

UFO

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Another book advances unlikely tale of Ike-met-E.T.

By Peter Carlson
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Fifty years ago in February 1954, President Eisenhower interrupted his vacation in Palm Springs, Calif., to make a secret nocturnal trip to a nearby Air Force base to meet two extraterrestrial aliens.

Or maybe not. Maybe Ike just went to the dentist.

The alien theory is advanced by Michael Salla, a former American University professor who runs the Peace Ambassador Program at the university's Center for Global Peace.

The dentist theory is advanced by the folks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan. And by James M. Mixson, a dentist, professor of dentistry and historian of presidential dental work.

Just to make things more intriguing: On the night in question (Feb. 20), the Associated Press reported this: "Pres. Eisenhower died tonight of a heart attack in Palm Springs."

Two minutes later, the AP retracted that bulletin and reported that the president was alive.

Indeed, Ike was alive, and he continued living until 1969. Yet in the decades since his death, his activities that night in 1954 have become fodder for theories about alien beings.

Eisenhower was on a golf vacation in Palm Springs on Feb. 20, 1954. After dinner that night, he made an unscheduled departure from the Smoking Tree Ranch, where he was staying.

The next morning, he attended church in Los Angeles. Also that morning, his spokesman announced to the press that Ike had visited a dentist the previous night because he'd chipped a tooth while eating a chicken wing at dinner.

Salla, who has a doctorate in government from the University of Queensland in his native Australia, doesn't believe it. He figures that the dentist trip is just a cover story. He thinks Ike went to Edwards Air Force Base and met with two E.T.s with white hair, pale-blue eyes and colorless lips.

These aliens — nicknamed "Nordics" in UFO circles because they resemble Scandinavian humans — traveled to Edwards in a flying saucer and, Salla says, spoke to Eisenhower.

"There was telepathic communication," Salla, 45, says as he sits in his Falls Church, Va., living room.

The "Nordics" offered to share their superior technology and spiritual wisdom with Ike if he would agree to eliminate America's nuclear weapons.

"They were afraid we might blow up some of our nuclear technology," Salla says, "and apparently that does something to time and space, and it impacts on extraterrestrial races on other planets."

Ike declined the offer, Salla says, because he did not want to give up the nukes.

Later in 1954, Ike reached a deal with another race of extraterrestrials known as the "Greys" — allowing them to capture cattle and humans for medical experiments, provided that they returned the humans safely. Since then, Salla says, the "Greys" have kidnapped millions of humans.

Salla, author of *The Hero's Journey Toward a Second American Century*, published his theories in his new book, *Exopolitics: Political Implications of the Extraterrestrial Presence* and in an article on his Web site (www.exopolitics.org).

For much of the '90s, Salla studied conflict resolution and tried unsuccessfully to apply that knowledge to prevent war in East Timor and the Balkans, he says.

Frustrated, he began looking for an extraterrestrial connection to human misery and, he says, he found evidence of ET visitations — including the Ike encounter — on the Internet.

"There's a lot of stuff on the Internet," he says, "and I just went around and pieced it together."

Meanwhile, he taught at the School of International Service at American University. In 2003, he founded the university's Peace Ambassador Program, described on the university's Web site as a summer program that combines study, meditative practices and prayer ceremonies aimed at promoting individual self-empowerment.

Salla stresses that his ET research is not connected with his work at the university's Center for Global Peace.

Meanwhile, the question remains: Did Ike really meet with ETs 50 years ago?

"Not to our knowledge," says Jim Leyerzapf, an archivist at

the Eisenhower library.

"There's nothing in the archives that indicates that."

Then Leyerzapf bursts out laughing.

He has heard this theory before.

"We've had so many requests on that subject that we have a person who specializes in this."

That person is archivist Herb Pankratz.

"He specialized in transportation," Leyerzapf says, "and we decided to add UFOs to that. He does trains, planes, automobiles — and flying saucers."

The library fielded dozens of questions about the alleged Ike-ET meeting in the late '80s and early '90s, when several UFO books advanced the theory, Pankratz says.

"It's interesting how these stories have changed," Pankratz noted in an e-mail. "Initially, the accounts claimed the president made a secret trip to Edwards Air Force Base to view the remains of aliens who had crashed at Roswell, N.M., in 1947. Later stories then claimed he had actually visited with live aliens."

Pankratz doesn't buy either theory. He believes the dentist story, and he cites James Mix-

son, the dental historian and professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry.

Mixson's article *A History of Dwight D. Eisenhower's Oral Health* — published in the November 1995 issue of the *Bulletin of the History of Dentistry* — is the definitive work on Ike's teeth.

