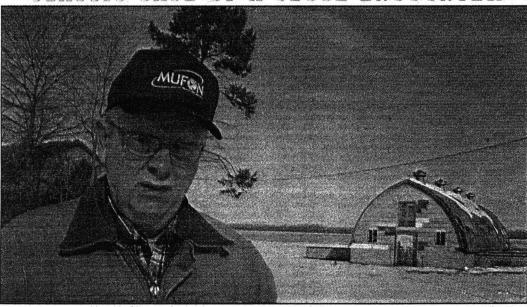
## NEWSCLIPPING **SERVICE**

February 2004 Number 415

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Lucius Farish • #2 Caney Valley Drive • Plumerville, AR 72127-8725 USA

CASE OF A CLOSE ENCOUNTER



PETE HARTINGER, DIRECTOR of the Roundtown UFO Society, at the site of one of America's first close encounter with a UFO. The building in the background was one of the building over which Bruce Stevenson said he saw a UFO hover. Hartinger visited the scene on the 56th anniversary of Stevenson's sighting.

## 56 years later, Stevenson's tale of UFO visit lives on

By JOEL BARRETT

Fry

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OH

Circleville,

The Herald From all accounts, Bruce Stevenson was a salt-of-thehard-working farmer

Stevenson was among the first in the modern era to claim to have seen a craft from out-of-this-world.

Sunday represented the 56th anniversary of what locals call America's first close encounter with an unidentified

encounter with an unidentified flying object.

Stevenson was on his farm off state Route 56 in Pickaway County one cold February morning in 1948 when he saw a strange, brilliant craft hovering over his outbuildings.

He kept quiet about it but told a Columbus newspaper four years later he'd never even thought about science fiction until that fateful cold February morn.

"I never drank, smoked or chewed in my life and I never read any science stuff before I saw it and the only science I've read since then has been about

"This part was glowing with a bright amber light – all of it glowing, not as though there were bulbs inside that would show bright spots," he said.
"There's no use saying why I didn't run and call others. Somehow I just stood spellbound, almost in a daze, I guess, while I watched the saucer glide. while I watched the saucer glide along the the top edge of the tool shed roof," he told the Herald.

Four years after the encounter, Stevenson estimated the overall diameter of the craft was about 60 feet and the height of the dome-part was about 12 cr. 13 feet.

"Suddenly," he said recount-ing the event, "just while I was

these saucers," he told the media four years after the

sighting.

It was about 2 a.m. Feb. 1, 1948, when he got up to check on some sows and piglets in his hog barn, a long, story-and-a-half tall building. As he stepped from his farmhouse's

door stoop, Stevenson was startled by what he saw.

"As he came out his back door he saw a strange glow from behind the hoghouse," the Columbus Citizen reported Aug. 10, 1952. "He said he thought first it was flames from a fire, but then the glow moved between the hoghouse and a 120-foot-long toolshed...Then he saw it."

The object was round like "The object was round like a dinner plate, a gleaming silver color with amber-lighted dome," the Citizen reported. As he stood about 100-feet away near a farm pump, the craft floated about 20 feet off the

He noticed what seemed to be propeller-like lights running around the concave bottom of

wondering if maybe the thing would hit the chimney of my tool shed, the amber light went off and the thing traveled slowly off to my left and out of sight. The light stayed off but I could see the silver," he said.

The farm's sheds and barns are still intect today as is an

are still intact today, as is an interest in Stevenson's tale. Pete Hartinger, director of the Roundtown UFO Society, said Stevenson's close encounter is

something that's getting lost in the passage of time.

"When I give talks locally, maybe one in 20 people in Circleville even know who he

was," he said. On Sunday, Hartinger visited

"He was a very honest person, he didn't tell the story right away because he thought people would think he was

Bruce Stevenson Jr., son of UFO witness

the saucer.

"One detail in connection with the silver bottom section I noticed very clearly. There was something whirling around the bottom section, sort of like a big propeller or a series of propellers might do. The movement was clear, the bottom part did not turn Something kent did not turn. Something kept whirling around the whole thing," he told the Circleville Herald.

The dome-like top of the craft also caught his eye.

the site and recounted what he calls one of the first classic encounters with a UFO. While Stevenson told his

While Stevenson told his family about the encounter the next morning, but he kept quiet for more than four years out of fear of ridicule.

Historically, 1948 was a time of change. The Red Scare was beginning, the Berlin Wall had gone up, the Soviets had stolen the "bomb" from the U.S., and the clouds of war were gathering over Korea. Hartinger said over Korea. Hartinger said Stevenson's encounter came about six months after the infa-mous Roswell, N. M., incident and about a month after an Air National Guard fighter reported

LOCAL UFO RESOURCES

At the Pickaway County Library, North Court, has a extensive collection of UFOrelated material, including:
- • 20 Plus books on the

topic;

• Monthly MUFON Journal,
• hack issues: with 10 years of back issues:
• Two-volume UFO

Encyclopedia;
• Roundtown UFO Society newsletters, with back issues to 1991.

Four-hour UFO
 Disclosure Project video containing statements from exgovernment and military wit-

esses;
• Annual public UFO display in library meeting room;
• Monthly meeting of Roundtown UFO Society, third Thursday of the month at meeting room;
• RUFOS information (740)

477-6252/Mail RUFOS, Box 52, Circleville, Ohio 43113/e mail - rufos@columbus.rr.com

seeing a UFO over Kentucky and later crashed, Hartinger

Hartinger said Stevenson may have told those closest to him, but didn't go public with the story until 1952, when there was a reported UFO sighting over Washington D.C.

Others may have seen UFOs

over Washington D.C.

Others may have seen UFOs locally, but only Stevenson spoke up and stood by what he saw, Hartinger said.

"He's not the only farmer that's seen them, he's the only one who came out and said so. He never changed his story to the day he died. When there's a sighting you look at the witsighting, you look at the wit-nesses' credibility, Bruce's was

outstanding...he had an excel-lent view of it."

Others, such as Stevenson's nephew, Pickaway County com-missioner John Stevenson, said his uncle wasn't prone to flights

of fancy.
"I can't disbelieve what he said. I knew him well, he didn't make things up. He wasn't a publicist," Stevenson said last

Steve Richards, Stevenson's Steve Richards, Stevenson's grandson, remembers hearing the story, having his grandfather gather all the children together and show them how close he had been to the silver craft.

"That's one thing, the proximity to it, he was about 100 feet from it. And he watched it for a long time," Richards said.

Original news clippings of Stevenson's story make a special

Stevenson's story make a special point of the presence of eerie blue-tinted lights in the hog barn. The news accounts said the blue-tinted lights were used by farmers to aid in reducing unwanted bacteria. According to reports, the lights may have been visible from above through

ceiling ventilation grids.
"I think it was the lights that

"I think it was the lights that gave them some kind of signal," he told the Columbus Citizen Aug. 10, 1952.

Bruce Stevenson Jr. was only about 10 at the time and still remembers those blue lights.

"I don't know if they worked but they were bright blue lights and you could seen them for miles," he said.

He stands by his father's

He stands by his father's word. "He was a very honest person, he didn't tell the story

person, he didn't tell the story right away because he thought people would think he was lying," Stevenson said.

"I'm a believer in them myself, because of my father's history. The universe is just so big...," he said.

Hartinger said the public's openness to the existence of LIFO is growing.

UFO is growing.
"Most sighting have never been reported out of fear of ridicule. We find that attitude is ridicule. We find that attitude is slowing changing. Obviously, people who laugh at this subject have never done any research on it. Our local library has a lot of materials on UFOs, including a four-hour video that includes some high-ranking witness testimony to the UFO reality. The Internet has been a great improvement for communications and research. Sometimes, tions and research. Sometimes, you can find out about a sighting the same day it occurs," he said.

the same day it occurs," he said.

Stevenson may have been among the first humans to claim he saw an alien craft, but Hartinger said he surely wasn't the last. Sightings continue today. In December, three police officers in Huntington, Ind., reported seeing a UFO, he said. Again, the witnesses were upstanding members of their community.

"Bruce Stevenson's unusual experience has been repeated to

experience has been repeated to the present time by thousands of reported UFO sightings world-wide by reputable witnesses."

"I do know the UFO phe-nomenon does exist. Knowledge

is not a matter of belief or desire, knowledge is a matter of evidence. There is plenty of evidence," he said.

"The Roundtown UFO

Society doesn't know the origin of the UFO phenomenon, we can only speculate."

A Fairfield home-repair contractor who is also a UFO buff spent five months investigating whether four teenage boys could have made the Susun Valley crop circles that popped up in June.

The crop circles set off a countwide debate and a sideshow of alien fans, skeptics and souvenir T-shirts.

The UFQ buff's conclusion:
The boys' reply: We did it and we'll do it again.

Steve Moreno — who first became involved with UFO research after a serious car accident two decades ago —

. By Catherine Moy Reporter Correspondent

ormation

put together a team of investigators including a physicist and others with academic degrees after the crop circles appeared in Larry Balestra's wheat field.

Moreno, who had never visited a crop circle before June, interviewed witnesses and his team did experiments on the wheat nodules.

"We've concluded that it's highly unlikely that four teenage boys could have made the large, complex crop circle that appeared on June 28 in Larry Balestra's field," Moreno said in a prepared statement. "The scientific data and our ongoing investigation tend to point toward

she questioned the believability of the investigators.
"What is scary is that these are so-called real scientists," the mother continued. "If these guys can be fooled by four kids, then this makes me disbelieve in all scientists."
She said the teens will be repeat their feat and videowing their work this time. They will have to wait until wheat grows again, she said.

Moreno's team began field deresearch on either July 1 or

crop some other, perhaps a alous, unknown source."
One of the boy's mo laughed when she heard Moreno denied her

the research papers. The crop circles were first publicized on June 30, when hoards of people began marching through the fields. It is unclear how this activity may have affected the research. Moreno's team found that the wheat nodules inside the crop circles were different than the nodules of stalks tested outside of the circles. The team also found that the pattern of the circles was: geometrically intricate and almost impossible for four teens to produce, according to the report listed on Moreno's web site.

night that the circles were made. The witness didn't return phone calls to The Reporter for comment.

The researchers also tried to poke holes in the teens stories, such as light that appeared in the field to illuminate the boys' work.

The mystery of the circles continues. But one thing is clear: Crop circles brought commerce and tourism to Suisun, Valley. Balestra sold hundreds of Tshirts with pictures of the crop circles.

And Solano Community College has a new logo on a faculty Tshirt: Education that's out of this world. The shirts sport a picture of the shirts sport a picture of the shirts sport a picture of the terrestrial presence on Earth.

their domain; they all have expertise in specific fields," exthe forum's co-chief executive officer and a former CEO of Club sessions at Davos reflect the glo-

And the public's pulse. A 1996

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - Jan. 22, 2004 CR: J. Schuessler

'THE DAVOS DINNER MAY REPRESENT THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD WE NEED TO UNRAVEL THE FACT THAT CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING BUSINESS WITH STAR VISITORS'

## Extraterrestrial edge helps the balance sheet

By A. CRAIG COPETAS Bloomberg News

A galactic mystery hovers over the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland: How many of the 2,280 global leaders, including 31 heads of state, gathered in this Alpine resort conduct business with extraterrestrials?

This is no whimsy for Davosians.

It's on the agenda of the annual powwow of the influential and affluent who will ask forum participants such as Vice President Dick Chency, Coca-Cola Chairman Douglas Daft and De La Rue Chief Executive Ian Much if the aliens have landed and are collaborating with them to concoct government policy, brew soda pop and mint Iraq's new bank notes.

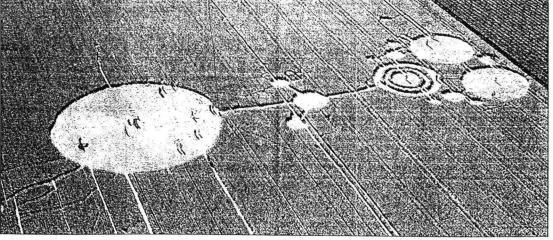
"The extraterrestrials have yet to make contact with me," said Much, who will help moderate tonight's dinner seminar (closed except to forum participants) on The Conspiracy Behind Conspiracy Theories: Have Extraterrestrials Made Contact With Government Leaders?

The British moneymaker is confident - at least for now that De La Rue remains the largest nongovernment printer of bank notes in the Milky Way.

"If the aliens are here," Much reckoned, "I'd absolutely expect them to call me to have their currency printed."

Despite the twilight zone topic arching many an eyebrow along the snow-covered strip of fashionable hotel bars, forum officials maintain their five-day program on Partnering for Security and Prosperity requires an unambiguous examination of extra-

"The panelists are the best in plained Philippe Bourguignon, Mediterranee. "The themes and



Steve and Gene Windham / Fairfield Daily Republic

pushed off the wall

nology."

Space Co.

for the first significant, high-

level discussion on emerging

alien markets and other popular

conspiracy theories that stretch

from whether the U.S. govern-

ment was behind the attacks of

Sept. 11 to the question of wheth-

er Humpty Dumpty fell or was

"I've learned to live with in-

sults," the 64-year-old psycholo-

gist says from his home in Cali-

fornia. "Billions of dollars have

been spent to intimidate wit-

nesses and use the giggle factor

to put on a funny farm anyone

who suggests corporations have

privatized extraterrestrial tech-

According to the calmly reso-

lute Boylan, more than 100 extra-

terrestrial races are in cahoots

with companies including IBM,

Ford, Lucent Technologies,

Northrop Grumman, Dow Corn-

ing, Monsanto, Boeing and Euro-

pean Aeronautic, Defense &

"Most Earth corporations are

working with visitors from the

Altair star system," Boylan says.

UFO enthusiasts who flocked to crop circles in Rockville, Calif., in Davos, Switzerland, where forum participants will ask titans of in July are turning their attention to the World Economic Forum commerce if they do business with extraterrestrials.

Gallup Poll found that 71 percent of Americans believe the government knows more about UFOs than it has disclosed. A Roper poll found that some 80 percent of those questioned think Wall Street and Washington are hiding knowledge of extraterrestrial contact. And the Internet search engine Google turns up as many Web pages dedicated to UFOs as it does for investment banking.

"It is possible that UFOs really do contain aliens, and the government is hushing it up," Cambridge University physicist Stephen Hawking told British television viewers in a 1998 inter-

President Bush's recent call to put a man on Mars before 2030 has swelled investor interest in Encounters of the Third Kind exotic technologies, last week boosting the Bloomberg Aerospace Index 1.9 percent, its biggest gain since October.

Earth's leaders prospecting extraterrestrial commerce as part of the forum's agenda has Enterprise. set off anticipation not seen

Bloomberg News Forum co-CEO Philippe Bourguignon: "The themes and sessions at Davos reflect the global agenda."

was released on DVD.

Richard Boylan, a retired professor of behavioral science at the University of California, couldn't be more gleeful if Capt. Kirk had beamed him aboard the



Physicist Stephen Hawking: "It is possible that UFOs really do contain aliens, and the government is hushing it up.

need to unravel the fact that corporations and governments are doing business with star visitors," says Boylan, widely regarded by ufologists as a specialist in intergalactic mergers and acquisitions.

Boylan says he isn't surprised "The Davos dinner may repre- the forum neglected to invite among UFO analysts since Close sent the great leap forward we him and his colleagues to Davos

were unavailable for comment Francois Auque, a managing director at EADS, says he's eager to hear from them.

with Altair."

"I'd love to establish links with extraterrestrials," says Augue, one of the businessmen behind the Aurora Project to discover if there's water on Mars. "So far, no messages on my cell phone.'

Altair is the brightest star in

the constellation Aquila, 15.7 light-years from Wall Street.

Forum participant Martin Re-

ese, Britain's royal astronomer,

says, "There is no logical or il-

logical reason why Earth corporations would be doing business

Although Altairian executives

Rattling off lists of purported government documents and first-person testimonies, Boylan says star visitors have instructed global leaders to publicly reveal the intergalactic mergers by 2007.

Still, the American academic frets that the politicians of Earth won't honor the deal and that the forum's conspiracy dinner may be part of the conspiracy.

"If all the extraterrestrial technology came out at once," Boylan reasons, "it would hurt stockholders in obsolescent industries, and the multinationals don't want to lose their power."

As Boylan tells it, the extraterrestrials first came to Wall Street in 1947 by way of Roswell, N.M. It was that year when U.S. Army Col. Philip Corso said he found five aliens amid the buzzards and rattlesnakes at a UFO crash site in the desert. The new arrivals were just over 4 feet tall, with grayish-brown skin, four-fingered hands and watermelonsize heads without hair.

