet was visible in the west at an initial elevation above the horizon of 17 degrees which fell to 8 degrees towards the end, i.e., 9.30 pm. Venus would set later, at approximately 10.04 pm, but the planet would cease to be visible before that due to the orography of the area and even maybe due to the presence of some clouds.

Let us recall now that the family in Tablillas claimed: "we saw these UFOs many times since 1999... "; "...we have even been able to determine that they are visible each year between July and August"; "... they seem to keep a timetable because they always are seen between 8 and 9 pm. They are there, stay some 40 minutes and then disappear at great speed." Can we also clarify the nature of these sightings? Right away, the regularity of these appearances and the length of their stay makes us suspect an astronomical nature. In this regard it should be appropriate to state that Venus was visible during these hours in July 1999, August 2000 and of course July 2002 (also in August). The same cannot be said of July and August 2001. In any case, it seems reasonable to believe that Venus could have had a lot to do with these events.

That's all very well. But the time has also come to ask oneself: how do the EM effects fit in this picture? A witness who lives in Vespucio stated "at first we were all amazed, but we got nervous when we realized that parallel to the phenomenon, the phones stopped working and the electrical systems of several cars went dead, making it impossible to start them or to turn on their lights." The residents of Tablillas said: "we are used to seeing these strange luminous things since 1999..." We won't deny *a priori* that these effects took place, but do we have to just accept that there was a cause and effect relationship with this luminous presence? What we saw before doesn't precisely point in that direction... Venus is completely harmless. Are we witnessing the birth of a superstition: when something fails could it be the fault of "that thing" up there? We'll leave the question hanging in the air. Along these lines, the article published in *El Tribuno* has been revealing its secrets to us all. While we wait for the future to provide us with more data on this case, let everyone come to his own temporary conclusions.





ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 16, 2003

## Can we talk?

Animal communicators say that creatures have a lot to tell us — if only we can learn to listen.

BY LAURA LYNN BROWN  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

I'm standing near a barn, notebook in hand, instructions fresh in my mind: Introduce yourself, explain what you're doing, ask for permission to communicate; when you're done, ask for confirmation that you understood the message.

"Hi. I'm Laura. I'd like to talk with you. Will you talk to me?"

The beige cow I'm addressing, who goes by Biscuit, looks at me as if to say, "Do you know how ridiculous you are?" She switches her tail, stamps a foot and turns her back to me.

I look at her slightly darker sidekick, Strudel. "Hi. I'm Laura ..."

Biscuit walks off. Strudel follows. I'm pretty sure I've received confirmation. So begins the hands-on portion of my day-long workshop on how to communicate with animals.

★ ★ ★

First there was Doctor Dolittle. More recently, there was *The Horse Whisperer*, both the first-time writer's novel and its film version starring Robert Redford as a cowboy who has a way with horses and humans. But animal communication is not just fiction. Search the Internet and you'll find hundreds of people doing this work professionally.

One is Linda Nations, a professional animal communicator who divides her time between Mabelvale and Colorado and who is leading this workshop. Nations was a psychotherapist, a driven Type-A personality, when she fell off her horse and hit her head in Colorado in 1997. She was in the hospital for nine days,

five in the intensive care unit, which she has no memory of, followed by weeks of recovery. She needed a craniotomy to relieve pressure from a brain hemorrhage. Something happened in that memoryless period, she believes — a message telling her that her new work would be as an ambassador for animals.

It took a while, and many visits from animals, for that message to sink in.

"Immediately upon getting home, animals started coming to me very frequently," she says.

Twice on the one-lane road where she lived, as she tried to drive hurriedly somewhere, a skunk blocked her way. It ambled slowly in front of her until she went from angry yelling to helpless laughter; she decided the skunk was telling her that she needed figuratively to slow down.

There was an owl behaving oddly. "A great horned owl came and landed at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the top of a telephone pole in my back yard, and my neighbors noticed it and told me about it. I'd watch and I'd say 'Hi, you're gorgeous' — not knowing that the bird understood me. I'd say, 'Don't eat my cat. OK? Don't eat my cat.' I'd talk to it every time I was outside, and it would just watch me. It clearly wasn't hunting. At bedtime ... I went ahead and let the cat out, because by then, I knew it was safe."

When she carried a spider outside to her deck, it jumped right at her; later, as she washed dishes, a similar (or possibly the same) spider ran around on the counter as if to get her attention. She told it if it wanted her to know something, it would have to make the message really clear. The spider came toward her, climbed on top of a pill bottle, jumped off and looked up at her. She decided the spiders were telling her, "Don't leave us out."