Citing the U.S. surgeon general's records on Ike's medical and dental history, opened to researchers in 1991, Mixson reported that on the fateful night of Feb. 20, 1954, Ike chipped the porcelain cap of his "upper left central incisor," and it was repaired by Dr. Francis A. Purcell.

Alas, Purcell is unavailable for comment. He died in 1974, according to Pankratz.

"The lack of a dental record from Purcell's office," Mixson wrote, "has helped fuel belief in this UFO encounter."

Meanwhile, there's another perplexing question: Why did the AP report that Ike died that night?

"Somebody was fooling around, and it went out," Pankratz says. "It wasn't supposed to go out, but it did."

ADVISOR, Youngwood, PA - Jan. 22, 2004

Stan Gordon summarizes 2003's 'close encounters'

Close encounters with UFOs and Bigfoot creatures were among the strange events reported by residents from 44 Pennsylvania counties during 2003, according to Greensburg researcher, Stan Gordon.

Gordon, who has been researching such oddities for over 44 years, has never personally seen a UFO or Bigfoot. He has been involved with the investigation of thousands of strange happenings from across the state. Over the years, he previously founded and directed three volunteer research groups that actively investigated these unusual cases. Gordon continues to document and investigate current reports as an independent researcher.

Gordon, who has taken calls on mysterious events from the public since 1969, says that he receives these yearly reports either directly or through his contacts with other researchers and organizations. The researcher indicates that he has received sighting reports from people of all age groups, and various backgrounds including police officers, pilots, and even air traffic controllers.

Gordon has contended for years that while many things people report seem strange initially, when investigated, most are determined to be natural or manmade in origin.

Commonly, bright stars and planets (Venus now being observed after dark), bright meteors, automated searchlights and even satellites are reported as an oddity in the sky.

Some Bigfoot sightings were only misidentifications of a bear or a large dog. But, some yearly

cases aren't so easily dismissed and remain in the unidentified "G" files.

Witnesses during 2003 in the state claimed that they observed triangular, rectangular, and other odd-shaped unexplained aerial objects. Some of the other strange events reported included strange sounds, mysterious tracks, and unusual animals observations.

Alleged encounters with large hairy man-like creatures continue to be reported from around the state. Historically, hundreds of reported Bigfoot sightings have been documented from many locations. In some cases, physical evidence and even unusual animal reactions were evident. The PA Bigfoot Society (PBS) also investigates such accounts. Their website www.pabigfootsociety.com has a list of Bigfoot sightings reported in past years, many of which Gordon investigated.

Gordon is also the primary investigator of the 1965 UFO crash incident which occurred near Kecksburg. Gordon continues to receive information on this case (which is receiving international interest), and continues to ask residents who might have information about that event to contact him. For the latest information on the Kecksburg investigation, check out www.freedomofinfo.org, and for details about the event, and to sign the petition asking for a federal investigation of the Kecksburg case visit: www.sign-petition.com.

Some of the strange Pennsylvania cases reported during 2003:

• Feb. 20 — Between Latrobe and Greensburg — A woman driving on a rural road observed a large dull gray, square-shaped object with a light on each corner and a red light on its domed top hovering low above a field. The witness approached within 200 feet of the object, and stopped her vehicle to observe it better. Suddenly, it just vanished.

• March-April — Westmoreland, Indiana County — A strange sound phenomena was being reported from these locations and other areas during the last year. Several people, unknown to each other, from different locations reported events describing a sound of something large ascending into the sky, or like a large gush of wind, yet nothing was seen. One man said he had the impression that something was passing overhead and moving very fast. The sound was so intense that he ducked his head, but nothing was observed.

• June — Everson — Several boys playing in the afternoon, observed a heart-shaped greenish object falling straight down from the sky. As the observers continued to observe, a long probe extended from the base of the object. The object hovered at treetop level, then dropped below the tree line. A short time later the object was observed ascending straight up into the sky and was lost from sight.

• April 13 — Derry Township — Three witnesses observed a tall beige colored creature with long arms swinging, walking through a cornfield.

April or May — Fayette/Westmoreland County — A man and his child riding a

motorbike on a rural road, reported seeing a hairy manlike creature, which ran out of the woods and stopped about 75 feet in front of them, and just stared in their direction. The creature, which was covered in black hair, and had arms hanging down to around the knees, quickly ran away.