In his book The Day After Roswell, Corso says he salvaged parts from the downed UFO and managed a governmentsponsored reverse-engineering program that decanted the technology to IBM, Bell Labs and Dow Corning. The flotsam of Roswell and other UFO encounters, Boylan adds, was used to formulate laser beams, fiber optics and Microsoft Corp.

## Teen sticks to crop circle claim

#### Media turns out for press conference offering another explanation

FAIRFIELD - Not three hours after a local

FAIRFIELD — Not three hours after a local research group declared the Fairfield crop circles were probably not of human origin, a local teenager reiterated his claim that he and three friends created the mysterious orbs found etched into a local wheat field.

Casey Brossard, 18, and three friends were inspired to create the ornate patterns in an 80-acre field along Suisun Valley Road June 28 after watching a TV documentary on the subject the night before, he told the Daily Republic Wednesday.

"The reaction to this has been crazy," Brossard said. "We were watching a Discovery Channel special on crop circles in England and decided to go out and see if we could do

Brossard's claim came after the conclusion of a press conference at the Rockville Inn attended by about a dozen Bay Area print and TV journalists.

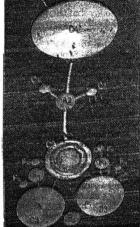
During that event, officials with Fairfield-based PsiApplications told reporters the cir-cles were considered, "authentic" and were most likely not the work of human beings. The panel included PsiApplications director Steve

Moreno, researcher Ruben Uriarte, Jean-Noel Aubrun, a doctor of physics and Michael Miley, a local researcher and freelance journalist. The panelists are convinced of their conclu-

sions because the crop circle patterns are so intricate their designer would need an advanced knowledge of Euclidean geometry to make them, they said.

The researchers also said the stalks of

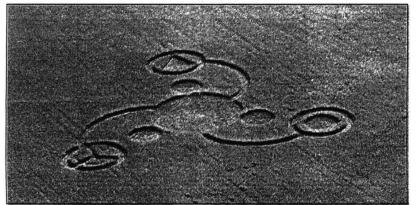
wheat found in the circles appear to have been exposed to electromagnetic radiation. The radiation caused the stalks' structural nodules to either lengthen or burst - a phenomena



Casey Brossard, a senior at Armijo High, claims that shortly after he and his friends created the crop circles. he left for a vacation in Hawaii and was unaware of the clamor of researchers and others for him and his friends to replicate their actions under the supervision of scientists.

Researchers of circles is so intricate that their designer would have to have an advanced knowledge of Euclidean geometry.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Dec. 28, 2003



The crop circles that damaged a Ross County couple's soybean fields remain a mystery. "It's hard to tell who did it," said Mary Ellen Mark, "I don't think we'll ever find out."

#### Bainbridge crop circles: still generating questions

Unannounced visits from mystery seekers and calls from curious scientists have ended, but farmer Dale Mark and his wife still wonder about

Mark and his wife still wonder about the unexplained design in their Ross County fields.

Ruling out the supernatural, the Bainbridge couple doubt that the culprit who damaged \$1,200 worth of soybeans in October will come forward. Passengers in a private airplane discovered that the beans had been flattened into a geometric pattern. flattened into a geometric pattern (Oct. 1, Metro & State).

"We haven't heard a thing," Mary Ellen Mark said. "It's hard to tell who did it. I don't think we'll ever find out."

with that; The Marks were amused, at times, by the buzz that the crop circles

A woman from New Mexico sent a letter saying she believed in aliens but was sympathetic to their financial loss. Mrs. Mark appreciated the concern but sent back her \$25 dona-

tearend story About a month ago, a college student called seeking an interview with Mr. Mark for a

"You've got to laugh about it," Mrs. Mark said. "We've had calls from all over the country."

By now, the gossip around town has

Resident Dave Brown said he has

Resident Dave Brown said he has gained a greater appreciation for the skills needed to execute such a hoax.
"I was watching the History Channel, and some of the designs I saw on TV were really just beautiful," he said. "I can't get over people who had the time in the middle of the night."

— Dana Wilson dwilson@dispatch.com

that doesn't normally occur in

PsiApplications research in the past five months has focused on ruling out the pos-sibility the circles were hoaxes and to give mainstream scientists a jumping off point to continue the research, Moreno said. He and his fellow pan-elists scoffed at the idea the four heretofore unidentified local teenagers had built the

"We have asked these young men to step forward and recreate their efforts. To date they have failed to do so," said Uriarte, who works for PsiApplications.

PsiApplications.
Brossard's mother, Gayle,
47, said she was cleaning out
the family garage on June 29
- the day after the circles
were first discovered - and
noticed that 75 feet of rope
from the family ski boat had
been attached to long sections

When she asked her son about them, he admitted he and three chums had done the

and three chums had done the etching in the fields.

"I was amazed. He showed me the original sketch and explained how he and the boys did it. Casey said that they first practiced in a field behind the Budweiser plant

before going over to the other field," Gayle Brossard said. Casey Brossard, a senior at Armijo High, claims that shortly after he and his

friends created the crop circles, he left for a vacation in Hawaii and was unaware of the clamor of researchers and others for him and his friends to replicate their actions under the supervision of scientists.

When he returned the furor of the designs had died down and he and his friends went on to other things, he added.

The circles created a carnival-like atmosphere near the farm for three weeks and attracted hundreds of visitors to the site. Vendors even sold T-shirts emblazoned with the design of the field's circles.

On Wednesday, Brossard told the Daily Republic he would be willing to construct other circles to prove it was he and his friends - not space aliens - who were responsible for the circles.

Reached late Wednesday, PsiApplications' Moreno said he would welcome a chance to meet and interview the teenagers.

"This is very exciting. We have a ton of questions for them," Moreno said. "Yes, we seriously doubt they did it, but our minds remain open. We'd like to hear what they have to say."

Reach Jeff Mitchell at 427-6977 or jmitchell@dailyrepub-

have to say."



Head scientist Dr. Jean-Noel Aubrun listens to reporters' questions during a press conference.

## Roswell UFO fest goes retro

ROSWELL, N.M. — Visitors to this year's UFO festival in this New Mexico community will have a chance to step back in time — six decades, to be exact.
The annual event, celebrating

the tale of a purported alien spacecraft crash-landing on a Roswell farm in 1947, will have a 1940s theme.

a 1940s theme.

This year's festival is scheduled for July 1 to 4 and the committee in charge of the event plans to "bring Roswell back to the 1940s," said David Baumann, the operator of Alien Encounter,

#### New Mexico

the alien-themed haunted house

on Roswell's main street.
The committee wants to get the whole town involved. Plans call for employees at motels and restaurants to wear clothing from that era. Radio stations will be asked to play music from the 40s and the committee is looking at the downtown historic district for a block to use as a 1940s neighbourhood.

This year's festival also will

include presentations by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar J. Mitchell and noted UFO researcher Stanton Friedman.

The event, Baumann said, will provide the city with an opportunity to promote itself as a tourist destination, as well as a good place to do business or

"Roswell's got a lot to offer these people, not just aliens," Baumann said.

On the web: www.roswellnm.

- Associated Press



A bright red plume trails over the mountains near Lake Pend Oreille. The cause of the plume hasn't been determined, but it has been suggested it was a jet contrail. Others say it could have been caused by a meteor or falling space debris.

# A mystery in midair

#### Red plume near Lake Pend Oreille creates a puzzle

By James Hagengruber

Staff writer

A streak of light, then a puzzling red plume cut through the early morning calm in the skies above Lake Pend Oreille.

It was just before sunrise on Dec. 23 when Eileen Sisson saw the bright object streaking high overhead towards the east. She was drinking coffee in her Garfield Bay home. She told her husband, Brent, to look out the

Neither knows what they saw. The flying object looked a bit like a fireball, but it was high in the sky. It could have been a jet, a meteor or a piece of "space junk," said Brent Sisson, a social worker for a local hospice program. Whatever it was, the bright light seemed to plummet behind the remote Scotchman Peak area far across the lake.

"When I spotted it I said, 'Get my camera,

honey, we've got to record this," "Sisson recalled.

The sky was beginning to lighten and the plume was a dramatic hue of red. It twisted, broadened and lingered in the air for about 15 minutes. Sisson used a digital camera to shoot 50 frames of the sight.

"I tell you what, it was pretty phenomenal," he said. "I've never seen anything like it."

The Sissons suspected they might have witnessed a plane crash, but an official with the Spokane office of the FAA said there were no plane crashes reported in the area on Dec. 23. The Bonner County Sheriff's Department also has no records of an object falling out of the dawn sky, according to a dispatcher.

After listening to a description of the sight, the director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center said the plume was probably

#### Unexplained object

We filmed a large "discshaped" metallic object flying against prevailing winds over Bristol in August. So, armed with all the data we could get wind and balloon data from the National Oceanic and Aimos pheric Agency, confirmation from the Federal Aviation Administration that there was nothing conventional flying on that day and time, thorough analysis by two of the most highly qualified optical physicists on Earth - we proved the thing we filmed was not any type of known aircraft, balloon or natural phenomenon. I was ready to face the media.

My first contact was this paper. I was politely hung up on. I e-mailed reporters - none answered. The story did finally get a mention in a weekly column. I tried our local television station. I made a new friend, but his boss said it was a balloon. Flying against 14 mph winds? During all this, the BBC did the story and I was asked to appear on two national radio talk shows.

Now, with more of an air of credibility, I approached the "other" television station. No story there either, yet these guys do the "meteor" story only because they can explain it to you. They avoid my story because they cannot comprehend the scope of what I filmed. Wouldn't you like to see what was flying over your head that cannot be reasonably, scientifically explained? Is it responsible journalism to avoid the story?

Anthony Shaffer Bristol, Tenn.

caused by a jet. The center has operated a UFO hotline since its inception in 1974 and lists accounts of hundreds of possible sightings, including 155 for Idaho and 1,698 suspicious flying objects over Washington.

"We get many, many, many calls about contrails either at sunup or sundown. That's my guess," said the director, Peter Davenport.

Specifically, Davenport suspects it was a Seattle-to-Chicago flight of an American Airlines jet. The company's jetliners are unpainted. Their silver fuselages can create spectacular flashes of light when hit by the rays of a rising or setting sun.

Davenport was irked that no one reported the red plume to his center. Even if it was not an alien spacecraft, the sighting of anything peculiar should be noted, he said. The Nation-

al UFO Reporting Center makes available to the public all of its data in summary form on the group's Web Experienced www.nuforc.org. UFO investigators are granted access to more detailed reports.

"If they don't write it down, no-body will know about it," Davenport said. "What they have seen could have an effect on an investigation elsewhere. This is why we have a National UFO Reporting Center.'

Although the Sissons didn't report their sighting, three other parties

from Sandpoint have made reports to the object was likely the planet Mars. the national UFO center in the past year, according to its online database.

The most recent report was made July 17 when the observer saw while "enjoying a beer" — w appeared to be a star orbitting the moon; "The object in question exhibited a yellowish tinge and produced coronal light discharge that completely differed from any heavenly body I have yet encountered," the unidentified observer wrote.

The UFO center concluded that

The Sissons are curious about what caused the plume they saw last month, but not enough to lose sleep over it. Some of their friends also spotted the bright object and subsequent red smoke trail.

Brent Sisson showed his photos to pair of friends who are commercial airline pilots. Both pilots agreed it did not look like any jet contrail they've seen, Sisson said. One of the pilots suspected a meteor.

Eileen Sisson also remains uncon-

vinced the pillar of smoke was created by a jet.

"Maybe it was a meteorite, maybe it was space debris," she said. "And I've heard someone say it might have been the stealth bomber. People have all kinds of theories.'

■ James Hagengruber can be reached at (208) 765-7126 or by e-mail at jamesh@spokesman.com.

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

GUARDIAN, Sutton Borough, England - Oct. 9, 2003

# The day the aliens came

January 27 may not immediately stand out as a memorable day in history. Archivists will tell you it is the day in 1756 that Mozart was born. Yet for people living in Carshalton, January 27, 1979, holds a little-known historical moment that could have paved the way for a monumental global discovery: it was the day the aliens came. According to a national database compiled by the Essex UFO Research Group, at around 2am on this date, a slow-moving, oval-shaped object was spotted over Carshalton.

However, if the cosmic object was really

(Top right) The moon taken through an 18-inch telescope.

something from another galaxy, why did it leave no trace behind?
What is probably one of the most significant misgivings surrounding the event is if extra-terrestrial forms were to visit earth, would they really choose a small pocket of suburbia to launch their bid for universal domination?
Yet even the biggest sceptic can discover the skies over the small Surrey parish hold a lot to interest the casual observer, whether in search of extra terrestrial life forms or just a wider knowledge of the world beyond our planet. Carshalton man John Murrell, chair-

man of Croydon Astronomical Society, says one of the farthest sights that can be spotted easily at this time of year is the Andromeda Galaxy. He says: "It's actually a bigger galaxy than the Milky Way in which we live, with around 100 billion stars in it."

John says Oaks Park is probably one of the darkest areas in Carshalton that could potentially be suitable for would-be astronomers, however they could be hampered by park closing times and nearby floodlighting.

The growing industrialisation of greater London is making life difficult for astronomers in terms of light pollution.

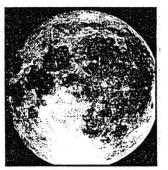
tion.
"There's actually a light spot on the clouds that I can see from my house," says John, although in 1967 he did manage to spot a meteorite over the skies of Carshalton and Mitcham.

So could a phenomenon such as a meteorite, or spots created by light pollution go some way to explaining the mysterious UFO sighting more than 24 years ago?

24 years ago?
"It's very difficult to say because all
I could find out was that there was a
slow moving light in the sky," says

"During those days they were doing nuclear tests in space. And at some stage balloons were also being used for communications research."

John says another unusual sight that could be mistaken for an unidentified object is moon dogs - coloured patches in the sky where light from the moon is reflected through ice



crystals in the cloud. Carshalton's brush with the unknown may be consigned to the realms of end, but the world above is still ther e explored. Visit www.croydonastro.org.uk.

#### Something out there Oct.

IN THE last few weeks, I've seen a sighting in the sky on clear nights overlooking the Badby area.
You never see it move,

You never see it move, but you see it in different parts of the sky in that area regularly.
Looking at it with the naked eye it looks like a big star and sometimes it looks as big as a dinner plate with colour lights around the outside.
Has anybody else seen this sighting?
I used to be with a UFO society in 1979 for five years in Bond Street, London.
Ten shillings a month for all information on UFOs in the world.

the world.

Mr Holmes
Trinity Close
Daventry

#### ETs love skies of Cumbria

SELLAFIELD attracts flying saucers like a light attracts moths, according to a leading Cumbrian UFO expert.

The claim follows alleged sightings over Christmas when it was claimed a silver disc was seen hovering over the sea near the nuclear plant.

About the same time

plant.

About the same time shining balls and spooky triangles were seen in the night sky above White-haven and Workington.

UFO expert Sharon Larkin, of Cumbria UFO and Research and Investigation said: "Sellafield-seems to be a big attraction for them.

"Friends in Sellafield have reported all kind of UFO activity. Silver discs have been reported recently flying in Sellafield air space, at Christmas and last summer two jets were seen pursuing a silver disk towards Barrow. "If anyone at BNFL has more sightings they should contact me."

Ms Larkin says Cumbria and South West Scotland have a higher than average number of unexplained sightings, will the rest are alreafly said while the rest are alreafly said. "The night sky in Cumbria is particularly alive."

BNFL declined to comment on the claims.

WORLDWIDE RESPONSE TO GRIMSBY TAPE

# UFO video out of this world

(Above) John Murrell and colleague.

THE suspected UFO sighting in Grimsby has been the source of speculation across the globe.

gIODe.
Earlier this month we printed the strange account of Steve
Musson and his wife Caron,
who spotted a "black shiny.
disc" above their home in
Bodiam Way, Grimsby.

Mr Musson filmed the obscure object with his video

camera.

The footage, which lasted for little more than a minute, showed a black object coming in and out of view.

The video was digitally enhanced but identification of

enhanced but identification of the disc remained a mystery. After printing the original article, the Telegraph was flooded with responses from flying saucer spotters in locations across the globe, including America, India and Milan. milan.

Some gave accounts of their own peculiar encounters, while others drew parallels with UFO sightings in other countries.

One response was from UFO expert Dianne Goodman who published a book called Door to Atlantis.

to Atlantis.