"It's all kinds of animals," she says. "I've had mountain lions at refuges — the one who doesn't



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/CICI DAVIDSON

like people — come out and rub on my hand. And I heard over and over again, 'Gosh, that's strange. He doesn't usually like strangers.' And finally I just started saying, 'I'm not a stranger.'"

"I think the whole animal kingdom was after me to get me to understand what my work was supposed to be."

For a year she practiced with friends' animals, listening to them and trying to discern what they were saying, then testing it against what the pet owners knew of their pets' lives.

In her work, she has helped pet owners decide whether it was time for an animal's life to end. She has helped to find missing animals, including a New Orleans cat who went AWOL when a hurricane was coming. She telepathically told the cat, "You

have got to go home; there's a storm coming. You'll blow away." She has figured out the cause of nuisance behavior and learned how abuse in their past affected some animals.

She's not a vegetarian. She tried that but found it was a diet that couldn't sustain her; her body needed meat protein. "Animals that are grown for food know they're being grown for food and they're OK with that," she says. "They just want to know they're not going to be tortured."

Nations also leads workshops for people who want to learn to understand what their animals might be saying. It's not psychic work, she stresses; it's an intuitive skill that anyone can learn with practice, and that we all had as children but lost. "Every sin-

gle one of you can open yourself up and walk away with this today," she says.

★ ★ ★

For this workshop, 10 of us have gathered at host Linda Bragg's farm in western Pulaski County. Three German shepherds greet us as we arrive; the five or six cats on the property watch reservedly. A little over half of us have done the homework by reading the book *Kinship With All Life* by J. Allen Boone, who learned to communicate with animals when he was caretaker of a movie star German shepherd named Strongheart.

We introduce ourselves, mostly by first names only. Each of us says what we hope to gain from the day. Bragg wants a better re-

lationship with her many animals, and to be sure she is treating them with respect. Sue, who owns an elderly horse, wonders whether it's the horse's time to go. A woman with three cats wants to get more on their level and work at problems among them. Lela, who is caring for an abandoned baby squirrel and has brought it with her, wants to learn to be more receptive and to learn what animals need. Toni, who has come here with her sister and their mother, says, "I feel like they're trying to communicate with me and I'm not getting it."

I say that when I have lived with animals and other people, the animals seemed to sometimes bond more closely with me, and I also think they have things to say that I'm not getting. I'm interested in how they know

what they know. How does the cat know when one of us is sick, sometimes even before we admit it to ourselves? How do animals know when their humans are coming home? I also say something I wouldn't admit in just any gathering: When I was in grade school, I wanted to grow up to work with emotionally disturbed animals.

No one laughs. That's a whole different workshop, Nations says.

One way of communicating is doing a body scan: imagining yourself inside the animal's body, feeling what it feels from stem to stern, paying attention to pain or discomfort, then making sure you "leave" the animal's body. We pair off and practice this on each other. I'm paired with

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Bragg. She can tell that I have tension between my shoulder blades; I discern that she has a headache. But we're wrong about her ankle and my elbow.

The morning consists of hearing Nations' stories (to be gathered in a book she's writing, *The Book of Change: Messages From the Wise Ones*) and learning some basic principles of suspending judgment and being open to less obvious forms of communication. After breaking for our brown-bag lunches, it's time to go outside and try what we've learned. We're reminded to approach the animals as equals; to take our time; to wait and trust; and to thank the animals. We have a wide choice: the three dogs, the cats, a donkey, a mule, two horses, a number of cows and many chickens.

When we go out, the cats have all disappeared. The cows don't want to talk to me. Neither do the chickens (maybe because they can tell the word "bird-brain" passed through my mind as I approached them). I squat down, trying to be on their level, and I get a flash that one of them is telling me, "You're not a chicken; don't act like one."

I had better luck with the shy gray donkey, Axel. Bragg's daughter Amanda had said that he tended to walk away when he knew he was being watched, but he came right up to me three different times. I told him I liked the brown stripe across his shoulders. I imagined that he told me he didn't know he had a stripe. I chatted about some things I had observed in the pen he shared with a horse and a tall dark mule; it seemed to me that the mule picked on him. He asked — or I imagined that he asked — whether he would grow taller. I said I didn't know but I'd find out.