• Aug. 15 — Derry Township — This incident occurred in a heavily wooded area, several miles away from the location where the April encounter occurred. At about 12:30 a.m. a woman went outside to her garden to pick some lettuce for her husband's lunch. As she turned around, her attention was drawn to a tree about eight feet away. The witness said that a huge hair covered manlike creature with dark hair and long arms, was leaning with its back against the tree, and was looking in her direction. The head of the creature was hitting a branch, which was measured at 96 inches off the ground. Gordon searched the area two days later, and found some possible older footprints about 15 inches long in the general area.

To report a UFO sighting or Bigfoot encounter, or any strange event, contact Stan Gordon by calling his UFO Hotline at 724-838-7768 or e-mail him at paufu@westol.com. For information on strange incidents in Pennsylvania and the Kecksburg incident visit Stan Gordon's web site: www.stan-gordon.com You can also write to Gordon at, P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601.



Michael Salla



"I saw a long, black object, and I could see flames starting at its nose and going up both sides of it."

KC STRIP

Space Ghost

What if Bob Lindsay abducted an alien and no one cared?

Talk about flyover country. Now even Kansas City's UFOs are **getting no respect**.

It's been nearly three weeks since **Bob Lindsay** spotted something falling out of the sky on a security monitor at the **TriGen power plant** downtown.

Lindsay seems like a straight-up kind of guy. He's a **chiller operator** at the plant, which supplies power, heating and cooling to major buildings downtown. When the summer's swelterin', Lindsay's the man making sure the temperature stays cool in **Bartle Hall**.

So you can imagine that Lindsay has a little time on his hands when it's the dead of winter and air conditioning's about as useful as tits on a boar.

On January 14, Lindsay was usin' a little of that leisure time to check on a colleague in the plant's control room when he noticed something odd. A security camera trained on a couple of the plant's boiler stacks happened to capture an **object moving across the sky**.

"I saw a long, black object, and I could see flames starting at its nose and going up both sides of it," Lindsay tells the Strip.

Lindsay wasn't sure what he was seeing, so the 52-year-old did what he figured was the responsible thing — he made a videotape of the flight and **alerted the media**.

First, he says, he tried *The Kansas City Star*, but the newspaper didn't get back to him. So naturally, he next turned to the **Fox network**.

And here's where the story really gets strange.

After describing what he'd seen to a producer at **WDAF Channel 4**, Lindsay was told that the Fox affiliate — get this — *wasn't interested*.

Say what? The network that brought us *Alien Autopsy* passes on a UFO videotape? What's the world coming to?

Still, Lindsay didn't give up. He had better luck with **KMBC Channel 9**, which aired Lindsay's tape and called **NORAD** (the North American Aerospace Defense Command), only to find that the U.S. military claimed not to know anything about a re-entering piece of space junk over Kansas City. The ABC station also consulted an astronomer, who said the object was probably a large meteor (freakin' spoilsport).

Channel 9's story was picked up by numerous television outlets outside the Kansas City region and was rebroadcast from Florida to the Bay Area.

Lindsay admits that after the story started to spread, he figured he'd be answering calls from plenty of other local television and radio outlets.

But so far, nothing.

And here's what's even stranger. Despite putting up notices of the sighting on **two different UFO Web sites**, Lindsay's had no inquiries whatever from UFO researchers — and his messages on the two sites have both *disappeared*!

What the —!

This meat patty was beginning to smell an *X-Files*-sized conspiracy. Here was **videotape of a sighting — the gold standard of UFOlogy** — and not a single self-styled Agent Mulder or Scully had descended on Lindsay to take down his testimony.

That just ain't natural. In this meat patty's experience, even the whiff of a **close encounter** is enough to bring hordes of amateur Area 51 experts out of the woodwork to make astounding pronouncements of space-alien involvement on the slimmest of evidence. Why, this tenderloin itself has seen **persuasive outer-space gurus** convince eyewitnesses

that the indistinguishable speck they had spotted above their heads was actually a full-blown hyper-dimensional mothercraft with illuminated portholes filled with the visages of bulbous-eyed aliens. These folks are good.

And by now, they'd normally be all over Lindsay and his videotape like a hound dog on a bone.

Instead, Lindsay remains unmolested and, truth be told, a little bewildered.

This sirloin decided to get to the bottom of things and looked up **Jim Johnson**, director of Kansas City's chapter of the **Mutual UFO Network**.

Jim, it turned out, was well aware of the Lindsay Incident. In fact, he said, his group of local UFO aficionados has been buzzing about it in a flurry of e-mails. But that enthusiasm, he says, hasn't resulted in an actual MUFON investigation.