She has had numerous paranormal encounters and had now added the UFO sighting in Grimsby to her extraterrestrial files.

Bruce Maccabee has been studying a similar account of a UFO encounter in Tennessee, America, back in August.

He, too, gave a description of a black disk in the sky.

The article even caught the attention of a self-proclaimed paranormal investigator.

Chris Augustin, who runs www.aliensthetruth.com, a site



FLASHBACK: The "black shiny wife Caron above their home in

dedicated to the study of aliens and paranormal sightings, contacted the Telegraph to obtain a copy of Mr Musson's video.

Mr Augustin said: "I have been studying the phenomen-on for more than seven years.

"I found the Steven Musson sighting to be very interesting, to say the least."

Another response came from a 16-year-old student from India.

She saw a strange object in the sky while on a school trip to Bangalore.

She said: "It emitted some weird, very bright coloured lights. It was flying pretty slowly for a few minutes and then I do not know where it went."

rob.burman@grimsbylelegraph.co.uk



STEVE MUSSON: His

OBSERVER, Carlyle, Saskatchewan, Canada - Sept. 1, 2003

#### Crop circle found near **Steelman**



CR: G. Conway

by Sylvia MacBean

Several crop circles have been reported this summer in Saskatchewan to the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network (CCCRN)

in Vancouver.

Paul Anderson, director
of CCCRN said the latest crop circle was reported last week in the Steelman, Sask. area, northeast of Estevan. John Erickson, Estevan Airport Manager was giving a flying lesson to a pilot, when he discovered the crop

circle near an oil field facility in the Steelman area.

"We were just doing a navigation lesson and we happened to fly over that area and discovered it," said Erickson.

Anderson said that crop circles have also been reported near Tisdale and Scott, Sask. He is travelling to Saskatchewan to inspect the sites later this week. Anyone wishing to report a crop circle can reach CCCRN at 604-731-8522.

T CAN be hard to believe in intelligent life elsewhere in the universe when sometimes it is hard enough to believe it exists down here on Earth.

But Cheshire man Eric Morris, 49, has spent his life pursuing the 'truth' behind UFO sightings across the county. The ex-Navy serviceman has run the British UFO Studies Centre from his Earth-base on Greenall Road in Northwich for nearly 10 years, and has seen the society grow into one of the most respected in the UK.

the most respected in the UK.

Interested in unidentified flying objects since seeing a cylindrical shape hovering in the skies of Winsford when aged nine, Eric originally set up the group after finding that established societies to be less than he imagined.

'I was disappointed by the research tactics of other groups as well as the fact that they have all these big ideas and then lose interest after a year,' he said.

'People like our organisation and know where they can find us. Over a 10-year period, we've stayed on the same number and address, and people can easily find where to contact us.

The group has helped cement its reprused of the same proper services of the same desired.

contact us.'

The group has helped cement its reputation through detailed research into cases; something that has brought the group a few worldwide exclusives.

We were one of the first groups to research crop circles, down in Wiltshire, says Eric proudly. 'There's big money to be made in crop circle patterns and 90% of crop circles are fakes.

'Various advertisers like

'Various advertisers like Kelloggs have paid people thousands of pounds to go and do patterns in fields that show their product off - I know some of the people who do it. The Sunday People was will-

The Sunday ing to pay ing to pay me a lot of money to stand in a crop circle and say they were created by aliens, but I would not do it as I had other theories to theories to what they may be may be caused by.' According

Eric most UFOs can explained away by natural such as the moon or airplanes. but there is always a

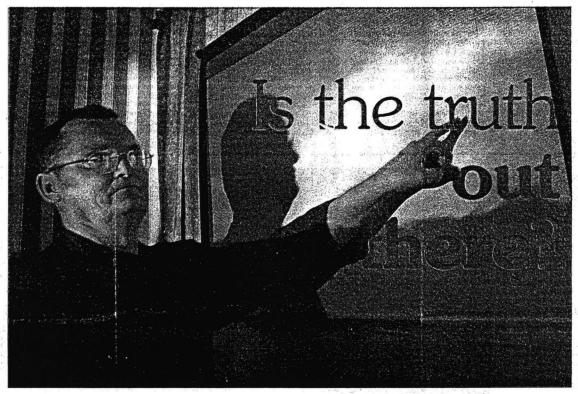
small percentage that are left unan-swered.

The met at least 50 people who have claimed to be abducted, but when it boils down to it, the number I can honestly say might have been abducted is two or three.

We investigated a gentleman who came from near Wrexham who claimed to have had a strange experience in

had a strange experience in 1996. He took us to where it happened and we eventually found out that he had gone missing for more that an hour. "We later found two drivers

who had seen his bicycle at the side of the lay-by at that time.



STAR MAN: Northwich UFO expert Eric Morris, with video footage, shot in Cheshire, of 'aliens' over the

#### PHENOMENA SPOTLIGHT/UFOs

For most people, the search for life from other planets stretches no further than watching an episode of *The X-Files*, but for Cheshire man Eric Morris, it has become something of a Mulder-like quest to discover if the truth really is out there. **Anthony Harvison** reports.

His account makes me believe that if abductions do occur, his was one of them.

One of the strangest cases was a video of an airshow in 1999—what's on there is absolutely fantastic. The object we have on video footage was seen hovering in the clouds and actually reported to have chased the French air display. We are research-We are research-ing that at the

moment.'
Unlike some
UFO enthusiasts, Eric never automatically equates the mystery objects with objects aliens; in objects with aliens; in fact he is very scientific in

If you look very closely at the Mona Lisa, in the top righthand corner, there's appears to be something in the sky

his approach to the unknown.

I think there are objects we can call UFOs, though they are not necessarily alien spaceships. A lot of the alien themes have been put in the media by magazines that fed on the hype of abductions in the late 1990s.

"UFOs are not a modern phenomenon: if you look very closely at the Mona Lisa painting, in the top right-hand corner, there's appears to be something in the sky shooting down a beam of light. Also some of the ancient Egyptian reliefs show things that look like spaceships with people in them.

"There's all different shapes of

that look like spaceships with people in them.

'There's all different shapes of craft and over the years we have had sightings from cylindrical to ball shapes to the late 1990s when we had a lot of black triangular shapes over Weaverham and Delamere.

'We did step on somebody's toes at British Aerospace, which we accused of using Remote Piloted Vehicles. RPVs were used in the Gulf War, and we believe that BA was flying them

believe that BA was flying them over the North West coast. I'm sure the military is contributing a lot towards this; being an ex-

serviceman myself I realise various pieces of military hardware have to be kept secret, like the stealth aircraft.

'We were the first group to introduce the craft to worldwide British Ufology. No-body believed us at first – but by the time it came out publicly in the Press, we were vindicated. We are very proud that we get our research out before a lot of other organisations.'

o does Eric think we will ever see the day when a creature from another world shakes hands with the British Prime Minister (excluding President Bush)?

'I'm sure one day proof will come,' he says. 'Scientists and astronomers have been wrong about certain things in the sky before and information that we have got from space in the last 10 years are changes our per-10 years are changes our per-spectives all the time – with all the galaxies out in the sky I'm sure we're not the only living matter in the whole of the uni-

#### 'Five per cent of sightings can't be explained

IF YOU think UFO hunting is all about mysterious contacts and avoiding alien bounty-hunters, then you have probably been watching too much X-Files. Sometimes the truth is more normal than fiction...

You can search the Cheshire skies camped in the countryside rmed with little more than a pair of binoculars and a hot flask

armed with little more than a pair of binoculars and a hot flask of cocoa.

And the good news is that you are living right in the middle of one of the hotbeds of UFO activity.

The North-West is more active than most places in the country, says Eric Morris, who regularly holds 'sky-watches' in fields across the county. 'Delamere Forest has been a hotbed of sightings in the past, and that is where we have been concentrating our sky watches in the past few years.

We hold sky watches as learning tools for people who want to be investigators; if it's a clear night, we can show various constellations, and things such as satellites passing over.

Sometimes I wonder what we are doing sitting in a field at 4am but the good thing is that we take a lot of people down with us and turn it into a learning and social event.'

So you have bought your tent and sleeping bag, but what do you do next?

'All you need is a good knowledge of the sky at night and the area. I advise anybody to get a pair of 10x i 5 binoculars and go and read, to gain experience. We are training people in our



organisation to become better investigators.'
Over the years, many people have come to Eric's group with strange sightings, which will then be scrutinised as every attempt is made to rule out natural causes.

'When; someone comes to us, we ask what time they observed the object and for how long, preferably giving the direction and angle of elevation that they saw it from the ground.

'We take a general description and ask whether they want to leave their name and telephone number but we make it absolutely clear that if they do not want it to appear in the Press, then we have a confidentiality clause.

'They may have seen things like Venus shining through the cloud or an aircraft turning into Manchester Airport. 90% of sightings can be explained, 5% are sightings too old to research—and that leaves the 5% we cannot explain.'

THE X-FILES: Nikki Limb with UFO magazine collection

## Aliens love to buzz borough

A HOUSEWIFE from Wallasey claims that the area is a hotbed of UFO activity. Nikki Limb is the newly appointed Wirral representative of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA), which was set up in 1996 to investigate and research UFOs and other strange incidents.

She says UFO sightings are extremely common in Wirral and many are regularly reported to her. She also claims to have seen UFOs herself.

"There have been lots of recent sightings," said Nikki. "We log each sightings and interview the people who report them. We check flight paths and make sure no planes were flying over when the object was spotted because sometimes planes wings can catch the light and distort the shape of the aircraft.

"If we think it's something that can't be explained we look into it further and try to find more witnesses. If we can't

verify the sightings we don't record them."

The group has a strict code of practice, which means that witnesses are interviewed in confidence and each incident is looked at with an open mind.

Nikki said: "We meet on the last Friday of every month to discuss all the group's findings. We're not saying that what people are seeing are flying saucers – they could be something completely natural or even something from the military.

"We get a lot of reports of objects rising out of the Mersey so we think that the water might have something to do with all the sightings in the area."

One of the strangest of MARA's incidents occurred on August 24, 1997, when they say a black sphere appeared to rise out of the river.

The group claim that four witnesses in Wallasey saw something odd in the evening sky at about 7.30pm in the

ECHO, Lincolnshire, England - Nov. 20, 2003

#### UFO check over county

DID Lincolnshire have a close

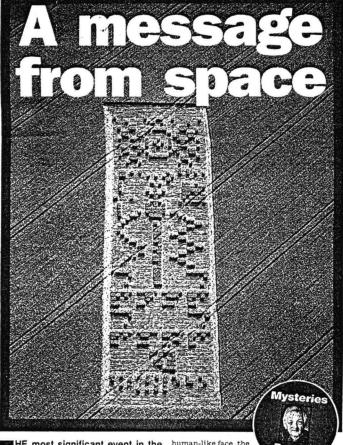
DID Lincolnshire have a close encounter of the third kind? That's what people were asking after a middle-of-the-night incident involving police throughout a wide area, 25 years ago this week.

People tuning in to police radio transmissions between midnight and 1.30am say they heard reports from patrol vehicles, in an area between Lincoln and Stamford, of

a mysterious pulsating light in the sky.
One man tells the Echo he heard a report that RAF Waddington had sent a Vulcan to take a closer look at the light and when he looked out of his bedroom window he saw the aircraft circling the object.
But a spokesman at RAF Waddington says he can neither

But a spokesman at RAF Waddington says he can neither confirm nor deny the report and the Ministry of Defence in London says it doesn't comment on reports of UFOs. Police say they are investigating the reports which had come from a number of patrols in the county.

DAILY MIRROR, London, England - Oct. 16, 2003



HE most significant event in the UFO saga happened two years ago. It was the first direct communication we've received from space beings.

And it came in answer to a message sent from Earth into space 27 years earlier.

message sent from Earth into space 27 years earlier.

In 1974, Carl Sagan and a team of researchers used the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico to beam out data on ourselves and our solar system. The message was in binary coding and the reply, when it came, was similar. It gave details of another part of the universe and the beings that inhabit it. Sagan's team should have been excited, but they dismissed it out of hand. That was because the response came in a form they did not expect – in markings on an English wheat field. Crop circles are the greatest myste

markings on an English wheat field.

Crop circles are the greatest mystery of our times. For the past 15 years or so, wonderful new designs have occurred. But no one knows who or what is creating them.

On August 20, 2001, two crop formations were discovered in a field next to the Chilbolton radio telescope in Hampshire.

From a great distance one showed a huge,

human-like face, the other contained the extra-terrestrials' message. It described another solar system. Its population is 21.3billion. They are 3tt 4ins tall, with larger heads than ours. Their genetic DNA is different and they are partly made of silicon.

These people claim they are Chemical Company \*\*\*\*

These people claim they are now among us on Earth. They do not say why they are here, but the signs are that their purpose is benevolent.

but the signs are ware pose is benevolent.
You are bound to be told that crop circles are hoaxes, but there is no evidence of that. The message was serious and no one claims to have made the formations. I take it to mean that extra-terrestrials are with us preparing us to accept them.

ORDER The foce & The Message by John Michell, £7 incl pap, poyoble to "Gothic Image", 7 High St, Giostonbury,

BA6 9DP

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF

FACE UP: The image in a crop formation discovered in 2001

JOHN Mich

## id UFO buzz

ST.HELENS secured its lasting place in UFO history this week - via its own official entry in a mysterious X-Files style database.

Detective Constable Gary Heseltine, founder of the unique PRUFOS (Police Reporting UFO Sightings) records system, highlighted the almost-forgotten incident in the skies above the town as one of major "Defence Significance."

And - despite its initial logging on police files 25 years ago-Gary insisted that there was STILL NO convincing logical explanation for what happened above Bold Power Station in January 1978.

Then onlookers watched in disbelief as a shining light buzzed the installation, and appeared to dart down to take a closer look. But none were quite as astonished as two patrolling police officers who immediately logged in the spectacular sighting with disbelieving colleagues in the radio room.

DC Heseltine - a serving CID officer with British Transport Police in the South of England - explained last night. "The Ministry Of Defence Still maintains that there has never been a case of Defence Significance. As a police officer, I find that position untenable and here is why.

"Having served in the Armed Forces I know that in the event of war in this country, all types of installation throughout Britain have been categorised for importance and vulnerability. For example oil fields, power stations, military installations are all key enemy targets which if hit would affect the infrastructure of Britain. "

And he added later: "It follows that any attempt to survey or interfere with these types of installations would by definition have to be of 'Defence Significance."

Most significance.

Most significante

Most significant

The PRUFOS dossier contains 84 official sightings reported by a total of 212 policemen and policewoman in the years between 1950 and 2002. And researcher Heseltine highlighted the St. Helens incident as one of the three MOST significant to take place at official installations during the Seventies while the Cold War was still raging.

But the serving sleuth claimed the speed of the craft over Bold indicated other-worldly powers, rather than a top-secret Soviet spy plane! Chronicled as No.44 in the database, the report observed: "Two uniformed officers - PCs Lowe and Roberts - observed a high speed UFO that hovered above Bold Power Station before darting across the landscape and doing likewise overFiddler's Ferry Power Station.

"This occurred during the Cold War and again multiple police witness corroboration was provided. Power Stations would be targeted in the event of war in Britain, and are thus regarded as key installations from a national defence point of Gary, who believes that Ets may have been monitoring the

view."
Gary, who believes that Ets may have been monitoring the
strategic strengths and weaknesses of various world powers,
also highlighted

also highlighted two important instances of St. Helens style incidents. In August 1976, a craft hovered over Buncefield Oil Terminal nr Hemel Hempstead for several minutes before vanishing. The report No.35 in the PRUFOS records noted: " Checks

noted: " Checks with Luton Airport ruled out conventional craft." STAR, St. Helens, England

Nov. 13, 2003



Special report by IAN BRANDES



St Helens gets its own 'X-File'

> Some years earlier in October 1967, two policemen spotted a stationary UFO hovering above HMS Dolphin - a submarine hase submarine for

for minutes.