A cow named Snowball got a lot of attention; she was new to the farm and this was the day she was being released from her pen to run freely. And run freely she did, into open areas, then up against a pine tree for a vigorous scratching session, then into the open again. If a cow can scamper, she scampered. It didn't take a trained communicator to tell she was saying, "I'm free!"

Bragg had had several questions for her animals; one was whether they liked their names. I tried to ask Snowball this, and perhaps I was projecting, but I thought she said, "Yes, because it makes me feel cool." When we gathered back in the house to report on what happened, someone else had asked her this question, and gotten the answer, "What's a snowball?" and the sense that the cow wanted to be called Dot or Dotty. And the cow buddies named Biscuit and Strudel reportedly wanted to be called Fudgsicle and Creamsicle.

"One thing I've learned is that this is very subjective," one participant said. Yet several people seemed to have gotten real messages.

One woman reported that one of the German shepherds felt bad in his stomach; Bragg said that would explain why he had uncharacteristically declined a snack of leftover pizza the day before.

Several people asked the rooster about his missing tail feathers; he said he didn't want to discuss it with the hens nearby. It turned out that he had lost them when some hens attacked him.

Nations learned from the small aging horse, Dapples, that she did some kind of work in a brightly colored, busy environment, and she missed that. Bragg confirmed that Dapples used to work at birthday parties.

We go out one more time, this time with the instructions to have an in-depth session with just one animal. The cats are still absent. I try to talk with the German shepherd Heidi, but she can't make up her mind whom

she wants to talk to. It's about 4 in the afternoon, it's hot, and maybe it's just me, but I think the animals are saying, "You folks think too hard. This is siesta time. Chill."

Afterward, my questions are still mostly epistemological: How do they know? Humans learn language by practicing it with native speakers. How, then, do these animals project complete sentences into a person's mind? Or are we doing the projecting, the translating, the anthropomorphizing?

Nations explains that some animals talk, others project pictures, others send vibes, but all are telepathic. We do translate it into our own modes of communication.

And how do the two cows know that such things as Fudgsicles and Creamsicles exist, when Snowball professes not to know what a snowball is?

"Well, they're dairy cows," one participant playfully answers when I pose this question a few days later.

Of course animals are as different as people. Some are more communicative than others; some are more "evolved," Nations says (such as her horse Toronado, whom she sees as a wise observer of her life and to whom her book is dedicated). But over and over, animals' messages fall into certain themes:

- Be in the now.
- Play.
- Quit doing it the same way you've been doing it for thousands of years.
- Lighten up.
- Love one another.
- Forgive.

★ ★ ★

It has been several weeks since the workshop, and my cat, Miss Kitty, is as inscrutable as always (although she was very interested in sniffing my shoes that day to see where I'd been). I haven't practiced these skills on any other animal, mainly for lack of access, not for lack of belief. I see now that what I wanted from that day was ambitious and possibly misguided.

What I got was something better. I spent the day with a room of strangers who all got along, who treated each other with respect, who didn't scoff at wacky ideas. I learned to suspend judgment about my fellow human creatures, to look past initial differences that might make me categorize and dismiss someone. "We are all one," Nations' business card says. This work of treating other beings with respect and a sense of equality, and learning to listen to them — that's something I can practice every day.

Fry  
CR: J. 2003  
DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - April 10, 2003

OHIO MILEPOSTS | APRIL 10, 1818

## War vet proclaims Earth is hollow

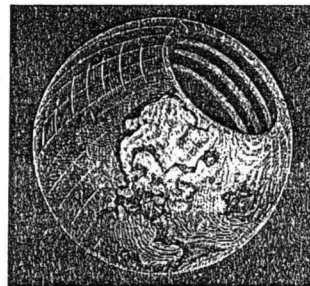
By Gerald Tebben  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

John Cleves Symmes Jr., veteran of the War of 1812 and namesake nephew of one of Ohio's first settlers, was an ardent proponent of a singular theory.

"To all the world!" Symmes proclaimed in an April 10, 1818, mailing to every major institution of higher education in the United States. "I declare the earth is hollow, and habitable within; containing a number of solid concentric spheres, one within the other."

His letter continued, "I ask one hundred brave companions, well equipped, to start from Siberia in the fall season, with Reindeer and slays, on the ice of the frozen sea: I engage we find warm and rich land, stocked with thrifty vegetables and animals if not men, on reaching one degree north-ward of latitude 62; we will return in the succeeding spring."