Why not?

"I personally didn't take an interest, because I didn't think it was a UFO. This looked like a **falling piece of space debris**. I don't think anybody in our group thought it was worth investigating," Johnson uttered, to this cutlet's amazement.

Could it be? Had the Strip really found a **skeptical UFO hunter**?

After talking with Johnson for a little while, this meat patty got the distinct impression that perhaps some of the **impulse power** has leaked out of the **E.T. industry** since the passing of the **millennium** and the cancellation of *X-Files*.

Johnson says just sixteen folks showed up at the local MUFON's last bimonthly meeting in January at the Westport Branch Library. Only 21 came the time before.

And as for local flying-saucer activity? Johnson says he hasn't seen one yet, and it's been more than a decade since the last **local crop circle** showed up.

This porterhouse of pontification hated to get back to Lindsay with the bad news. But it gave the chiller man the news straight: "Pardner, about that spacecraft you nabbed in midre-entry? Nobody gives a crap."


Lindsay was mystified by the lack of response to his celestial prize.

"I put it on the Internet to see if anyone had any interest. Nothing. I don't know what the problem is. Maybe the government told them to back off."

That's the spirit, Bob. That's the spirit. — as told to Tony Ortega

Got a tip? E-mail strip@pitch.com or call our Strip line at 816-218-6915

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Dec. 24, 2003 CR: G. Fawcett



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DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE, Rochester, NY - Feb. 21, 2004 CR: W. Sherwood

Visitors from outer space give message of wisdom

Greetings, Earthlings. Don't be afraid. We come in peace. Look, no weapons. We don't intend to harm any of you. We have observed over the centuries that you are quite capable of doing that to yourselves. Oh, yes. We've been watching you for a very long time. You fascinate us. We discovered your world ages ago. At first we couldn't understand what you were saying. In our world we all speak the same language, but you don't. So we studied you. Eventually we figured out how you communicate, and now we all are fluent in every language you use on your planet. You're interesting creatures, you Earth humans. You have a wide range of abilities and talents, but you don't seem to have

figured out how to use them for the benefit of all of you. Whenever we think that you finally have realized how pointless it is for you to be at odds among yourselves on such a tiny planet, you start another war. We are not strangers to war. We understand it from studying the history of our own planet. A long time ago — far longer than you could possibly imagine — we, too, had great conflicts among ourselves, usually with disastrous consequences. But unlike you, we did learn how to get along. Maybe that is because we are so far ahead of you in exploring beyond the boundaries of our planet. We've been watching with interest and some amusement as your little mechanical rovers prowl the surface of Mars. We were there long ago, and



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we could tell you about what we found, but we won't.

You should have the pleasure of making those discoveries yourselves. It's clear to us that some very good minds have planned and are monitoring this venture, and we know from our own experience that exploration is exciting and rewarding.

But as for your home planet, we often wonder what you people must be thinking. It's a finite space, and you all must share it until you find a way to colonize

another planet.

So since all Earth creatures have to breathe the same air, why do some of you not seem to care that you may be causing serious damage to that air? We've observed many actions that would be distressing to us if they happened on our own planet.

And you waste so many resources! Why do you do that? We had to learn a very long time ago that even though we had devised ways to get away from our planet and start exploring the universe, we needed a home to return to. We have not found substantial resources to supply our life forms on any other planet, although we haven't given up the search.

By monitoring your news media, we have learned that Earth cosmologists are theorizing about the possible existence of another dimension that has

not yet become known to them.

We found that dimension ages ago. It has been helpful to us in moving about the universe. You will eventually discover it, too, and it will be the greatest revelation in your history. When you find that dimension, you will learn what happens to all of your keys, umbrellas, socks, sunglasses and other possessions that disappear without explanation.

But for now, you are occupying a space that is barely a speck in the vastness of the universe, and you need to realize that. You should be trying harder to cooperate among yourselves for the good of every living thing on your planet. If you don't, you will someday be very sorry.

This is not a threat. It's just an observation. But it's an important point you cannot ignore, so pay attention. We'll be watching. □



HERALD, Tamworth, England - Jan. 22, 2004

One more in the 'UFO' category!

I WRITE in connection with various letters you have received over the past couple of months regarding the sighting of 'UFOs'. I am a very down to earth person - as those who know me would confirm - and not prone to flights of fancy. However, I too would like to share my experience, which until recently had been buried somewhere in the back of my mind.

Towards the end of November at about 1am I awoke to find a bright light shining through the bedroom window.

I opened the curtains and saw high in the sky an octagonal shaped object with red lights shining from the underneath it.