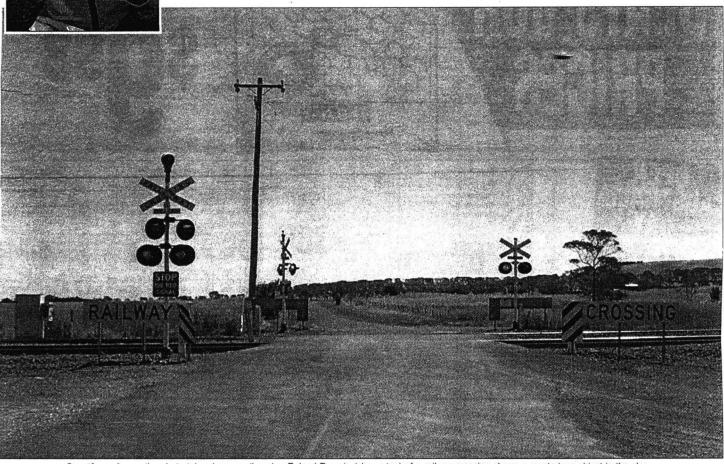
UFO expert
Heseltine ones of scores of police
officers to go public about strange officers to go public about strange phenomena - said later that the St. Helens incident indicated an extraterrestrial visitation.

The researcherone of the main contributors to a new commercially

contributors to a new commercially available UFO video called 'Hard Evidence V11'-confirmed: "There is excellent circumstantial avidence that evidence that points to the craft being a genuine UFO."



# UFO picture a saucer wonder



Creating a buzz: the photo taken by council worker Roland Rozario (shown top) of a railway crossing shows a mysterious object in the sky

WHILE man is making

while man is making his mark on Mars, some humans are wondering if aliens have zoomed into Melbourne.

A mysterious photograph has sparked a UFO frenzy in the city's north.

Both believers and sceptics are scratching their heads over this picture, snapped in Beveridge by a council officer last week.

Whittlesea Council is considering informing NASA and has already sent the image to Australian authorities.

The photographer, Whittlesea Council traffic engineer, Roland Rozario said he could not explain the digital photo, which shows a small round object zooming through the top right side of the frame.

Mr Rozario said he and a colleague were doing a routine audit of a railway level crossing about 2pm on Thursday, January 15.

"We didn't see or hear any-

#### Kate Uebergang

urban affairs reporter

urban affairs reporter
thing when we were there,"
he said. "I took about 10 or 12
photos, facing east and west.
"Then I came back to the
office, downloaded the
images and noticed an object
in one photo.
"I still don't know what it
is. I passed it around the
office and people didn't know
what it was. A few said it
didn't look like a bird, an
aircraft or even a bug in front
of the camera."

Mr Rozario said a train
passed through the crossing
just seconds after the photograph was taken and believes
a passenger may have
spotted something in the sky.
Whittlesea Council's com-

Whittlesea Council's com-munications officer, Jim Lin-ton, sent the image to the Chief Defence Scientist, De-fence Science and Technol-ogy Organisation and the Civil Aviation Authority.

He said the council was considering referring it to NASA and other authorities. "As a municipal council we have this image and we believe it is responsible to pass it on to the government authorities who have the expertise and let them work it out, he said.

Mr Linton said staff assured the council the photograph was not altered or tampered with. "We're not making any claim on it. We're looking for some expert who can look at it and tell us. Maybe there will never be an answer."

Weather bureau senior forecaster Peter Blake said the photograph did not look like anything meteorological. "It almost looks like a plane from the rear. It is certainly not a weather balloon," Mr Blake said. Local flying saucer experts also struggled to explain the photograph. Victorian UFO. Research Society scientific adviser

Bernard Wilson said the group needed more information in order to make a full assessment.

"There are some interesting aspects to this photo. The sun reflections from the object and the rails appear to be fairly consistent," he said. "There appears to be some motion blur to the left of the image which might indicate a fast-moving object."

But the Australian UFO Research Network Victorian director George Simpson said a digital photograph was not considered acceptable evidence of a flying saucer. "They cannot be verified. They are too easily manipulated on the computer and you don't have a negative," he said.

Mr Simpson said he had not heard of any other recent.

ne said.

Mr Simpson said he had not heard of any other recent sightings in Melbourne's north. But he said a local member would investigate the sighting for his group.

# 'UFO' sightings continue in area

■ 1 WOULD like to take this chance to comment on one of the recent letters in the *Herald* about the person who saw a 'UFO' in Tamworth.

Tamworth.

I was reading the letters page and when I read this particular letter I realised the person was writing about the same thing that I had seen a few weeks ago.

I was driving my car back from Tamworth to Warton, when I got to the lanes just after The Pretty Pigs in Amington.

First of all, I heard a buzzing sound. At first I thought it was the car but as soon as I had thought

this the radio started to crackle and I lost all power in the car. When my car had came to a com-plete stand still I could still hear this strange buzzing noise.

Then I saw these two small round objects flying over the top of the car.

of the car.

I cannot explain at all what they were, apart from the fact that they were round, flying at about 20-30 feet above the ground and moved fairly rapidly.

When they were out of sight I tried my engine and it started.

Litrove home and have not seen

I drove home and have not seen anything since, though I have

been a bit afraid to drive in the dark by myself.

I hope this is of some interest to the authors of some of the recent 'UFO' letters.

Julie J Radford, Warton, via email.

■ I AM pleased to hear that people other than myself have been seeing flying saucers in and around Tamworth.

I was concerned to tell anybody that I had seen something myself until I read of these sightings in the paper.

the paper.
I am a resident of Dordon and

often take walks into the woods near by.

On one occasion about a month ago I was walking through the wood at about 4.30pm when it was just getting dark.

All of a sudden I heard this humming sound and when I looked up to see what it was I could see a round thing hovering in the sky.

I could not tell how large or far away it was, but it was definitely not a plane or helicopter.

I do find it strange that so many people are reporting seeing it.

people are reporting seeing it.

Miss E Clarke,
Dordon.

### UFO story from the ਫ਼ੁੱ 19th hole

GOLFERS, much like anglers, may be accused of a tendency to exaggeration and the telling of tall tales.

But it was with all seriousness that a group of six people at Whitehaven Golf Club stood transfixed in the presence of a UFO on Sunday night.

It is the second similar sighting in Whitehaven in a matter of weeks

in Whitehaven in a matter of weeks

The mysterious flying object, brightly lit and initially taken for a helicopter, travelled across the skies from above St Benedict's School, flew over the club house and dropped innto the the middle of the golf course, about 500 yards away from where the group were.

"It was very strange," said golf club operator Craig Hamilton.

"Five or six of us were sitting in the conservatory having a drink. It was about 8.30pm and this large light about five or six foot across travelled past us across the sky at about 60 or 70mph.

"It was at a constant height but

travelled past us across the say at about 60 or 70mph.

"It was at a constant height but there was no noise, then when it got about 500 yards away there was a puff of smoke and it shot off at about 150 mph and fell to ground. It looked more like a flame rather than a light.

"We wondered if it could be a frework or a flare but it was too constant and there was no illumination coming from it."

A subsequent investigation of the area where it appeared to fall, both that evening and the next day has revealed nothing, so the mystery remains.

has revealed nothing, so the inje-tery remains.

Three weeks ago, on a Saturday night, a similar occurence was sighted in the skies over the Valley area of Whitehaven.

### Book retells Cheshire woman's claims of sex on spacecraft

# Was her baby an alien?

HE X-Files may have been closed, but a local author is taking over where Mulder and Scully left off.

Former Fleet Street hack Carl Nagaitis has delved into the myste-Nagaitis has delved into the mysterious world of alien abduction in his latest book, which features the remarkable case-study of a Cheshire woman who claims she gave birth to an alien child.

Without Consent is one of the first comprehensive surveys of alien abductions published in the UK. It is the result of Carl's collaboration with Philip Mantle, a former director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association.

'I thought it would be interesting to combine my cynicism with Philip's passion for the subject,' said Carl. I went into the subject thinking that I would be talking to a nutter who would be rambling on about little

by PAUL BROWN

green men - I'm glad to say that wasn't the case!

'I had access to BUFORA's files and was able to dismiss the cases that, in my opinion, had a rational explanation, and went on to investigate those that seemed a little more

gate those that seemed a little more beguiling.

'I was struck by the fact that I was interviewing people who were plainly not crazy. They had nothing to gain from speaking to me, and I came away from speaking to them convinced that something was going on. But what? Is it really aliens?
'I will believe in aliens when Philip takes me into a UFO to meet one but after talking to some of those featured in the book, I won't rule that out.'

out."
thout Consent is an updated verof Carl and Philip's 1994 book sion of Carl and Philip's 1994 book of the same name. He said: 'When we started the

alien abduction was an unfamiliar term to most people. Then the X-Files hit our TV screens which caused many to look at the subject with a new interest.

aused many to look at the subject with a new interest.

'We were approached by Beyond Publications to bring the book into the 21st century, and one of the new cases is that of a Cheshire woman which is being told for the first time.'

That concerns a woman, known as Suzanne Brown (though that is not her real name) who has suffered multiple abductions – and is convinced she was used by her visitors to give birth to an alien offspring.

She claims she was visited by a mysterious visitor she calls Mykiro, sometimes as many as three times a

..., scenous visitor sne calls Mykiro, sometimes as many as three times a year, over a period of nearly 30 years.

Mykiro beckoned her onto a mysterious 'craft' on a number of occa-sions, and after one visit she fell pregnant. She later believes she suffered a miscarrage, but is convinced that the unborn child was taken from

her by Mykiro.
Rudheath investigator Eric Morris, who interviewed Suzanne, feels that the series of encounters experienced by her, stretching from puberty to the menopause, supports the views of theorists like Budd Hopkins who are convinced that 'genetic harvesting' is going on.

convinced that 'genetic harvesting' is going on.

Eric said: 'Happily, her alien visitations have now stopped and the fact that they ceased as she approached the menopause seems to be far more than coincidence. Could it be that her value to the alien visitors plummeted when she reached the end of her childbearing years?'

It is the extraordinary tales like Suzanne's which have caused an explosion in the number of paranormal titles on the market.

But why do they share their 'experiences' with us, the readers?'

'I think some people come forward as a sort of therapy to come to terms with what has happened to them,' said Carl.

'Policemen, astronauts and pilots

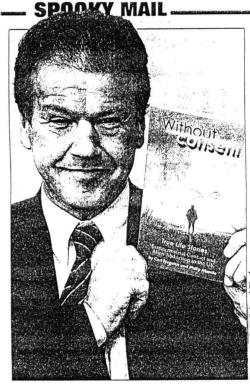
Policemen, astronauts and pilots

all over the world have filed reports of UFOs. I have talked to pilots who claimed they have seen many UFOs, but are too afraid to report them because it could be the end of their

career.

'You have got to bear in mind that people have to go back to their normal lives, so if they want to come forward anonymously, as Suzanne did, then that's fine.'

extraterrestrial contact and alien abduction in the UK, is out now, published by Beyond Publications, priced £9.99, from all good bookshops. Alternatively, visit www.beyondpublications.com.



TRUTH Author Carl Nagaitis with his new book. Without

#### More cases reported

ALIEN abduction stories are getting stranger and stranger. That's the opinion of Rudheath investigator Eric Morris, of the British UFO Studies Centre. He says 'high strangeness' is becoming more common thanks to a growing army of

common thanks to a growing army of amateur investiga-tors willing to offer a sympathetic ear to victims of alien

Writing in Without Consent, he said: 'Abduction

he said: 'Abduction expert. reports come in all the time and these days people are more willing to talk about their experiences than when I started my work to become victims of ridicule.

'Thanks to a more open-minded attitude in society as a whole, abductees can now be persuaded to relate the detail of their experiences.



rich's number one UFO expert

skills to first put the witness at ease and then win his or

investigator must possess a consider-able level of social

and then win his or her trust.

'Once that trust is established, you can then go forward together to analyse the details of abduction events, providing a mass of new material for the cause of ufology and at the same time enabling the abductee to come to terms with his or her experie UFO come to terms w his or her experi-

Eric and his wife Linda have become adept at dealing with peo-ple who find themselves in situa-tions of crisis thanks to their careers

as nurses.
That has enabled them to cataloguchundreds of cases, including many of abductions. It was Eric who interviewed 'Suzanne Brown'.

W The following is an abridged extract from Without Consent. It tells the extraordinary story of one Cheshire woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, and her contacts with a life-form only known to her as 'Myriko'.

UZANNE Brown felt Myriko's pres-ence even before she opened her tired and heavy eyes to peer at his slight, five-feet tall body standing by the side of

Even after all these years his pure beauty stunned her. Myriko smiled and gazed into Suzanne's eyes. As always he was perfectly groomed, with the flowing long blond hair which framed his slightly overlarge head sweeping down to his shoulders. He wore the same skin-tight, membrane-like grey suit he always had, smooth and spotless.

Myriko's numerous night-time visits had begun when she was just a child of 12. Now a mature woman in her late 30s, with a successful career in a major department store and her own comfortable home. Suzanne still felt a tingle of anticipation.

Even before his telepathic words formed in her mind, Suzanne knew that Myriko was taking her out again. These night-time expeditions now followed a pattern, a routine which had begun years ago when she had followed her strange companion into the cold and darkness of the Cheshire countryside and onto a craft. onto a craft.

The sorties into the darkness even continued during the years when Suzanne was married and lived with her husband.

Myriko would arrive as always and beckon her to follow him while her husband slept on. Tonight

Myriko would arrive as always and beckon her to follow him while her husband slept on. Tonight though, Suzanne was alone following the failure of her marriage. As she followed Myriko out of her home she pondered on the factors that contributed to their separation and eventual divorce. Of course, their fruitless attempts to conceive a child played a part, but what about her obsession with Myriko?

She admitted, to herself at least, that she had felt a stronger love for her mystery visitor than for the man she married. And now she was with him again. What is he going to show me this time? she whispered to herself as the craft came into view. As always the pair floated in through the entrance and along the neverending dark corridor until Myriko stopped at one of the illuminated portals.

He looked into her eyes issuing the non-verbal challenge he always had and Suzanne did not hesitate to pass through. The scene that greeted her was indeed different. At the far end of a huge room, separated from her by what looked like a swimming pool filled with a green-coloured liquid, were two people, a man and a woman. They were definitely human. In fact, the only thing alien about them was their apparent lifestyles.

The man looked like a vagrant; unwashed, unshaven and wearing filthy clothing. The woman looked like a prostitute; bleached blond hair, heavily made-up with a garish red lipstick and wearing a cheap and skimpy outfit that left little to the imagination.

Suzanne had been aware of having sexual inter-

Suzanne had been aware of having sexual inter-

Suzanne had been aware of having sexual inter-course. She said: 'It was me having sex with a stranger, but it wasn't the real me. I was there, get-ting involved with these two awful people. It was my body but not my mind.' Myriko turned to her and smiled. 'You have done well,' he said. 'You have fulfilled my wishes.' When she woke the following morning, Suzanne remem-bered the previous night's events with renewed revulsion.

revulsion.

In the days that followed, Suzanne's shame was replaced by the fear that he had made her pregnant. The prospect of motherhood following a few moments of lust with a disgusting vagrant reinforced her feelings of revulsion.

And they got worse as the first signs of pregnancy became evident.

What made matters worse was that she felt so ison

What made matters worse was that she felt so iso-lated. The bizarre nature of her nocturnal expedi-

tions with Myriko meant that she could not discuss them with anybody, not even her parents. So how was she going to explain her pregnancy to them when it became glaringly obvious that she was in the family way?

Weeks later Suzanne found herself trying to relax with a book on the settee in her lounge when she began to feel drowsy. The 'room seemed to darken as a heavy pressure bore down on her lower abdomen.

Suzanne said: 'I opened my eyes and there was Myriko.' Suzanne then lost consciousness and when she came to, some hours later, found herself lying on her settee. Suzanne spent the following three days drifting in and out of sleep until the pain eventually subsided.

By the time she returned to work Suzanne was aware that the early signs of pregnancy she had discovered had ceased – a sign of termination of pregnancy.

But she was unwilling to speculate on what really

But she was unwilling to speculate on what really happened on the night of Myriko's last visit. Months later Myriko returned and invited Suzanne for another trip to the craft. Obediently she followed him out into the nearby fields where the craft was waiting.

But the similarity to previous adventures ended

But the similarity to previous adventures ended when they were met by a small group of excited grey entities who seemed intent on congratulating Suzanne. Once inside she found herself in what she later described as a nursery.

She could see infant entities of various sizes, and possibly ages, being cared for by a group of adult beings. She suddenly stopped when she glimpsed a tiny, listless infant entity lying in a nearby cot and froze.

froze.

'Somehow I knew that thing had come from my body,' explained Suzanne later. 'I also knew that it had been removed from inside my body on the night of Myriko's last visit.

She resisted the impulse to pick up the infant and cradle it in her arms, fearing she might hurt it. The tiny creature, grey and silent, looked sick. But an adult being nearby, recognising the mother-baby bond, encouraged Suzanne to take the infant in her arms.