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A rendering depicting John Cleves Symmes' hollow Earth

The phrase *Symmes Hole* instantly entered the language as an expression for folly. Underterred, Symmes unsuccessfully petitioned Congress in 1822 and 1823 and the Ohio legislature in 1824 to fund an expedition.

Disciple Jeremiah N. Reynolds found a wealthy patron in 1829, the year Symmes died, to outfit the ship *Annawan*. The ship, historian Henry Howe reported, sailed south to an extensive continent covered completely with solid ice, with no vegetable growth to be seen, dashing plans for further exploration.

Sources: Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol 1., by Henry Howe; *The Ohio Historical Society*; [xroads.virginia.edu](http://xroads.virginia.edu); [gtebben@dispatch.com](mailto:gtebben@dispatch.com)

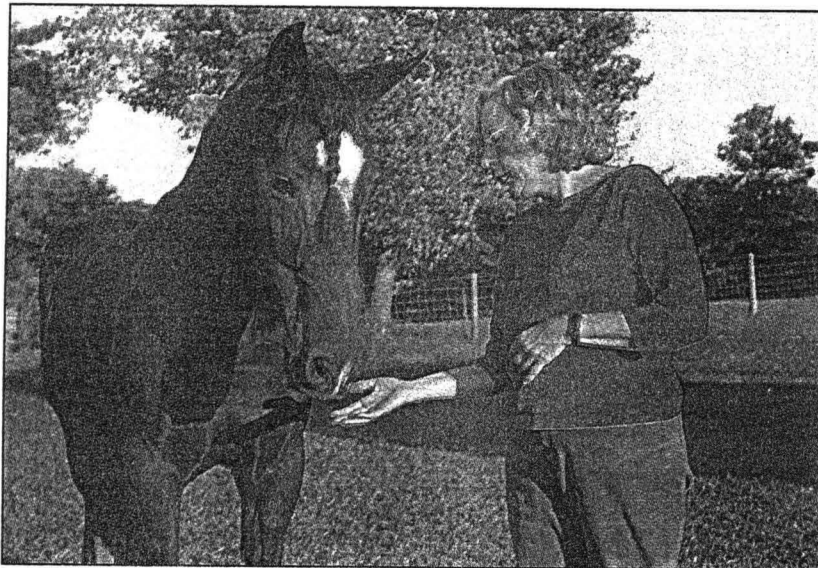
## Books, TV, technology tune in to animal-speak

Popular culture suggests a fascination with the idea of learning to communicate with animals. There is, of course, *The Horse Whisperer*, book and movie. There's the more recent best-selling novel *The Dogs of Babel* by Carolyn Parkhurst; the main character's wife has died, and he tries to teach the dog to speak, since it witnessed her death. There's the Animal Planet show *Pet Psychic*, in which animal communicator Sonya Fitzpatrick talks with animals in her TV studio and on location, often solving problems like why an animal suddenly won't eat or seems to be angry.

And at the extreme end of the technology spectrum is a

Japanese product that started being sold in this country just last month: the Bow-Lingual dog translator. The device, named in *Time* magazine as one of the best inventions of 2002, claims to classify dogs' barks into six moods — happy, sad, frustrated, needy, on-guard, assertive — and then to translate the bark into one of nearly 200 phrases. The unit sells for \$99.95 at [www.thedogtranslator.com](http://www.thedogtranslator.com); a portion of each sale is donated to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Pet owners can even buy units set on different frequencies so they can interpret several dogs simultaneously.