Originally I thought it was a helicopter as it was hovering. However a helicopter at that time would, no doubt, have been searching for something and would have used a searchlight. No searchlight was in evidence. It was also positioned too high in the sky for a helicopter.

I also discounted the possibility of it being a conventional aeroplane as it was too low in the sky,

even for a private aircraft.

After about 20 minutes it moved off in an easterly direction.

I had forgotten all about it until a colleague mentioned that there had been recent sightings of 'something'.

The point of writing is to say: 'yes, I too saw something which I can't explain, whether it be a

hoax or some new technology being tested that we know nothing about'.

It was strange experience, not frighteningly so, but in my human desire for knowledge it would be good to find out what exactly it was that I saw.

■ Christine Williams, Glascote, via email.

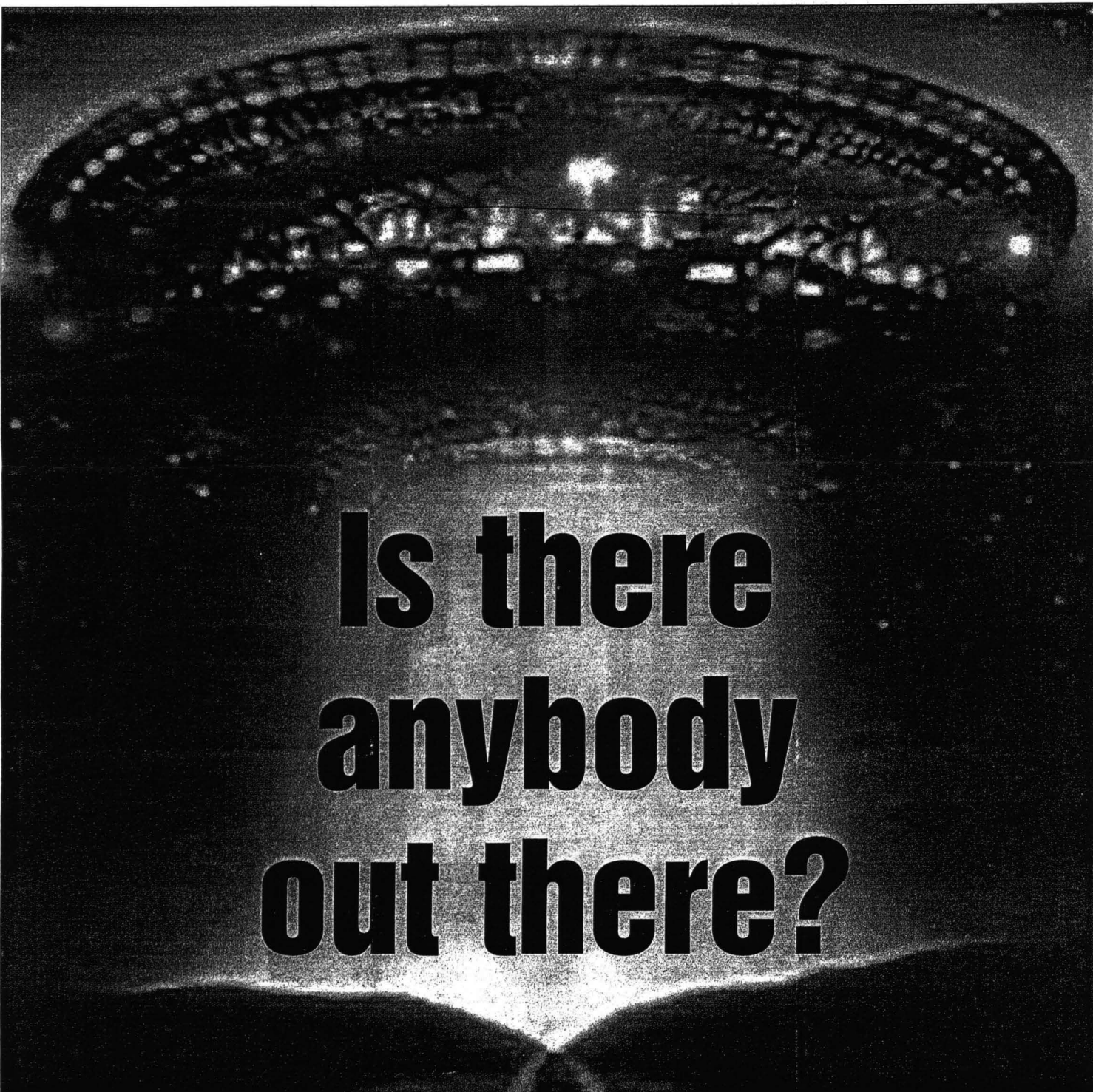
UFO reports spotted on CNN

DAVENTRY'S extraterrestrial activity made international headlines when a man who saw aliens was featured on CNN television news.