As she gently picked up the cold and rigid little body she felt it was responding to her warmth and as she looked into her alien baby's eyes tears began to stream down her cheeks. Suzanne Brown last saw

to stream down her cheeks. Suzanne Brown last saw her infant several years ago during Myriko's final visit when she was 39 years old.

Since entering her menopausal years her nocturnal visitor has been conspicuous by his absence. Today she continues with her career and lives with her new partner, content to live a life that at last is normal.

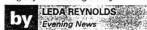
© Carl Nagalils and Philip Mantle, 2002.

## Police pyrotechnics light up sky

MYSTERIOUS lights spotted above the Worcestershire countryside sparked rumours that UFOs were flying over Hanbury.

But an investigation by the Evening News has discovered the lights were little more than police training aids. Some residents thought UFOs were descending on the county after seeing the lights hovering in the sky.

The lights were captured over Hanbury by BBC cameraman Tom Hines, aged 24, who was filming a possible location for a private short film, on Tuesday, July 22, at 8.30pm. Tom – who works on the TV soap Doctors – quickly trained his camera on the two orb-like lights which disappeared, then reappeared very brightly and moving slowly.



Thinking the show was over, Tom put his camera down, but the three lights suddenly began to flash and

lights suddenly began to flash and formed a cluster.

At this point Tom, who works in Birmingham, grabbed his camera and began filming for a second time. The three lights disappeared a few moments later.

Usually a UFO sceptic, Tom was convinced he had witnessed something supernatural.

"It was seriously like something out of Close Encounters," he said.

"The only way I can describe it was like somebody turning on spotlights in the sky.

like somebody turning on specially the sky.

"I'm certain what I saw and filmed was from another world.
"I can remember clear as day looking up and seeing, at first, two and then three lights. During the spectacle they appeared and disappeared almost like they were flashing.



have never seen anything like it.
"It was quite honestly, and in ev
meaning of the phrase, out of this
world."

world."

But West Mercia police said the lights were pyrotechnic devices being used to train officers on a firearms course at its Hindlip Hall headquarters.

"We don't want to go into any details about the course for operational reasons," said a police spokesman.

"People living nearby are always informed in advance, as too are local police stations.

police stations.

"We've been running the course for a

number of years now and this is the first time it's attracted interest."

Light programme: Hanbury sparked rumours that UFOs had Worcestershire - they turned out to be part of a police training exercise.

On the scene: BBC who captured lights hovering in the sky. Picture: Mike Thomas.

HESWALL NEWS, Merseyside, England - Sept. 20, 2003

security camera.

Keith Thompson, 37, of Yew Tree Road keeps a close eye on his back garden with a CCTV system connected to a home computer.

computer.

Although its purpose is to scupper any potential thieves, Keith now believes he has recorded footage of visitors from further afield.

from further afield.

The scenes were recorded at 11.05pm on August 16.

The father-of-four explained:
"When you watch the video it is more effective than the photos, which just look like lights in the sky. This moving light appears which just stops, then changes direction, then stops

pletely baffled by strange lights recorded on his home security camera. on camera By JAMIE McLOUGHLIN

again, flies toward the camera and flies away."
Mr Thompson has already

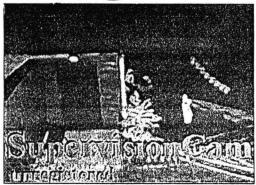
informed a group of American-based UFO experts and a team based at BBC Leeds for help in identifying the strange

phenomenon.

He added: "If anybody in the

area can explain what these lights were, I'd love to know."

• If anyone else noticed peculiar lights in Moreton on August 16, please contact the newsdesk via e-mail on: newsdesk@wirralnews.co.uk



• The Images captured on Kelth Thompson's home camera. Can you provide an explanation?

Stills reproduced courtesy of Super

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HERALD EXPRESS, Hertfordshire, England - Aug. 7, 2003

### Wast it a UFO or all a bit of 'hot air'?

FLOODS or calls came in to the HeraldExpress newsroom this week with tales of more UFO sightings in Hemel Hempstead.

As reported last week, Gary Perry from Seaton Road saw something in the sky he couldn't explain. Since then more people have reported they have seen something strange in the night sky.

But we've had several calls too from readers who reckon to have solved the mystery.

See added: "The teenagers or whoever did it could even bethinking, We did it, we sky he couldn't explain.

Since then more people have reported they have seen something strange in the night sky.

But we've had several calls too from readers who reckon to have solved the mystery.

One of them, Jane Seers and it then set on ire and fell to the ground."

She believes it may have been youngsters experimenting with a miniature hot-air balloon.

She added: "The teenagers or whoever did it could even be thinking, We did it, we got it in the paper."

BURNTWOOD POST, Cannock, England - Dec. 4, 2003

# Cannock's paranormal 'chasers' are kept busy

by Amy Doyle

Cannock has long been known as a hot bed of paranormal activity from strange beasts to it's own Roswell style UFO crash.

Most recently the appearance of the black Panther on Cannock Chase has made

Panther on Cannock Chase has headlines.
But the UFO sightings are most notorious. They are so common Cannock's resident UFO group is rarely without sightings to investigate.
Stafford UFO leader Graham Allen said: "Cannock Chase is notorious for UFO sightings. The most likely reason being the lack of light pollution over the Chase. However, there are hotspots all over the world and Cannock happens to be one of them."
Sightings in the area stretch back as far as the 1960s. Some have even caught the attention

tion of the media and the RAF.

According to the Staffordshire UFO Group, there are peaks in sightings, then just as suddenly as they start they tail off. In March, 1988, sightings rocketed to 90 in just over a month.

1988, sightings rocketed to 90 in just over a month.

However about 90 per cent of UFO sightings can easily be explained - a fact that UFO experts themselves will freely agree with. But what about the other 10 per cent. According to Graham Allen: "People know about us and report things that they just cannot explain".

Are the 10 per cent that cannot be explained away truly paranormal or is there another explanation? You decide.

February 1964: An unamed man claimed to have seen a UFO crash in a clearing in the Chase forest.

"Two suited beings walked towards me with lights in their hands," the man said. He preceded to take photos and quickly made his exit. He contacted the local UFO expert. But he

later claimed he received an angry call from the Ministry of Defence, warning him to tell no one about what he saw. Was this a government cover up attempt?

Thursday March 3, 1988: Lee Haycock from Burntwood relaid to Police his terrifying evening in which he saw a UFO twicel He told Burntwood Police he saw a cigar-shaped object floating over Biddulph Park at 9.30pm on Sunday, then later spotted the same object above a caravan park in Brownhills. He described the object as cigar-shaped with flashing blue, red, white and green lights. No explanation could be offered for his sighting: neither Birmingham Airport or Shawbury air base spotted anything on their radars. This was the third reported sighting in two months. December 1989: Cannock had been experiencing horrendous winter snow storms. One night in December Robert Newman, of Gilwell Road, decided to go to the Park Gate pub. He was sitting chatting to friends when

the lights in the pub suddenly went off and room was filled with an intense green light

But before anyone could go and investigate it had gone and the pub lights suddenly came back on. The only explanation that could be offered was that it was some trickery of the light coupled with the snow storms cutting out the electricity briefly.

Whether you believe in life on other planets and communication from the other side of the galaxy or ET left you cold, stories such as this are worth thinking about If encounters like this can't be rationalised by logical, sensible people, what really is going on?

If you are interested the paranormal, unexplainable and sometimes down right strange, the Staffordshire UFO Group are a like-minded collection of people who meet regularly to discuss these such issues.

For more information contact Graham Allen on 01889 585149 or visit www.sufog.co.uk

## Derek's close encounter . of a blurred kind

A SCOUT nau close encounter — of the blurred kind — during a trip to Everton.

Fife scout Derek
Prentice believes he
may have inadvertently snapped a UFO
hovering above the
campsite when he
took a picture of his
group setting off for a
walk.

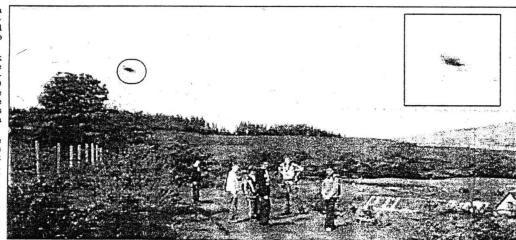
He didn't realise the image was on his camera until he got home and downloaded the film, and is now at loss to explain what it is.

The picture appears to show a dark object in the sky flying from left to right of the frame. The blur indicates that it is moving.

Derek said: "I took the picture at around 9.30am on Saturday 14 June as some of the Scouts set off on their walk.

When transferring it into our album, I noticed this strange object in the sky.

ō,



IS it or isn't it? Derek's UFO is seen left with an enlarged view in the inset.

"I have no explana-tion for it and it has not been tampered with. It's quite bizarre."

bizarre."

A spokesman for the Glasgow UFO Research Organisation, an amateur group of astronomers and scientists who

examine aerial phenomena around the West coast of Scotland, said that Derek's show a UFO.

He said: "It's unusual to get a picture of something in the sky but when we do they usually show what "We have had quite a few sightings round about the Greenock and Port Glasgow areas and I'd say there's been about 10 in the last two years."

"Some of those turned out to be planes flying from

Edinburgh airport, and one was a boat with a tail-light sus-pended on a pole that looked as though it was flying over the Clyde."

He added that until there was proof that the picture showed

something other than a UFO it had to be taken seriously.

He said: "Usually 98 per cent of the sightings are explainable, but there's always the two per cent that are not, and Derok's picture might be one of those."

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London UFO Studies

RUN by UFO expert Roy Lake from his home in Bark ing, the group investigates sightings - some of which have taken place in the bor-

signings – some of which have taken place in the borough.

Mr Lake told the Recorder: "I started getting interested in UFOs 50 years ago, when I was 15.

"My mother and father had seen something going over our house in north London." "My father would never talk about it for fear of being ridiculed but my mother told me about it afterwards. She described seeing a dome-shaped object in the sky." He added: "Then, in 1968, I was coming home from work along Parsloes Avenue in Dagenham and I met a postman standing in the street looking up at the sky with his mouth open.

"There was a triangle shaped object in the sky above us.

"It was beautiful – it looked

snaped object in the sky above us.

"It was beautiful – it looked like a chandelier. All of a sudden, it went out like an electric light, and – to this day I don't know why – I had this feeling I had to look up.

"There was another, elongated object in the sky. It moved away silently.

"The next day some police called at the house. They had been chasing a similar object in a car but couldn't keep up with it."

Mr Lake formed the Essex

with it."

Mr Lake formed the Essex
UFO Study Group soon after
the incident, and was involved
in a number of differen
groups before starting London
UFO Studies in 1990.

UFO Studies in 1990.

The group collects UFO sightings and offers counselling to people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

For more information contact Mr Lake on 020 8270 9919.

## UFO spotters staying loyal to their craft

A GROUP of Bristol-based UFO hunters is still going strong after 50

years.
The British Flying Saucers Bureau decided to continue its search for decided to continue its search for extraterrestrial phenomena at a meeting at Monks Park School, Filton.

The 40 members voted in favour of keeping the club going, despite the interest in UFO spotting waning in

recent years.

Denis Plunkett, aged 72, whose father founded the BFSB, said the decision to continue the search for aliens marked a watershed for the Bristol club.

He said: "We have decided to have regular monthly meetings again. That's very important for the survival of the club. It shows that the interest in UFOs is still strong."

The vote marks an impressive survival story for the BFSB, which used to meet in pubs around the city. Mr Plunkett said that his father founded the club after the unexplained

Mr Plunkett said that his father founded the club after the unexplained disappearance of his nephew.

Some 55 years ago, Dennis Harmer was on the Stardust aircraft which vanished in mysterious circumstances minutes before it was due to land in Chile.

The BFSB once had 1,500 members and could expect hundreds to attend meetings.
During the meeting, the 50 or so members listened to tales of government cover-ups, conspiracy theories and the alleged arrival of humanoids from outer worlds.

theories and the alleged arrival of humanoids from outer worlds. David Jones, aged 74, from Bristol, one of the audience members at the club's meeting, said: "Sightings used to cover all the front pages of the Sunday papers then. It was a big

thing.
"Teenagers and boys were really interested in it in the 40s and 50s."

NEWS SHOPPER, Lewisham & Catford, England - Oct. 8, 2003

### Been abducted by aliens recently?

PSYCHOLOGISTS at Goldsmiths College are to probe the

PSYCHOLOGISTS at Goldsmiths College are to probe the minds of alleged alien abductees.

The research aims to show whether extraterrestrials are really abducting people against their will or are merely a modern myth.

Professor Chris French, head of the Anomalistic Pyschology Research Unit at Goldsmith's psychology department, says abductees report a wide range of experiences.

He said: "The research project aims to test not only the psychological aspects of the abduction experience, but also to find out more about the other kinds of experiences abductees report and includes some tests for psychic abilities."

Judith Jaafar, chairman of the British UFO Research Association, said: I am pleased an academic body in Britain is taking steps to understand the source of this compelling phenomenon."

Anyone who believes they have been abducted by aliens and would like to take part in the project, should call Rachel Fox on 020 7919 7171 (ext 4389) or email apru@gold.ac.uk

CAPITAL NEWS, Kelowna, B.C., Canada - Oct. 5, 2003 CR: G. Conway

## Support group revived for UFO sighters

BY DESMOND MURRAY STAFF REPORTER

A Kelowna woman is reviving a support group for people with UFO experi-ences, despite all her own bad experiences surrounding the subject in the past.
She is willing to face up

to some possible ridicule to try to provide a venue for people to talk about their experiences among a group of peo-

ences among a group of peo-ple who will not judge them harshly for their beliefs. She also hopes to attract a counsellor and a hypno-thera-pist to help provide some answers for those troubled

with experiences like abduc-

"It is not for looky-loos and people who are interested in the subject, it is for people who feel they have been abducted or had UFO sightings and weird things have been happening to them for a long time," said Cynthia (not her real name).

She wants to keep her anonymity to avoid the problem caused when a mentally disturbed man joined the last group she coordinated about five years ago. The man stalked her home and forced an abrupt move away with her children and from the club's meeting place.

Prior to that dissolution. she said the group provided some much needed relief for a group of about 20 members who met regularly for about a

year.
"We are normal, regular, average everyday people that are sane. We had all kinds of people—registered nurses, carpenters, homemakers, a councillor, hypnotheraptists," she said.

This time, she plans to meet in a neutral location like a library, where personal dan-ger could be minimized.

Yet this would still allow potential to discuss unfathomable experiences similar to her own.

"This is happening to everyday people and happen-ing in our own backyard right here in Kelowna," she said. "In the last three or four months the sightings have been unbelievable in this

UFO BC in Vancouver and Brian Vike in HBCC research in Houston, B.C., have had more than 150 phone calls of sightings and things that are going on this area." An experience she had on July 31 of this year scared her enough to take the bold

step to revive a support group.
Those interested should call Cynthia at 717-8208.

"It was pretty heavy duty stuff," she said, unwilling to give details of the event over the phone, however, she said it did coincide with six eye witness reports that night. "After July 31 I said,

'That's it, I have got to make my fear and anger work for me and not let it paralyze me," she said.

"I have had things hap pening to me since I was four or five years old and now it is with my children," she added, describing a triangular shape that showed up on her son's back one morning with what appeared to be radiation

Outside his bedroom window, one tree had suddenly shown burning signs around its leaves. "There is no help here in

Canada like there is in the (United) States.

"They have all these councillors, psychiatrists, lab technicians that will do these tests that will help these peo-"she said.

Here you are supposed to

live with all this stuff, all by yourself, all alone and won-dering if you are going crazy. Their emotions are in

chaos. They wake up with marks on their bodies and bleeding noses and they are angry and they don't know why," she said.

why," she sau.

While talking out problems with other like-minded people can provide some relief, it doesn't address the issues as deeply as many would like.

So the group is looking for a professional with experi ence in hypnotherapy and

counseling to help out.
"It is like someone who has had a severe trauma, and they block it out because they can handle it. Like sexual abuse or whatever, it is the same thing for abductees,

she said.
"We need someone with an open mind who is really truly going to help them with these experiences.