— Laura Lynn Brown

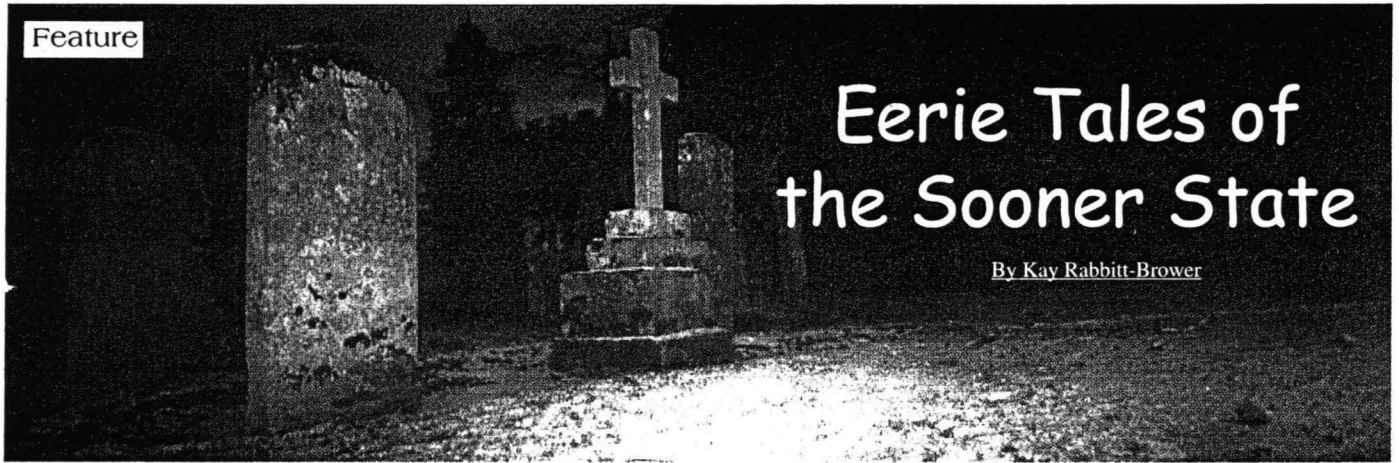


Linda Nations says she has learned much from regular talks with her horse, Toronado.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/DENISE DORTON



## Feature



# Eerie Tales of the Sooner State

By Kay Rabbitt-Brower

In October we open our minds and imaginations to ghosts and goblins, creatures of the darkness and things that go bump in the night. We delight in being scared or spooked, because we know it's only our imaginations taking flight. Or is it?

In the back of our minds, we know there are explanations for those things that make the hair on the back of our necks stand up. But what about those things for which there are no known explanations? Those stories, occurrences and creatures that have been mysteries for years?

If you think Oklahoma is just about oilfields and college football - think again. Our great state abounds with unexplained mysteries, ranging from the supernatural to the bizarre.

Oklahoma author David A. Farris has been a collector of stories about those strange occurrences since he was a boy. He began saving newspaper clippings of strange happenings until he finally had folders and folders of them. In 1995, he decided to compile them and share them with the rest of us in *Mysterious Oklahoma*. The book was so well received, he published a second one, *More Mysterious Oklahoma* in 2001.

Naturally, some of the stories in Farris' books have to do with our Native American heritage. From the Yellow Hills east of Ardmore comes a tale of the Little People who supposedly helped Choctaw medicine men find the herbs they used in their healing rituals. The Choctaw knew their medicine men were aided by what Farris describes as "leprechaun-like beings" who led doctors to herbs needed to cure the ailing. Only the medicine men could see the spiritual beings who appeared as glowing lights to others. The story is about Uncle Billy Washington who came to Oklahoma Territory from Mississippi. Washington was a resident of the Yellow Hills where he ministered to them using herbs.

At the request of his family, Washington traveled to Ardmore to have his photo taken. In the setting, next to Washington, the photographer placed a bare table. When the photo was developed a small creature is seen sitting on the table. To the Choctaw people, this was proof of the Kawnakuasha, or Little People, who assisted Washington.

The medicine man died in 1930, but Choctaw legend has it that the Kawnakuasha never die, but continue roaming the area. On dark nights in the vicinity of Washington's home, it is reported a glowing light can be seen searching the Yellow Hills for another medicine man to serve.

On the opposite end of the spectrum from the Little People are the stories of Big Foot, which date back to the 1800s. In May, 1849 in what was then Eagle,

now known as Eagletown, Bertrand Tonihkah wrote in his diary about a local hunter known as One-Eyed Bascomb who told of seeing what he called a "critter" in the swamps southwest of the community. Bascomb reportedly described it as having long arms, a stooped posture and grayish-black hair. Farris says this is the same description used today to describe Big Foot, but Bascomb's description is long before other accounts were widely known. According to Bascomb, the creature fled from him in a "strangely loping gait."

In 1975 near the town of Goodwater, east of Idabel, lived an area rancher who had more than one encounter with the huge beast. He described it as "walking upright like a man, but stooped forward as it walked and its arms appeared to be much longer than a man's, reaching almost to his knees. It was covered with grayish-black hair, was about eight feet tall and walked with a sort of shuffling gait."

Although the stories almost always occur in the area of McCurtain County and the Kiamichi Mountains, there was a report of a three-toed creature of about the same size near Nowata, in northeastern Oklahoma, in the mid-1970s.

Just about every town in Oklahoma has its own ghost story or two told from generation to generation by people who didn't actually witness the event. But the McWethy family near Centrahoma can tell their story from experience. Farris says it ultimately became one of the most "thoroughly witnessed, documented and scrutinized in Oklahoma history."