Angela Webb of Preston Drive, Daventry was in Toronto watching the global news channel when she heard her home town mentioned.

The newsreader said Adrian Dalton of Hemans Road, Daventry was featured on the Gusher's front page last week, after he saw two jellyfish-like objects flying over his home.

DAVENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England - Aug. 7, 2003



Is there anybody out there?

DAILY ECHO, Bournemouth, England - Sept. 9, 2003

THE day the massive UFO cover-up cracked open will be re-lived on video in Bournemouth next week. At a Washington press conference, US military personnel shocked the world relating their experiences and knowledge of extra-terrestrials. Hundreds of

By David Hailth

thousands watched the National Press Club event broadcast over the internet, but thousands more couldn't log on because of an overload.

Despite subsequent media cov-

erage round the world, there are still millions who never knew it even happened. So now, at 7.30pm on Monday, September 15, a remarkable two-hour video of the UFO Disclosure Project event is to be shown at St Peter's School in Holdenhurst Avenue.

The video is being presented by

top UK UFO researcher Ananda Sirisena, who will also speak and answer questions at the £5 a ticket meeting planned to last almost four hours.

The Disclosure Project press conference was organised by US hospital emergency physician Dr Steven Greer, who persuaded 20

military, government, intelligence and corporate witnesses to present testimony regarding extra-terrestrial UFOs and also the existence of advanced energy and propulsion technologies sequestered in classified government 'black operations' projects.

(continued on page 4)



EYE-WITNESS: Ron Lucas says he has seen UFOs twice and that his psychic powers help him tune into them

By David Haith

PLANE spotter Ron Lucas, 71, is flying high when it comes to aircraft recognition. And that's why the former RAF senior airframe fitter, who will be at the Bournemouth UFO Disclosure meeting, is 100 per cent certain that UFOs are a reality.

For Ron, of Homedene House, Seldown, Poole, has twice seen the mysterious objects, both times in broad daylight and with witnesses. The sightings happened in the mid 1950s when he worked as a mechanic at Wedderburn's weighing machine factory in Shirley Road, Southampton.

The first UFO was seen by Ron and six workmates on a lunch break in the factory yard on a sunny day in 1956 - and the encounter lasted four hours!

Explained Ron: "We were all keen on aircraft recognition and it's still a hobby of mine. One of my workmates used to go home at lunchtime and scan the skies with his binoculars. He came back and told us he'd seen this object in the sky so we all took a look. I viewed the thing through binoculars and estimated that it was 25,000 feet up. It was cigar shaped and revolving so it appeared round when viewed end on."

Suddenly Ron and one of the others saw three silver metallic looking discs, with a shadow effect beneath each, shoot away from the larger object.

Said Ron: "They flew in our direction at a speed I estimated to be 400mph and when overhead banked, and disappeared in the distance. They were roughly the size of a 5p coin held at arm's length."

"The cigar shaped object hung revolving in the sky at exactly the same point for four hours - we know because we kept going outside to check. It couldn't have been a balloon or it wouldn't have stayed in the same position. It was all very exciting."

It was two years later that Ron was again at the factory discussing that same UFO sighting with a skeptical young apprentice.

"He didn't believe it so I said let's go outside now and see if we can spot one," explained Ron.

'I had a close encounter that lasted four hours'

To their amazement, there low in the midday sky, was an archetypal flying saucer!

"It flew towards us but not in a smooth and controlled fashion, more akin to a stop and go mode," related Ron. "It was spinning, looking very much like and also resembling the action of a child's spinning top. It would stop for a moment, wobble and then continue its almost floating-like descent. It reached a point where we could discern its shape and we noticed it had some kind of appendage, slightly off-centre at the top of the craft. [See Ron's sketch of the UFO above].

"The underside seemed very thick and solid looking. The craft was silver grey and appeared metallic - certainly no weather balloon. My best guess is that it was about 35-40 feet in diameter - at its closest it appeared the size of a 10p coin held at arm's length. The sighting lasted around two minutes in all."

He added: "We watched it finally come to a stop very low in the sky. It hovered for about 15 seconds and then suddenly shot straight back up

and was lost to view in barely ten seconds. It was that fast - yet there was no sound and no vapour trails.