#### FALMOUTH PACKET, Cornwall, England - Oct. 23, 2003

#### Mysterious box seen in night sky

Seen in night sky

On Tuesday, October 14, at 9pm,
when the weather conditions were
fine, a man was driving his car
along the A390 on the Probus
bypass in the area of Denas Water.
As his vehicle was approaching the
brow of the hill a brightly-lit object
appeared from the the direction of
Probus and crossed the road about
50 feet in front of him, and about 50
feet from the ground. The size of
the object was 2m x 2m approximately and it was shaped like a box
with a small dome on top.
The driver noticed that the boxshaped object was translucent and

shaped object was translucent and

he could see inside. There were about 100 yellow lights glowing inside and the colour of the main object was a yellow orange, like flames

flames
After crossing the road, the translucent yellow/orange box travelled in the direction of West Trelowthas, Great Trewirgie, Gare, Ruanlanihorne and, then on to the Falmouth area.

Falmouth area.

As chairman founder of the
Cornwall UFO Research Group I
am appealing for any other witnesses who may have seen the mysterious object in the night sky to
contact me on 01872 276381

Dave Gillham, 24 Carrine Road,
Truro

#### Help me look into UFOs

I WONDER if any of the readers could help me

please?

I am a retired police officer from the West Midlands who became interested in researching the UFO subject after officers known to me saw a cigar shaped object hovering over trees of a Birmingham suburb in January 1995.

I decided to

1995.

I decided to conduct my own research into this subject, rather than trusting information which was often inaccurate and sensation-

inaccurate and lised.

I just want evidence and can be contacted at 31 Red Lion Street, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, B48 7LG.

J Hanson Alvechurch Worcs



UFO expert Michael Soper By Jo Duckles

UFO expert Michael Soper was amazed to capture an object he believes could be an alien spacecraft on his own camera.

Mr Soper, of Ousley Close, Marston, Oxford, spotted the object on a photograph he had taken of a cloud at Middleton Cheney, near Banbury.

dleton Cheney, near Banbury.

He suggested the object could have been an alien sheltering from solar storms which have been linked with the recent scorching weather conditions.

"I took a picture of a cloud which looked like a chicken about to take flight," said Mr Soper, 55, media spokesman for Contact International, a group which monitors UFO sightings across the world.

"When It came out J spotted a small egg shaped object with a bizarre plasma tall."

It is not the first time Mr Soper's camera has captured something strange.

He said: "In 1995 I took a picture of a spherical object outside the Marston Co-op.

spotted

TWINKLING Christ-

mas stars may have been replaced by UFOs over Hudders-

UFOs over Huddersfield.

Shocked pensioner Malcolm Stapp is adamant he saw a couple of flying saucers in the night sky.

Mr Stapp, 74, of Salendine Nook, said: "It sounds incredible I know, but I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

He had been watching a film on TV and was going to bed at 12.30am on Monday when he saw a bright light in the sky.

He said: "It was stationary over Huddersfield for at least 15 minutes. At one point another appeared travelling north and going very fast — a lot faster

over

town

"My contention is UFOs are up there all the time, whether they are man made or not, they are up there watching us."

He said it was possible UFO sightings had increased at the moment due to the number of coronal holes in the sun, blasting out tremendous amounts of energy into space.

space.
"We have freak weather conditions as a result, and there are solar storms in space.
"It is possible there are

there are solar storms in space.

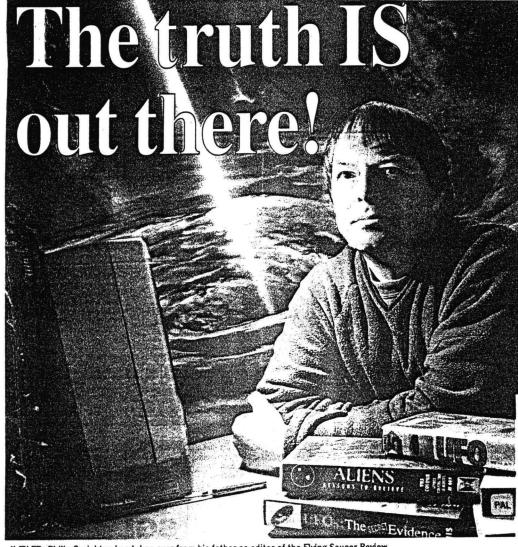
"It is possible there are more UFO slightings because something is sheltering here from storms in space."

Dominic Woollatt, of the Met Office, said: "We are certainly not aware of any links between hot weather and UFO sightings.

"UFO sightings do tend to happen when people are outside, and they are more likely to be outside when the weather is hot."

Joduckles@nqo.com

EVENING POST, Lancashire, England - Nov. 1, 2003



X-FILER: Philip Creighton has taken over from his father as editor of the Flying Saucer Review

than the jets that fly over here. It was cer-tainly not a helicopter or a plane."

or a plane."

He added: "Both
UFOs were globular
with lots of lights on
them.
"I tried to look at the
stationary one through
binoculars, but it was
just a blur of intense
lights. I watched it for
15 minutes and it was
still there when I went
to bed.

"I've never seen any-thing like it before."

thing like it before."
Pc Dave McSweeney, of Huddersfield police, said they had received no other reports of sightings of UFOs in the early hours of Monday.

BEHIND the net curtains of a terrace house in a working class suburb there is a veritable hotbed

of UFO activity...

Deepdale is an unassuming area of Preston. And it may not instantly spring to mind in discussions about unidenti-

to mind in discussions about unidentified flying objects or alien life forms.

However, local man Philip Creighton is a keen researcher and associate editor of the is ET watching over is?

ALIEN:

Let be the world-famous magazine, Flying Saucer Review.
Philip, 55, has always been interested in UFOs, thanks to his father, Gordon who died

#### By Laura Kennerley

earlier this year. Gordon, who was a diplomat for the British Government, had a lifelong interest in UFOs After contributing to Flying Saucer Review for many years he became editor in 1982 and held the post until he passed away in August, aged 95.

Through his father's passion for the extra terrestrial Philip learned all about UFOs as he was growing up.

He said: "I knew all about UFOs as a youngster.

"It was a little strange, but then we were a pretty geeky sort of family, so to that extent it did not feel that strange to me.

"I had a lot of odd interests, and this was one of them."

Philip did not start to thoroughly research UFOs until five years ago when his mother died.

His father had been additional.

died.

His father had been editing the magazine since 1982, but had always enlisted the help of Philip's mother as she had the computing skills which he lacked.

Philip said: "When she died I stepped in to do it because there was no one else. I started

to change a few things and brought in more interesting front covers."

Philip, whose CV includes a degree in bio-chemistry, post graduate research into human sleep and further research in psychol-ogy, is in the process of setting up a computer construction firm.

But he has still found time to continue his involvement in the magazine as associate editor after his father's death.

He is planing to increase the magazine's international readership – said to include Prince Philip – even further.

He hopes to introduce more pictures and graphics, but also to continue to feature wide and varied topics.

A typical edition could include stories about UFOs being escorted by mysterious military men in black, fried dead birds which fell from the sky in Tennessee and terrifying giants living in Israel.

• For more information about the magazine, write to the Editor, FSR Publications Ltd, PO Box 162, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5DZ or e-mail fsreview@freeuk.com.

SIGHTINGS: Triangle and ball-shaped objects spotted

# Trio of UFOs spend Xmas in Cumbria

By Emma McGordon and Fiona MacRae

THREE UFOs have been spotted over West Cumbria during the festive season.

Revellers in Workington and Whitehaven have reported seeing shining balls and spooky triangles

in the night sky.

Daley Rogers, of Hensingham, was left spellbound by a red object hovering overhead as he returned

from Workington last week.

He said: "We were coming home and we could see something in the sky. It just seemed to stay there and when we got to the Hill Crest area there was a group of kids watching it. It seemed to drop something that was white and bright and exploded. Then, it took off. I don't know where it went."

#### Unexplained

Daley, 23, admits that although he wasn't frightened by the ball-shaped object, he's found it hard to get it out of his mind. "I have been thinking about it a lot," he said. The 23-year-old is in good company,

with at least six other people witnessing strange goings-on in the West Cumbrian skies over Christmas.

UFO expert Sharon Larkin, of Broughton Cross, near Cockermouth, said: "We have had sightings of a triangular-shaped craft and an orange ball over the Workington area.

The triangle was going over the Stainburn bypass at around 10.30pm



Daley Rogers: 'It seemed to drop something white'

on a Sunday at the end of December. Before that it was sitting over Clifton. Then it headed off towards

the Lake District.
"The orange ball was spotted over

Broughton Moor last week."

Sharon, who logs UFO sightings in Cumbria and South West Scotland, says the area has a higher than average number of unexplained sightings. These include a "flying



Sharon Larkin: Sightings over the Workington area

light" over Whitehaven Golf Club in September.
Sharon believes that around 20

per cent of the reported sightings are the real deal, with the rest being aircraft, satellites, cloud formations or hoaxes. Extra-terrestrial visitors are attracted to Cumbria because of the volume of water the county's lakes, the peace and tranquility of the area and the nuclear activity at

Sellafield, she says.

"Different areas in the country have different numbers of sightings," she said. "The night sky in Cumbria is particularly alive. "You do get some sightings in the summer but from Sentember

summer but from September onwards, the skies are full of lights. With it getting darker earlier, people are more aware of what is going on over their heads."

[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.]

January 11, 2004 — El Tribuno, Salta, Argentina [www.eltribuno.com.arl] — Farmer Claims Having Seen UFO And Occupants — In Cachi, on the Tin Tin road — He traveled with 7 other people on a bus — All of them witnessed the strange and fantastic event — "It was incredible. We could see an object with impressive lights, side by side, spinning in a circle at high speed. Then other lights appeared which came and went over the same spot. It made our jaws drop," were the first words uttered by Julio Espinoza, a farmer and shepherd from La Poma.

It all happened on the Tin Tin road on December 16, 2003 at midnight, some 120 km west of Salta, the gateway to Cachi which crosses the Los Cardones National Park.

This location was not only the site of a new UFO sighing. This time, according to the eyewitness, the phenomenon was accompanied by the strange manifestation of humanoid creatures walking stealthily amid the scant vegetation of the Puna.

They Were on the Road to Puna

Eight people traveling in a bus were among the witnesses to the phenomenon, among them a 5-year-old girl.

But the main witness to the events, Julio Rafael Espinosa, 39, told his experience to El Tribuno only last

Friday.

That Tuesday, the passengers on the bus were Benito Salva and his father, Ricardo, four other men, Espinosa and his young daughter Tamara, age 5. At the entrance to the Tin Tin road, some 400 meters to the right in the direction of Cerro Negro, Benito Salva, the vehicle's driver, said: "Hey guys, look over there," before parking the bus, while the travelers looked through the window toward the indicated spot. Espinosa walk toward the luminous phenomenon.

A Stunning Tale

"Upon reaching a bramble, in spite of the darkness, the landscape was very well-defined. I couldn't go on any further; I was moving away from the road and I was getting scared when my eyes started to see something that couldn't be made out clearly at a distance."

"There was a device measuring some 100 meters wide resting over some kind of struts or legs which kept it some 10-12 meters off the ground. Some sort of hoses emerged from its middle, with lights on their tips. Suddenly, the lights on the object went out and these strange beings appeared. They walked slowly in single file, they were thin and their glow was so powerful they blinded me. At that moment I hid behind a bramble and I could see when one of them jumped onto a bramble--don't know how he did it--and began to pull pieces off it, as though taking specimens.

Some twenty minutes had gone by. It was then that Espinosa decided to return to the truck to report what was going on. "When I told them what I'd seen, they told me that they couldn't see the creatures because they were very far away. However, they saw the luminous phenomenon, which was visible from the roadside," he concluded. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

January 28, 2004 — Terra.cl, Chile — Mayor of San Jose de Maipo states: 40% OF LOCALS HAVE SEEN UFOs IN THE CORDILLERA — In January alone over 10 UFO sightings have been reported. No one knows why they appear, but the fact is that strange lights cross the area regularly, to the extent that residents of Cajon del Maipo consider it a normal occurrence.

SANTIAGO, JANUARY 28 - So frequent are the sightings of phenomena over the skies of Cajon del Maipo that local residents consider it part of their daily routine. Oscar Farias lives in the Las Vertientes sector and both he and his wife Maritza Valero have repeatedly seen UFOs in the Pre-Cordillera.

"We've seen truly surprising spheres and flying saucers. Only two weeks ago, with my cousin, around 8

am, we saw a silver saucer in the El Alto del Canelo sector, moving at average speed and losing itself in the west.

Patricia Aros, 37, works for a service corporation and claims having seen strange lights in the higher reaches of Cajon del Malpo on a regular basis: "It's common to see large and small lights moving over this area. I no longer fear them. We aren't alone in this immense universe and if these otherworldly beings wanted to harm us they would've done so already. I think we should be mentally prepared for what is going to happen in the future. Who knows if tomorrow human civilization will definitely establish contact with beings from other worlds?"

So recurrent is the phenomenon that even San Jose de Maipo's current mayor, Miguel Marquez Olivares,

witnessed a "film worthy" close encounter when he was literally assaulted by a UFO.

"On that occasion I was in the Del Ingenio sector driving my pickup truck with my family and a group of friends, when we suddenly saw an oval shape vehicle issuing multi-hued lights of great intensity as it hovered over the hills. Suddenly, in a matter of seconds, the strange object took off and hovered above us, killing my truck's engine. It lit up a radius of four kilometers with an intense white light which could be seen as far off as

the town of San Gabriel. The experience was truly intense, even though it lasted no more than a minute, because from one moment to another the light shut itself off and the phenomenon vanished."

According to the functionary, "40% of the locals have seen UFOs over the Andean Cordillera, or rather, have had experiences involving strange-looking lights and craft. Even the drovers discuss their furtive encounters with scintillating luminous phenomena that frighten the cattle and horses alike."—CREDIT: CIFAE

January 29, 2004 — La Cuarta, Santiago, Chile — KANGAROO-LEGGED MONSTER THREATENS — Rural drivers have seen it jumping with dogs in its mouth on the road to Viluco — by Hector Cossio BUIN - by Hector Cossio Juan Berrios, a 40 year-old driver and an old-fashioned Chilean Catholic, has never driven his vehicle again since his run-in with the monster. "He reached the truck stop in a state. His legs trembled," said one of his co-workers, half-jokingly, at the same time he made the sign of the Cross, just in case.

Up until 2 weeks ago, Santa Filomena was nothing more than a lonely and long alleyway in the locality of

Viluco in Buin, where the peace was disturbed only by vehicles driving past it at high speed.

While the routine is unbreakable, the town is beginning to shake off its lethargy, but not because of the arrival of unstoppable modernity, but because of the appearance of an indescribable, hungry creature that hops across the streets with some small, wounded animal in its maw, and which has seen by bus drivers of the Buin-Maipo route, who decided to speak out after having experienced real fear.

On January 5, at 5:15 hours, Berrios was driving through Santa Filomena toward the Las Vertientes terminal when he suddenly noticed a strange figure in the middle of the road some 70 meters away. He rubbed his eyes and kept going. Some five meters away, the figure reappeared and the shock of the horrible sight almost caused him to lose control of the vehicle, almost rolling it over.

"I had never seen anything like it. It had something like a dog bleeding in its muzzle and it lost itself in the bushes in a single leap," he told a co-worker minutes later. He was believed, just from the expression of indescribable panic on his face. That day he was jumpier than ever. After his second round trip, he was intercepted by another driver, Juan Maulen, who took him aside and asked him to describe the monster. After a few minutes Maulen conference: "Yes, it's the same and "

Intercepted by another driver, Juan Maulen, who took him aside and asked him to describe the monster. After a few minutes, Maulen confessed: "Yes, it's the same one."

It was a bipedal animal standing 1.50 meters tall, with hind legs like those of a kangaroo, small, curved hands ending in talons, a sharp mane like that of a porcupine running along its back, a tail with a rattle, a muzzle like that of a fierce wolf, several rows of teeth and voracious red eyes.