In December 1990, Bill McWethy told the staff of the Coalgate Record-Register that beginning in June of that year, his home started being pummeled with rocks by some unseen assailant. The rock-throwing activity continued so long that McWethy reported it to the Tupelo Police Department. Nightly stake-outs didn't turn up any information as to who was throwing the rocks, or even where they were coming from.

By November 1990, McWethy's story became even stranger, as he said objects began falling from inside the house. Objects such as coins, bolts and marbles. Farris indicates the source of the activity could be a poltergeist, or "noisy spirit." Witnesses, including some of the newspaper's staff, reportedly experienced this phenomena while at the McWethy's.

Within the next five years, the entity pestering the McWethy's had assumed an identity named Michael and was able to hold conversations with them, and actually came to be regarded as a friend. They said he was somewhat vague about his origin, but once told them he was the ghost of an eight-year-old boy who was killed by his mother because she was ashamed of his deformity.

In 1995 the cast and crew of a show "Put to the Test" for ABC arrived to see what they might encounter. Scientists at the top of their field were on hand during the six days the production crew was there. The head of the OSU Psychology Department interviewed the McWethys and the more than 75 who had witnessed or encountered Michael; a hydrogeochemist from Norman tested samples of the air, soil and water. A sleight-of-hand expert from Dallas was on hand to determine if trickery was being used. And a parapsychologist who had investigated more than 3,300 cases of poltergeists, apparitions, telepathy, precognition and hauntings for more than 27 years was there to see if the activity fit any type of known phenomena. They were not disappointed.

A thermal imaging camera reportedly recorded an eerie floating image in the upper corner of the kitchen window, although witnesses said there was nothing inside or outside the house at the time, and a chair moved by itself. When the producers, the McWethy's daughter Twyla and some technicians visited the area where Michael was supposedly buried, they were able to record a rock being thrown at them in response to a question to Michael from Twyla. When the parapsychologist asked Micheal to give them a sign if he wanted them to leave, immediately, a "chorus of howls" similar to what coyotes might make was heard by the group.

The list of strange creatures and unexplained occurrences in Oklahoma goes on and on. Did you know John Wilkes Booth is said to have escaped Washington, D. C. after assassinating President Lincoln and lived his remaining years in Oklahoma, dying by his own hand, destitute, in Enid. His body was supposedly put on display and never buried. Farris' book has a post-mortem photo of the man.

And did you know one of the most famous pictures of a UFO was shot in Tulsa in the 1960s? How about Carey Place in Oklahoma City that is supposedly home to ghosts, witches, and the secretly buried body of a little girl?

Farris doesn't try to prove or disprove any of the stories in his book, and includes great reference documentation for each. He prefers to let each person read the book and then determine for himself if the stories are to be believed or not.

Just don't read them alone at night.

*Mysterious Oklahoma* and *More Mysterious Oklahoma* are available by mailing \$12.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling to:

David A. Farris  
PO Box 5991  
Edmond, OK 73083

DAILY RECORD, Bentonville, AR - Oct. 8, 2003

## Bigfoot talk puts town in global spotlight

By Jeff LeMaster, Staff Writer  
[newsroom@nwnews.com]

DECATUR - Decatur has drawn international media attention in the last week because of alleged Bigfoot sightings.

Police Chief Coy Hendrix said he has received phone calls from CNN, CBS and ABC in New York and has participated in a phone interview for a live radio show in Chicago. And a United Kingdom Web site, [www.forteanimes.com](http://www.forteanimes.com), has a story about the Benton County town.

Hendrix said he believes the media is blowing the situation out of proportion. "They must be hurting for

news," he said.

While eyewitness reports of the animal do not depict it as a nine-foot-tall apeman, a retired nurse in Siloam Springs has a theory, which she hopes will prevent ruling out the animal as being a Bigfoot.

Jacquelin Castillo, who has participated in expeditions to track Bigfoot in Oklahoma, said that what has been seen in Decatur could be a baby Bigfoot.

"They're not born nine feet tall," she said. "Usually only a juvenile Bigfoot would allow itself to be seen. The adults are too smart to allow themselves to be seen."

Castillo said she is hoping to receive authorization from the Bigfoot Field Research Organization (BFRO) to investigate the possible sightings in Decatur. According to the BFRO Web site, a Bigfoot is defined as "a large, hairy, bipedal non-human primate" that is distributed over the North American continent to varying degrees of concentration.