"Even now all these years later I can still picture the craft. My first sighting was quite something but what I saw descend that day to barely a couple of thousand feet above my head, left me in no doubt. My workmate and I know what we saw. There's no doubting it was a UFO, was intelligently controlled and was nothing humans could build at that time. It was an amazing sight that will live with us for ever."

Ron fully backs the campaign for UFO Disclosure. He said: "These craft may come from different dimensions but what I saw seemed solid nuts and bolts material which behaved like an aircraft. If an announcement was made by the authorities that these things are real it would mean at last people would accept what I saw. It frustrates me that the same people who accept my word and skills in identifying a conventional aircraft, dismiss what I say when I tell them I've seen UFOs."

the psychic connection

HOW was it that Ron Lucas has had two UFO sightings and most people have seen none?

Some believe UFOs are linked to the psychic world and some may have special sensitivity and attract the phenomena.

Ron's late father Albert was a medium.

Explained Ron: "I once gave him a sealed envelope with a genuine photograph of a UFO inside. He was able to tell me exactly what was on the

picture and how and where it was taken."

On another occasion his father went into trance and told Ron: "You have been shown twice and you will be shown again."

Said Ron: "I really hope I'll get another sighting before I pass on. I'm a firm believer in the spirit world. I think it's possible that there are many dimensions including the one we go to after death. UFOs may come from one of these other dimensions."

THE BIG FEATURE

SINCE that press conference day in 2001 hundreds more official 'whistleblowers' have emerged, many documented in Greer's book *Disclosure: Military and Government Witnesses Reveal the Greatest Secrets in Modern History*.

Pushing for congressional hearings on UFOs, Dr Greer has also met with and provided briefings for senior members of government, military and intelligence operations in the US and around the world, including senior CIA officials, Joint Chiefs of Staff, White House staff, senior members of Congress, senior United Nations leadership and diplomats and senior military officials in the UK and Europe.

Ananda - whose theme at the talk will be *UFO Disclosure Has Begun* - said: "The playing of the tape will get its message across very strongly. I want to urge members of the public to come and hear for themselves, make up their own minds. The Disclosure Project is not about any one individual but about all the witnesses who have come forward already, numbering over 100 and with 300 others waiting in the wings hoping for immunity from prosecution."

He added: "As a representative for the Disclosure Project I want more people to be aware of the reality of the UFO phenomenon and its implications for humanity. It impinges on our science, religion and politics and has been ingrained in our history for centuries."

A recent 90-page report by the French military titled

UFOs and Defence: What Should We Prepare For? concluded that "numerous manifestations observed by reliable witnesses could be the work of craft of extraterrestrial origin" and that, in fact, the best explanation is "the extraterrestrial hypothesis."

Although not categorically proven, "strong presumptions exist in its favour and if it is correct, it is loaded with significant consequences."

The French report added that there have been "visits above secret installations and missile bases" and "military aircraft shadowed" in the United States.

Edgar Mitchell, the Apollo 14 astronaut who was the sixth man to walk on the moon, also seeks UFO disclosure. An American newspaper recently reported that Mitchell is convinced "at a confidence level above 90 percent, that there is reality to all of this."

He says: "People have been digging through the files and investigating for years now. The files are quite convincing. The only thing that's lacking is the official stamp."

Ananda, who will also show a surprise UFO film at the Bournemouth meeting, added: "Whether official disclosure happens sooner remains to be seen. Do you think any president or prime minister has the courage to say that there is a far more powerful force out there, greater than what our defence systems are capable of?"

The meeting is being organised by Bournemouth's Positive Living Group. Tickets are available from Angie Underwood on 01202 532963. To see more log on to the web site disclosureproject.org



EVIDENCE: UK UFO researcher Ananda Sirisena

Are these testimonies proof aliens exist...?

● **Mercury & Gemini Astronaut, Col Gordon Cooper:** "A saucer flew right over [us] and landed out on the dry lakebed. [The cameramen] went out with their cameras towards the UFO. I had a chance to hold [the film] up to the window to look at it. Good close-up shots. There was no doubt in my mind that it was someplace other than on this Earth."

● **Former Chief of Defense, British Royal Navy, Admiral Lord Hill-Norton:** "I have frequently been asked why a person of my background - a former Chief of the Defense Staff, a former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee - why I think there is a cover-up [of] the facts about UFOs. I believe governments fear that if they did disclose those facts, people would panic. I don't believe that at all. There is a serious possibility that we are being visited by people from outer space. It behoves us to find out who

they are, where they come from, and what they want."