"It jumps a lot, " added Maulen. "It can easily jump 5 meters." He had kept quiet out of a fear of being dubbed the local madman. "I almost died of fright. I had to go out in the morning just like Berrios, when I suddenly saw that thing in the middle of the road. I slowed down and the beast stared at me. It took some time to look me up and down and then jumped aside," he recalled more calmly, now certain that the beast exists that the divergence of the could well be the Changaches.

exists. Just to give the thing a name, he says it could well be the Chupacabras.
"I think it's a hoax. I've been living here 35 years and the nearest thing to monsters I've seen are old men riding bicycles," said Rosa Marileo, widow of Roberto Nancur and mother of 5 children who do not live with her. "This has been circulating for a long time. Everyone says that when [the monster] comes out, it does so in the morning and I wouldn't dream of walking around at that time, because this street is pitch black," she added, bringing the conversation to a close. According to the multiple descriptions of strange creatures, what the drivers saw is similar to the North American image of the Chupacabras, particularly due to its spiny mane. — **CREDIT: Liliana Nunez** 

January 30, 2004 — La Cuarta, Santiago, Chile — VILUCO MONSTER MAY HIDE IN ABANDONED MINES — \*\*\*Researchers believe it to be a photophobic, unclassified "critter" that fears no predators\*\*\* — By Hector Cossio — At Cerro Cullipeumo, on the borders of the communities of Las Vertientes in Buin and Angostura in Paine, some abandoned gold mines from the 1950's could prove to be the lair of the "Viluco

Monster," a singular beast with a kangaroo-shaped body and a wolf's muzzle that terrorizes local farmers and has a remarkable resemblance with the legendary Chupacabras, according to researchers from the GEO

Group.
"El Dinamita" and "El Fena," assistants at the Buin-Maipo Bus Line, whose two drivers came across the creature in the lonely Santa Filomena alley, told *La Cuarta* that they have been hearing stories from the old-timers about a sinister beast lurking in the forgotten gold mines.

'As soon as we're ready, we'll take a look. The groundskeepers, some old men who've worked here all their lives, always say that strange stuff goes on in that mountain ... they even say that those who poke their noses in too deep never come back," said "El Dinamita," who was itching to venture into the abandoned mines. Anibal Montes, known as "El Viejo Choclero," confirmed through stories told by Don Ramon, eldest of the group, that mystery has always surrounded Cerro Cullipeumo. "Shadows can be seen running uphill, vanishing into the mine and disappearing. But this is nothing new. It's been going on for many years."

Cristian Opazo, a broadcaster with municipal radio station El Nuevo Buinense, recalls that 3 years ago he had to look at a heap of dead rabbits, slain by an unknown animal in the Isla de Maipo sector. "They had been sucked out. There were no signs of violence except for a hole, like that of a tooth [sic], on the right side of

the neck," he noted.

As from that event, which occured in 2000--a year that coincides with the first Chupacabras case reported in Calama--there was a flurry of reports, all of them hinting at abnormal evidence.
"Last year [the victims] were the hens at the Felicitas Berkhart smallhold and ducks over at Las Palomas,"

said residents of Buin.

Alberto Urquijo--parapsychologist, vampire-hunter, ufologist and leader of the GEO Group--has pursued the traces of this mysterious unclassified animal, known as Chupacabras, throughout Chile. He reports that earliest literature regarding the creature dates back to the late 18th century and its manifestations have been most recurrent since 2000. "Out of all of the cases we've looked into, 40% can be ascribed to known animals, but the remaining 60% cannot. We figure that in three years at least 5500 animals have died in mysterious

circumstances," said the researcher.

For GEO, the Chupacabras isn't an animal but a species whose main characteristic is being photophobic

and lacking predators. -- CREDIT: Liliana Nunez

January 31, 2004 — *EL Mundo*, Spain — SORIA - A cattleman from Monteuenga (province of Soria) has reported the deaths of 170 sheep due to an attack by a "strange animal" at the place they were kept, according to Guardia Civil (Spanish National Police) sources.

The sheep died of asphyxiation, suffocating each other as they tried to cram into a comer of the farm. The

fright was allegedly due to the presence of a strange animal on the premises.

A large portion of the sheep were pregnant and the material damages are in excess of 16,000 Euros. – CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

January 31, 2004 — AFP News Agency — MEXICAN AVIATION TECHNICIANS CLAIM HAVING SEEN UFO — MEXICO, January 31 (AFP) — Two Mexican aviation technicians claimed having recorded eight unidentified flying objects (UFOs) with a camcorder as the objects flew over the capital city on Saturday afternoon.

Aviation and photography technicians Alfonso Salazar and Salvador Guerrero told the press that they saw the mysterious objects when they flew over Mexico City's International Airport (AICM)

Salazar and Guerrero said that they managed to film the event from the hangar area of the terminal using theircamcorder.

The technicians explained that the events occurred on three separate occasions, involving a difference of three hours and 15 minutes.

The first event, recorded at 13:20 local time (19H20 GMT), involved six flying objects that formed an inverted "J" shape. Subsequently, at 22HOO GMT, they claimed having seen a tubular shape and at 22H55 GMT, they recorded a spherical UFO.

"We were in the hangar area and suddenly saw the first six UFOs in the sky, and we recorded until the last one appeared The speed they used to disappear was immediate, and more or less all of them were at an attitude of 12 000 feet," added the tools.

altitude of 12,000 feet," added the techs.

Airport spokesman Jose Luis Uribe downplayed the alleged UFO sightings, noting that "normally these sightings come about through a separation of rays of visible light [which makes people] see unexplained phenomena.

Air traffic controllers and other pilots consulted by AFP at the airport stated that on certain occasions, "unidentified flying objects are seen in the sky" and that these cannot be picked up by radar.

[For further information:

http://www.mipunto.com/punto\_noticias/noticia\_entretenimiento.jsp?tipo=CURIOSIDADES&archivo=040201021717.icjrnsl2.txt]

CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 2, 2004 — edicion.yucatan.com.mx, Mexico — POSSE SEARCHES FOR WOLFWOMAN "A hairy creature standing a meter and half, running on two legs" — No one slept in Texan Palomeque last night. Residents organized into groups and ventured into the wilderness to hunt down the "wolfwoman."

Until 11:00 last night, some 100 people armed with rifles and lanterns, combed the wilderness of this small commissariat in Huncuma searching for the strange creature that has caused its dogs to become restless. But they were not alone: eight elements of the local municipal police force escorted them. Movement began at Texan at 7:30 last night, after the barking of dogs was heard from a two-storey house outside the town, where hogs and poultry are raised.

Since last Wednesday, when turkeys were found dead "under bizarre circumstances," the locals are alert to the slightest movement. The constant barking of dogs attracted the first group of "hunters," whose number

gradually increased.

Minutes later, someone said that the "wolfwoman" was seen outside the town, on the road to Uman.

Benito Canul Canul, a 45 year-old worker who took part in the posse, said that he managed to fire at the strange being outside his house on the way to the cemetery. He is unsure if he hit it: "The creature was dog shaped, but with glowing eyes."

Hunters taking part in the posse claimed having seen the "wolfwoman" and described it as a hairy being,

measuring 1 1/2 meters, and sometimes running on two legs. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 2, 2004 — www.mural.com — YUCATAN IN UPROAR OVER WOLFWOMAN — \*\*Alleged wolfwoman has killed hundreds of farm birds in this county\*\* — by Martin Morita, Grupo Reforma — MERIDA,

Mexico -- Over 100 residents of the Texan Palomeque commissariat of the municipality for Huncuma, backed

by 10 police officers of said entity, went after an alleged "paranormal being" dubbed "the Wolfwoman," whose escapades have caused fear among residents of this and other Yucatan communities.

Armed with rifles, shotguns, pistols and equipped with lanterns, the locals organized themselves by groups and plunged into the wilderness in order to put an end to this "being," described by eyewitnesses as hairy, standing approximately a meter and a half, walking on two legs and with glowing red eyes.

The alleged wolfwoman has slain hundreds of farm birds in this commissariat and has also been seen in

communities within other municipalities, such as Uman, Halacho and Sisal.

Tadeo Cauich, one of the municipal police officers of Huncuma, who accompanied the hunters, said that the matter has already turned into a legend and that there is a great amount of fear in the locality, to the extent that residents of Texan Palomeque and other neighboring commissariats no longer go out at night, fearful of encountering the strange being.

Residents of Texan did not have the luck to find the "wolfwoman," although some say the creature was

seen running toward Uman.

But it isn't just the wolfwoman who has the hairs of the locals standing on end, since other municipalities and communities claim having seen other supernatural beings, as occurred in Opichen, an eastern locality, where there was talk of the "Huay keken"—a devil hound, in the Mayan language—responsible for the deaths of dozens of pigs, dogs and cats in that area. The presence of the notorious "Chupacabras" has even been reported in Merida, the state capital.

Apparitions and attacks by these phenomena have increased in recent weeks and new accounts emerge every day from those who swear having seen or been victims of such attacks. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 6, 2004 — www.ovniaventura.com and Puente Alto al Dia, Chile — UFO SIGHTING AT BANOS MORALES — \*\*\*Local residents stunned by the transit of an unidentified flying object\*\*\* — An event that few will ever forget occurred last Saturday night when at 23:00 hours a strange object flew over the Banos Morales area at unusual speed, flying from west to east.

"The night was completely clear and we managed to see an object flying at considerable speed. It was luminous and had three colors. On two tips it had yellow and red lights, with a blue tail," said one of the

eyewitnesses.

According to many ufologists--people devoted to the study of UFOs--this is a privileged area for seeing unidentified flying objects, just like Cajon del Maipo.

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing. It all happened in a matter of seconds. I'm sure, like many other residents, that what we saw wasn't an aircraft or satellite. It was a very strange thing, but wonderful at the same time. I'll never forget what I saw " said the witness."

the same time. I'll never forget what I saw," said the witness.

We must recall that a few years ago, a wave of UFOs crossed the skies of the Cajon del Maipo, a region which became flooded with UFO researchers and curiosity-seekers interested in seeing strange phenomena.

CREDIT: CIFAE CHILE

February 7, 2004 — La Cuarta, Santiago, Chile — PROSECUTOR, SPOUSE SEE MONSTER — \*\*\*A creature similar to the one in Buin was seen less than 20 meters away by prosecutor and spouse in Romeral\*\*\* — "We saw the monster" — by Hector Cossio — Completely overwhelmed and not at all desirous of returning to the countryside--at least not for a while--a state prosecutor and his wife have returned to Santiago after having spent a week in La Serena, where they ran into a hairy monster that made their blood run cold as they took an alternate route to the main highway. They say it wasn't a creature made by the Lord.

The beast was nearly identical to the one seen in early January by driver Juan Berrios in Buin.
Roberto Ayar Rojas, Maribel Arnaiz Cazaux and their young daugher, Daphane, left La Serena around midnight on Wednesday toward Highway 5 North. "We wanted to take our time before heading home. We are used to traveling at night because it's less hectic," said Maribel from their home in Quinta Normal.

As they have done for many years, the Ayar Arnaiz family decided to go off the beaten track and take scenic routes through inland towns, partly to avoid the recurrent tolls and traffic and partly to discover non-tourist destinations, even if it was already nighttime.

Some 200 km. north of Santiago, the family headed for the town of Romeral in the 5th Region and entered the town. After driving for more than an hour, Roberto found that the road ended in a bifurcation and they were forced to choose which path to take. "We finally decided to take the right hand path, and no more than a kilometer along the road, we found someone in a microbus terminal of whom we asked the route to take back to Santiago. He told us to take the other road, so we had to turn back, " said the head of household. The time was almost 6 a.m. when they turned back and took the alternate road. To one side of the street,

dense vegetation covered one side of the street while trees did the same on the other. The girl was sleeping in the back seat and the couple spoke excitedly while they smoked cigarettes. It was then that the "thing"

appeared.

"It was horrible. I swear to you that I'd never seen anything like it. It wasn't a dog, rabbit or any other known animal. It was halfway in the middle of the road, standing on two feet. It was completely covered in hair and had red eyes," recollected Roberto less than 24 hours after seeing the unexplained creature. "It was bent and had a hump on its back. It had the body of a kangaroo. It had two small hands that it moved quickly and deep-set eyes. In fact, it looked at us, was just as scared as we were, and it ran off, jumping into the bushes," added Maribel, still feeling the fright.

Both were frozen and later asked the other if they had seen the same thing. After recovering from the shock, the couple agreed that the most frightening detail was [the creature's] gaze and the two long fangs

protruding from its upper jaw.

'They were like two tubes, one stuck to the other. Some seconds elapsed and it took off. It walked just like those two-legged lizards, sort of knock-kneed. I don't have a word for it, but it's supernatural," said Ayar, who emphasized that he'd always believed the Chupacabras was a media creation designed to conceal other

Meanwhile, back in Buin, Juan Berrios turned over the hairs of the extravagant being that brushed against his vehicle to the GEO group for scientific analysis. "We must compare them with hair samples from other canids. But in plain sight, they're very odd. Ten-centimeter hairs are hard to find on dogs," said Alberto

As regards the "gringos" who were taking photos in Buin, *La Cuarta* was able to confirm that these were members of the Instituto de Investigaciones Exobiologicas (HEE), made up of Spaniards who have studied the paranormal for over 30 years. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez



NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand - Oct. 22, 2003 CR: P. Hassell

## Ducks, not aircraft, source of splatter

ECOLOGY: We should count ourselves lucky cows can't fly, biologist says of homes hit by foul gunk

Mother ducks, gorging themselves and expelling from the other end, are to blame for the "brown cloud" phenomenon plaguing New Zealand.

Homes, cars and washing have been splattered by a mysterious brown and smelly gunk falling from the sky in recent weeks.

Victims have been pointing the finger of blame at aircraft, claiming aeroplane toilets have been emptied over their property.

But scientists say nesting female ducks are the real culprits.

Dr Murray Williams, water fow biologist at the Department of Conservation, said he had examined one pile left on a house in Wellington and it was irrefutably duck droppings.

Females would leave the nest only once a day and gorge themselves on food. The next time they left could be 12 hours later and the first thing they would do was "have a crap", said Dr Williams.

"It's incredibly smelly. It's evil."

"It's incredibly smelly. It's evil."

The main culprits are mallards and paradise ducks which nest from August to October.

He said the incidents would be usually just a single bird, but when



SPRING CYCLE: Nesting limits mother ducks to gorging food and expelling waste once a day. PICTURE / GLENN JEFFREY

the droppings fell from a distance in the wind the end result could look

une wind the end result could look like a huge amount. "If you threw a cup of blood in those conditions it would look like a massacre when it splattered," Dr Williams said.

He added that there were often ople would just have to put up with

"Count ourselves lucky that cows can't fly," he said.
Local councils, airlines and the Civil Aviation Authority have all fielded calls from irate residents throughout the country. They are relieved to be cleared of wrongdoing. CAA spokesman Bill Sommer said if that anything was to come out

of an aeroplane toilet at the altitude and speed they flight at, it would vaporise immediately.

"All we were worried about was whether these messes could have come from an aircraft. The chances of that are nil."

IN ESSENCE



#### Believe in ghouls? Ghost writers certainly do

"The dead don't stay interested in us living people for very long," the narrator of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* tells the audience.

"Gradually, gradually, they let go hold of the earth . . . and the ambitions they



and the ambitions they had... and the pleasures they had... and the things they suffered... and the people they loved. They get weaned away from earth — that's the way I put it the way I put it – weaned away." Perhaps so. Perhaps not, if one lis-

tens to two Ohio women

MIKE
HARDEN

tens to two Ohio women who gather ghost stories and have just published a pair of compendiums of such tales in this month of "ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go bump in the dark."

"I can remember, at 7, seeing one at my great-grandmother's house," Chris Woodyard said of a ghost, "seeing a child in a long dress crying by the fireplace."

Woodyard, a Dayton resident who compiled Haunted Ohio V (Kestral, \$12.95), claims to have seen ghosts for most of her 49 years. She said her parents were not especially receptive to her professed sightings.

receptive to her pro-fessed sightings. "My father was a chemist and metallur-gist at Battelle," she said. "My mother was Betty Crocker. So, basi-

cally, if it didn't exist in the lab or the kitchen, it didn't exist."

it didn't exist."

Contrary to Woodyard's experience,
Robin Smith of Hilliard, author of

Columbus Ghosts II: More Central Ohio
Haunts (Emuses, \$13.95), said of wraiths
and apparitions, "I've never seen one,
though I've had those experiences where
you feel there is someone present but
you can't see them."

Woodyard thinks she is far from alone.
"I've read surveys that say 75 percent

"I've read surveys that say 75 percent of the people who are bereaved sense, see, hear or touch a loved one. "I would like to put them under a CAT scan and see what part of the brain lights

up."
Many of those who have never seen a ghost feel drawn to recollections by others who profess such encounters.

"It seems to me that we're kind of hard-wired to need a certain level of

whet to need a certain leve," said
Woodyard, whose ghost tales cover Ohio
from Ashtabula to Zoar.
"We came from a cave-man environ-

ment in which we feared that something was going to leap out from behind a bush and eat us. Now it seems we need this fear to feel human, whether it is induced by a roller coaster or a ghost

story.

Discussing campfire fright tales, she added, "For some kids, ghost stories seem to be a way of practicing being afraid and getting to know that you can get through it get through it.