"(Bigfoot) are a fascinating species," Castillo said. "They are absolutely out there, but they're so elusive. I think people need to be educated about them."

Castillo said this is not the first alleged sighting in northwest Arkansas. She said a Bigfoot was allegedly seen by a beekeeper near Siloam Springs two years ago. In addition, she said someone in Elm Springs reported one a few years ago.

Castillo encouraged anyone interested in Bigfoot to go to the BFRO's web site at [www.BFRO.net](http://www.BFRO.net)

The Benton County Daily Record

reported the sightings on Oct. 1. In that story, Hendrix said the creature was a small monkey.

In the Oct. 1 story, an employee at the Wild Wilderness Drive-Thru Safari, who did not wish to be identified, said no animal matching the description had escaped from the park. The safari is three miles southwest of Decatur. The safari official said the animal would probably try to find a consistent food source. "I imagine it's scared to death," he said. "It will probably try to shake up near some cattle feed."

Farms may be a specific target for the animal, as they would supply a consistent food and water source, he said.

If the animal has been raised in captivity, it may be acclimated to human contact. This does not mean, however, that if someone sees it, he should get close to the animal. Hendrix encourages anyone who sees what they believe could be the described animal to call the Decatur

Police Department at 752-3911.

This is not the first time a primate has been loose in the area. In the fall of 1995, a monkey was shot and killed by Gentry police after being cornered on the playground of Gentry Elementary School. Students at the school had to be kept inside while police dealt with the situation.

For a time in the spring of 1999, Gomer and Glory Alsip's farm near Centerton became the home for a Rhesus macaque. The animal lived in the farm's barn, riding on horses and swinging from the rafters. Centerton is about 10 miles east of Decatur.

In a *Daily Record* story published in 1999, Glory said, "He'll look through the windows and grins with a face that will stop a clock. He sits on the tractor and acts as if he's driving it down the road. He pets the cows. He loves the dogs. He just does everything. Oh, he's a good one," Glory said.

# Group believes other cultures discovered America

## Columbus wasn't the first here, Ga. movement says

By S. Thorne Harper  
KNIGHT RIDDER

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Americans have long held the belief that Christopher Columbus "discovered" America. History books are replete with his exploits. The Italian explorer is honored with his own American holiday. Georgia's own Fountain City is named after him.

But what if Columbus didn't "discover America"? What if other civilizations came here long before Europe was civilized? What would that mean?

On a small scale, it would render generations of study by notable mainstream scholars as bunk. On a grander scale, it would mean that American history — and to some extent, contemporary Western Civilization itself — is built on shaky ground.

It would mean a revolution of reason.

A movement of those revolutionaries began 30 years ago in west-central Georgia. And in the three decades of its existence, the movement — the Institute

for the Study of American Cultures, or ISAC — has gathered evidence that it argues supports its theory that other cultures — Romans, Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese, among them — may have visited America long before Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.

"Our central focus has always been the pursuit of truth — who has really done what they say has been done?" said Dr. Sidney Yarbrough, a retired Columbus physician and ISAC member. "It's difficult because people just don't want to change their way of thinking."

ISAC represents a controversial branch of archeology known as "diffusionism." Though diffusionists have differing views on exactly how it happened, they tend to support the theory that civilization began in the Middle East and diffused outward. They also tend to support the view that Asiatic peoples crossed the land bridge at the Bering Strait about the time of the Ice Age and are the ancestors of the American Indians.

In its 30-year history, ISAC has stepped boldly where mainstream scholars fear to tread. Its members have presented theories suggesting the existence of a Roman Jewish colony in New Mexico, circa 600 A.D.; explora-

tions of the West Coast by ancient Chinese mariners that predated Columbus' arrival by 60 years; and what some believe to be a Roman outpost, known as "The Miami Circle," discovered at a construction site on the Florida coast.

ISAC members, who number about 200, point to scientists like Copernicus as kindred spirits.

Copernicus, an astronomer during the European Renaissance, proved that the Earth revolved around the sun. That is indisputable reason these days. But in his time, that indisputable reason directly challenged medieval Catholic doctrine, which adhered strictly to the Ptolemaic view that the Earth was the center of the universe. And since the Roman Catholic Church wielded largely unchallenged political power, Copernicus was promptly persecuted for his discovery.

As the years passed however, Copernicus' discovery launched a revolution of the mind. His work is credited with playing a significant role in moving Western culture into the Age of Reason.