"It is always a manageable kind of

Such fear, she suggested, is similar to what she has experienced in her sight

what she has experienced in her sight-ings of ghosts.

"Intellectually, you know that nothing is going to hurt you," she said. "Your body is saying, 'Get out! Get out!' and your mind is saying: 'Why? Let's see where this goes. Let's see who shows up.'"

Smith thinks that one day people will realize that the perception of ghosts is not as bizarre as it sounds.

"I think there is something real and perfectly natural about it," she said.

Within that swamp of unused brain, she suggested, some highly attuned indi-viduals are better at noticing forces that others miss

others miss.

"None of the people I have interviewed for these ghost stories has seemed insincere or that they were trying to pull something on me," Smith said.

"You can't objectively prove it. It really comes down to whether you believe or don't."

Mike Harden is a Dispatch columnist. mharden@dispatch.com

Haunted Ohio V, visit www. invink.com; and about Columbus Ghosts II, send bus.rr.com.

DOMINION POST, Wellington, New Zealand Oct. 2, 2003 CR: P. Hassell

## Mystery muck strikes again

A COUPLE has become the latest target of a mysterious airborne menace that has dumped big amounts of foul-smelling muck on homes in parts of New Zealand.

Clive and Raewyn Patching, of Omokoroa, 18 kilometres northwest of Tauranga, were watching rugby on television about 8pm on Saturday when some-thing slammed noisily on to their roof. "There was a bang and we rushed outside, but it

was pitch black and we couldn't see anything, "Mr Patching, a roofer, said. On Sunday morning, they went outside to inspect the damage — "a big splat on the roof, measuring six to seven square metres".

Mr Patching found the roof was covered in a

brown, smelly substance that looked a bit like cow manure, only "much finer" in texture. It had fallen from a height and looked and smelled bad. "It abso-

It seemed his house had become the latest target of mystery "muck bombings" that have plagued home owners from Wellington's Takapu Valley to Cambridge, Te Awamutu and the Manukau Harbour settlement of Huia.

Like other victims, Mr and Mrs Patching believe

the substance came from a passing aeroplane.

Tauranga-based public health officer Helen van der Werf warned people to be careful when washing down their homes after such incidents.

"Don't touch it, keep kids and pets out of the way and make sure you wash your hands," she said. -

# Snapshot The Bigfoot Trap

## It waits in the Applegate for its prey

t stands out in the forest almost like a mirage, this 100-square-foot wooden box just off the Collings Mountain Trail.

No windows, a plank roof and this enormous green metal gate on tracks, ready to slide down like a guillotine if only its sensational prey would take the bait.

Well, how else are you going to catch Bigfoot?

A team of wildlife researchers thought highly enough of this scheme to actually

Story and photo by
MARK FREEMAN
Mail Tribune

build this
world's one
and only
Bigfoot trap
in the woods
near
Applegate
Lake almost

30 years ago. And if you don't have a snapshot of it in your scrapbook, your status as a Southern Oregonian is under regional review.

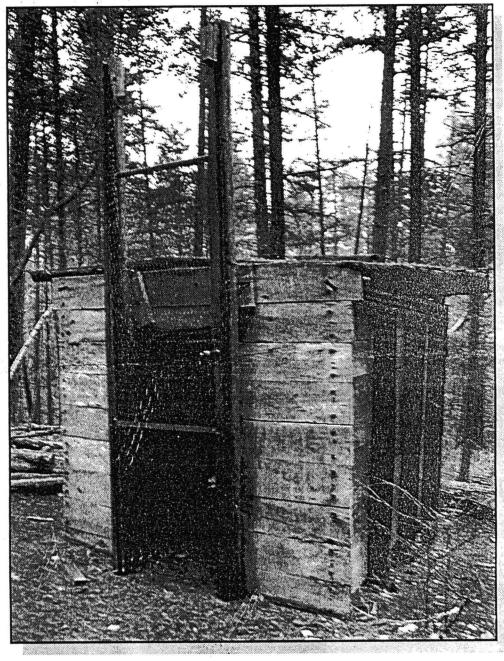
Come on. Like it or not, Bigfoot is as much Pacific Northwest as lattes and rain. So rather than hiding from it, you might as well have some fun with it.

And the place to embrace the myth is at the trap along the Collings Mountain Trail about a quarter-mile from the trailhead just past Hart-Tish Park along the northwestern edge of Applegate Lake.

We all know the story. Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, is this huge, hairy ape-like creature that roams the forests of the Pacific Northwest, spending the majority of its time scaring hikers and campers and always eluding capture.

Dozens of people, including Grants Pass psychologist Dr. Matthew Johnson, are convinced they've seen Bigfoot. Science, however, doesn't recognize Bigfoot as legit, and only a Bigfoot body will settle the score.

Most researchers will tell you that, if Bigfoot is real, it likely is a gigantopithecus, the world's largest primate when it inhabited the forests of China and India from as far back as 9 million years ago. The youngest known remains date back about 500,000 years, but Bigfooters believe some version of that critter crossed into North America and eventually settled in Jackson County.



The world's only Bigfoot trap is an easy hike in the Applegate Valley.

At least, that was the hypothesis when the Eugene-based North American Wildlife Research team earned Forest Service permission to build the trap in 1974, and a Washington Bigfoot researcher proclaimed it the only one of its kind in existence.

It caught no Bigfoot in its six years of operation before the Forest Service bolted it

open in 1980 so no human visitor would get smacked by the metal gate. In the ensuing 23 years, the trap has become as much a part of the Rogue Valley as the Oregon Vortex and Lithia water something meant to be experienced, once.

The walk down to the trap is short through open woods with large Douglas firs and madrones lining the steep, cool

#### How to get there

The Bigfoot trap is about 28 miles from downtown Medford.

Take Highway 238 west to Ruch, then turn left on Applegate Road and follow it to the lake. Drive past the dam and the Hart-Tish Park entrance to the Collings Mountain Trailhead.

It's marked by a sign with a footprint insignia on it. Follow the trail about a quarter of a mile, then take a left where the trail forks at an old mining cabin. The trap is about 200 feet beyond the cabin.

ravine. No one makes the trek without scanning the slopes for a hairy beast; everyone catches himself saying, what if?

Just past an abandoned mining cabin is the trap. Its design is so basic — walk on in, you unsuspecting creature, and don't notice the big gate overhead — no wonder Bigfoot's still a myth.

But you can't leave without imagining a monster stuck inside, bellowing its guttural growls and incensed that some buffoons from Eugene could dupe him into ruining it for all the other Bigfoots across the Pacific Northwest.

Reach reporter Mark Freeman at 776-4470, or e-mail mfreeman@mailtribune.com

# Oklahoma has its share of eerie, unexplainable

Fear tends always to produce the thing of which it is afraid ...

I'm familiar with the spook light south of Joplin, Mo., around Seneca. In fact, I've been there and seen it with my own eyes. It's spooky.

I am less familiar with Oklahoma's eerie mysteries and tales.

According to the October issue of Oklahoma Living, David A. Farris has written a book entitled "Mysterious Oklahoma" relating such tales that he had gathered over the years.

It was so popular he wrote a second, "More Mysterious Oklahoma," with more stories of strange occurrences.

One such story is about one of the most famous pictures of a UFO being shot in Tulsa in the 1960s.

Then there's the Carey Place in Oklahoma City which is supposedly home to ghosts, witches and the secretly buried body of a little girl.

I may have gotten the following story mixed up with the one about Billy the Kid being buried in Oklahoma.

There is a story told about John Wilkes Booth who is said to have escaped Washington, D.C., after assassinating President Lincoln and lived his remaining years in Enid, dying by his own hand, destitute.

His body was supposedly to have been put on display and never buried.

There's the tale of the Little People who supposedly helped Choctaw medicine men find the herbs they used in their healing rituals — "leprechaun-like beings" — who led them to the cures. Only the medicine men could see them; to others they appeared as glowing lights.

The story is about Uncle Billy Washington who came to Oklahoma Territory from Mississippi. He lived in the Yellow Hills east of Ardmore and ministered using herbs. He went to Ardmore to have his picture taken and in the setting, next to Billy, was a bare table. When the photo was developed a small creature was seen sitting on the table.

To the Choctaw people, this was proof of the Kaw-

## **Observations**

JERRY WHITED



nakuasha, 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.

Then there's the legend of Big Foot which dates back to the 1800s.

A diary entry by
Bertrand Tonihkah who
lived in Eagle (now Eagletown) related that OneEyed Bascomb said he
saw a "critter" in the
swamps near Eagle. He
was described as having
long arms, a stooped posture and grayish-black
hair — the same description used today to
describe Big Foot.

The creature fled from him with a "strangely loping gait."

A rancher who lived near the town of Goodwater, east of Idabel, had more than one encounter with the huge beast in 1975. He gave the same description adding that it was about eight feet tall and its arms reached almost to its knees.

While those stories originate in the Kiamichi Mountains, there was a report of a three-toed creature of about the same size near Nowata in the mid-1970s.

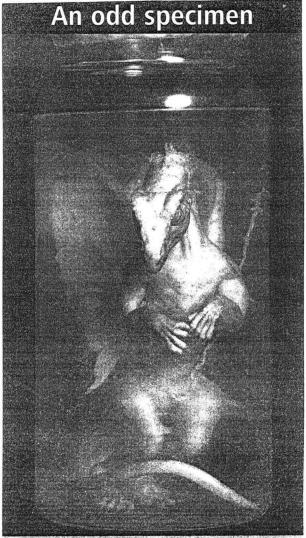
How would you like to have your house pelted by rocks in the middle of the night and not be able to know where they were coming from?

That happened to Bill McWethy of near Centrahoma in 1990. Then objects began falling inside his house. In one of the most "thoroughly witnessed," documented and scrutinized
incidents in Oklahoma
history, the entity pestering the McWethys had
assumed an identity
named Michael who told
them he was the ghost of
an 8-year-old boy who was
killed by his mother
because she was ashamed
of his deformity.

ABC-TV, using a thermal imaging camera, reportedly recorded an eerie floating image in the kitchen window.

Some real ghost stories are enough to give goose bumps at Halloween.

METRO, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Jan. 26, 2004 CR: G. Duplantier



ALLISTAIR MITCHELL/REUTERS

A fake baby dragon in a jar was found in Oxfordshire, southern England. Documents suggest that Britain's Natural History Museum sent it to be destroyed, only to be intercepted by a porter, Frederick Hart, whose grandson discovered it a century later in his garage.

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

## **OBITUARIES**

## Linguist Charles Berlitz Dies; **Wrote Books on Paranormal**

By ADAM BERNSTEIN Washington Post Staff Writer

Charles Berlitz, 90, the eminent linguist who also wrote kooky and spooky bestsellers exploring the Bermuda Triangle, the lost continent of Atlantis and other para-normal activity, died Dec. 18 at a hospital in Tamarac, Fla. No cause of death was reported.

Mr. Berlitz was the grandson of Maximilian D. Berlitz, who founded the language schools that bear the family name. Charles grew up in a household where he was encouraged to learn a new language every year. By age 3, he spoke four languages and had created his

"I didn't realize they were speaking different languages," he told The Washington Post in a 1982 profile. "I thought every person had their own particular way of speaking. Since I'd hear my mother switch to German when she spoke to my grandfather, I thought everyone had to learn everyone else's way of speaking to communicate. I wanted my own language, too."

During his life, he was said to have learned everything from Arabic to Zulu. He wrote dozens of books about language, a subject he described as more than mere communication. Words also connote how cultures think, he said, citing as an example how the color red in China symbolizes joy, celebration and marriage, while white is associated with death and mourning.

His book "Native Tongues" (1982) was a compendium of an-ecdotes about the development of language. He noted that the Italian greeting "ciao" came from the word for "slave," schiavo, or "I am your slave.

Studying civilizations and his interest in underwater archaeology led to a successful, if much derided, career focused on the occult and other oddities.

In his bestseller "The Bermuda Triangle" (1974), he wrote about seemingly inexplicable disappearances of planes and ships in the Atlantic Ocean near Bermuda. A reviewer in Time magazine wrote: "Triangle' takes off from established facts, then proceeds to lace its theses with a hodgepodge of half-truths, unsubstantiated reports and unsubstantial science.

Nevertheless, the book sold an estimated 10 million copies and spurred Mr. Berlitz to write "Without a Trace" (1977), which included personal stories of peo-ple who claimed to have been affected by the Triangle. He also reported in the book the existence of a giant pyramid on the bottom of the ocean.

"I don't say all this stuff about the Bermuda Triangle is supernatural," he told an interviewer. "I just don't think we're at a point to understand it.

His other titles included "The Mystery of Atlantis (1969), "Mysteries From Forgotten Worlds" (1972) and "The Philadelphia Experiment: Project Invisibility" (1979), which alleged that the Navy had found a way to make matter invisible and hide its warships. A feature film was made of "The Philadelphia Experiment" in

Over the years, he also did counterintelligence and investigative work for the military.

He was born Charles Frambach in New York but changed his name to Frambach-Berlitz at his grandfather's request and later dropped Frambach altogether. He was a 1936 magna cum laude graduate of Yale University, where he was on the swim team.

He began working for the fami-ly language school during college breaks and became a company vice president, overseeing its New York-based publishing house. More than 28 million people bought its texts, which included tourist phrase books and pocket dictionaries.

Mr. Berlitz also played a key role in developing record and tape language courses and helped establish language courses for American businesses whose employees did work overseas.

He left the company in the late 1960s, not long after the publishing firm Crowell, Collier & Macmillan took over.



Charles Berlitz helped run his family's language school and publishing business.

In a strange legal maneuver, the new owners obtained a temporary court order preventing Mr. Berlitz from using his surname professionally, arguing that Berlitz was a trademark. Mr. Berlitz laughed it off, telling the New York Times, "I am learning a rich new vocabulary of legal terms like 'injunction' and 'cross-motion,' which I expect to find very helpful for future

By the mid-1970s, he had won the case and a settlement upward of \$350,000. In the interim, he began his examinations of Atlantis and the Bermuda Triangle.

Survivors include his wife, Valerie Seary Berlitz, whom he mar-ried in 1950; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

He met his future wife when she was studying at a Berlitz school in Australia and asked for a refund. He said the encounter resulted in a marriage proposal but no money, explaining: "Hard company to get a refund from.'

HIDDEN DANGERS OF THE SEA

## Bermuda Triangle laced with bubbles?

Scientists say pockets of rising methane may sink ships in open water

By TODD ZERANSKI Bloomberg News

Methane bubbles rising from the sea floor could sink a ship, depending on the position of the vessel and its size relative to the upwelling of gas, two Australian scientists have concluded.

David May and Joseph Monaghan of Monash University's School of Mathematical Sciences in the Melbourne area found that a series of small bubbles or a large bubble of the odorless, colorless gas could cause a ship to lose buoyancy. They report their investigation in the American Journal of Physics.

While the findings point out a hidden threat to ships at sea, they may also explain why some vessels have vanished in open water.

The researchers said sonar surveys of an area in the North Sea called Witches Hole found a sunken ship around the center of a large site where methane bubbles shoot to the surface.

'One proposed sinking mechanism attributes the vessel's loss of buoyancy to bubbles of methane gas released from an erupting underwater hydrate," or deposit of solid methane, the authors wrote in the journal.

"The known abundance of gas hydrates in the North Sea, coupled with the vessel's final resting position and its location in the Witches Hole, all support a gas bubble theory," they wrote.

Britain's New Scientist magazine in 2000 recounted an expedition to the site off Scotland, where a robot submarine dove about 500 feet to photograph a 75-foot trawler, possibly a century old, sitting upright on the sea floor.

The vessel appeared to have dropped straight to the bottom, rather than sinking stern first, according to the publication.

Areas like Witches Hole can be

deemed "hazards to navigation," Jim Craig, president of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters in New York, said in an interview.

"If (the risk) is substantiated, they would post to mariners, 'This is a hazard,' and they would be rerouted from around there,"

Craig said he had heard of the methane gas theory as a possible explanation for the mysterious disappearances of vessels in the Bermuda Triangle, an area in the Atlantic Ocean bound by Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida.

One specialist in maritime security said risks to ships from methane bubbles were probably more acute in the past.

Modern ships "are being de-

architecture," Kweilen Kimmelman, a research analyst at the Washington-based Maritime Intelligence Group, said.

"Modern marine vessels are less densely structured and explicitly designed to incorporate greater structural flexibility and made to be more buoyant."

May and Monaghan replicated what they theorize could befall ships by creating methane gas bubbles in a tank of water and videotaping their impact with a simulated hull.