Bob Arnett believes he experienced a Copernican moment about 50 years ago when he was in fourth grade. He and his brother were clearing out an area for a golf "putt-putt" course in their

yard on Cedar Avenue in Columbus. Their mother was helping them dig a hole to place a tin can for the cup when she found an old coin.

The family took it to Joe Mahan, Columbus' resident authority on pre-Columbian history. Mahan knew immediately what they had found. He then had it authenticated. Arnett's mother had found a Roman coin dated between the first and third century A.D.

Arnett said his mother always believed a Roman dropped it there, but he didn't. As the years passed, however, and as more Roman coins were being found buried elsewhere around America, Arnett started thinking otherwise.

"Did the Romans come up the Chattahoochee River? It's plausible they could have," he said.

In considering the plausibility that other cultures arrived in America before Columbus, Arnett and other diffusionists find themselves largely dismissed by mainstream researchers as "revisionists." But the 61-year-old author and photographer has no problem with that.

"History absolutely has to be revised when it's written in error," he said. "Look at Copernicus. What would have happened if no one would have revised that history? The interpretation of

history is always changing."

Around 1972, Mahan, then the curator for the Columbus Museum and one of the founders of Westville, approached Morton Harris with an unusual project. Harris, a Columbus corporate tax attorney, had helped put together the Small Business Council of America. Mahan wanted his organizational expertise in putting together a group of self-taught archaeologists who shared his view that accepted pre-Columbian history had to be challenged.

Harris worked his magic, and ISAC was born.

Columbus State University opened a research room Friday dedicated to Mahan, who died in 1995. ISAC members note that it includes some of Mahan's research documenting similarities between Yuchi writings and those found among the Indus civilization in ancient India, lending support to the "land-bridge" theory of diffusion.

In addition to studies compiled by ISAC, which provided the funding for the research room, it will contain Mahan's personal research on pre-Columbian American Indians, including what CSU archivist Reagan Grimsley calls historically invaluable recordings of the vanishing language of the Yuchi Indians who once inhabited the Columbus area.

GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 10, 2003 CR: G. Duplantier



JEFF MITCHELL/REUTERS

Lloyd Scott emerges from Scotland's Loch Ness yesterday, after walking 42 kilometres under the waves to raise money for a leukemia charity.

## Man finishes underwater trek in Loch Ness

BY ALAN FREEMAN, LONDON

Looking like a monster of sorts, Lloyd Scott emerged from Scotland's Loch Ness yesterday after the latest and most bizarre in a series of marathon "runs."

Mr. Scott, a 41-year-old former fireman, appeared on the shore of the lake at Lochend, near Inverness, wearing an old-fashioned 58-kilogram diving suit after completing a 12-day, 42-kilometre underwater trek along the bottom of the legendary loch.

"It's definitely been far more difficult doing it underwater than it has been on land," said Mr. Scott, who has worn the same diving suit to compete in several stan-

dard marathons.

His exploits raise money for a children's leukemia charity.

Mr. Scott, a cancer survivor himself, completed the 2002 New York City Marathon in five days and one hour as part of his personal effort to run the "slowest New York marathon" ever. Winner Rodgers Rop of Kenya did the same course in two hours, 8 minutes, 7 seconds.

The Loch Ness "run" offered special challenges.

"I've had to cope with poor visibility, which has at times been nil," he told reporters after the marathon, which included 30 hours underwater — as much as four hours a day — at depths of up

to nine metres. "I've had to work against the resistance and the pressure of the water."

"You don't know what's underfoot; sometimes it's mud, silt, rock or nothing. The air line also kept getting caught, and I also had to deal with a buildup of carbon dioxide in the helmet."

"It's also very cold and very lonely."

Last week, 15 kilometres into his hike, Mr. Scott ran into real trouble when he lost his guide rope and fell 4½ metres down a 90-metre drop, hurting his shoulder. "It was incredibly silty, and I had zero visibility. I had to drop on my hands and knees to find the line, and I just went over a ledge."

As for spotting Nessie, the monster, Mr. Scott admitted he saw nothing except a fish or two. But he did get a scare.

"There was an occasion where I got my left foot trapped and no amount of pulling would actually release it," he said.

"For a moment, I thought that something's got me. The second diver had to come down and release me."

"In actual fact, I had put my foot through an oil drum, so it wasn't quite the encounter that I was hoping for."

Mr. Scott is already planning his next exploit: a marathon "ride" across Australia on a penny-farthing bicycle.