● **FAA Division Chief of Accidents and Investigations, John Callahan:** "The UFO was bouncing around the 747. [It] was a huge ball with lights running around it. Well, I've been involved in a lot of cover-ups with the FAA. When we gave the presentation to the Reagan staff, they had all those people swear that this never happened. But they

(continued on page 5)

never had me swear it never happened. I can tell you what I've seen with my own eyes. I've got a videotape. I've got the voice tape. I've got the reports that were filed that will confirm what I've been telling you."

● **Former Director of CIA, Admiral RH Hillenkoetter:** "Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel."

Marine Corps, Corporal Jonathan Weygandt: "[The UFO] was buried in the side of a cliff. When I first saw it, I was scared. I think the creatures calmed me... [Later] I was arrested [by an Air Force officer]. He was saying, "Do you like the Constitution?" I'm like: "Yeah." He said: "We don't obey. We just do what we want. And if you tell anybody [about us or the UFO], you will just come up missing."

CATHOLIC HERALD, London, England - Aug. 1, 2003

Paperbacks

UFO Religions, edited by Christopher Partridge, Routledge £14.99. Last year, the Raelian cult announced that it has successfully cloned the first human baby. The claim may have been bogus, but it threw a spotlight on a bizarre aspect of the modern religious landscape: the UFO cult. This collection of essays looks at groups based around UFO beliefs, together with the incorporation of UFO themes into other religious traditions and the spiritual aspects of belief in alien abductions. It asks: Why are people so ready to believe that the truth is really "out there"? Does the image of the extra-terrestrial ever inspire love, as opposed to fundamentalism and violence? Many UFO groups teach that the end of the world is approaching; in one famous case, the suicide of the Heaven's Gate believers, this conviction led to a terrible act of self-destruction. A valuable book, highly recommended.

MEDWAY NEWS, Kent, England - June 27, 2003



If only Big Brother was about to disappear

WHILE half the nation is watching Big Brother, it's just possible that Big Brother is watching us.

That's in Medway anyway. Well, Maidstone Road, Rainham, to be precise.

Young mum Kelly Humphrey, who reported seeing a UFO last week, described it as a big orange pulsating blob hovering above the trees.

Even more intriguing, it was surrounded by coloured flashing lights which looked like the logo from the Channel 4 reality TV programme.

And to back up her story, there were other witnesses - her retired civil servant dad and the family dog.

In the best tradition of extra-terrestrial tales, Kelly took pictures, but the whole film, including conventional shots, came out blank. Spooky!

The whole mysterious business leads me to ponder just why Rainham appears to be establishing itself as the UFO capital of Kent.

In February, our sister paper, the *Medway Standard*, reported two sightings in one night - both in that area.

One of these versions sounds fairly similar to Kelly's, as the craft was round and pulsating and sent out beams of light.

This one grew to four times its original size before it suddenly disappeared.

If only we could say the same of *Big Brother*.

HERALD, Tamworth, England - Dec. 11, 2003

Did anyone else see this 'UFO'?

■ I WAS out walking my dog last Monday morning (December 1) at about 1am. I was just passing the back of the Riversmeet Vets and the car park by Stanhope House, when my dog started to bark and look upwards.

At first I saw nothing, but his

continual barking made me stand still.

What I saw next is a mystery. My first thoughts were 'God, that's a big bubble'.

I was standing about 20 to 25 yards away and what I saw was about two feet in diameter, trans-

parent and had two bright lights in the centre.

It seemed to be floating at about 10-15 miles per hour.

It stopped in the centre of the car park, hovering at about 15 feet high, and then moved silently on, again very slowly.

The bubble seemed to be rolling and changing shape, but the lights never left the centre.

I was wondering if any other *Herald* readers were out that night and saw anything?

■ **Bemused Resident** (name and address supplied).

Rayne man would love to discover what it was he filmed

UFO footage gets television showing

Is Michael Howard the Tories' unidentified flying objective?

WHAT Michael Howard seems to have omitted in his New Year declaration was "I believe in UFOs".

But the Tory leader has been outed in this month's *UFO Magazine* after a six-year cover-up by Central Office worthy of *The X Files*.

Sarah Hall, a reporter with the *Folkestone Herald*, was travelling along Donkey Lane in Lymphe on 8 March, 1997, when she heard a weird humming sound coming from Howard's Kent home. Nothing strange about that you may think, but above it was hovering a UFO. Hall wrote a story for her paper only for Howard's agent, Michael Buxton, to complain and stop publication of further details. Tory HQ at Smith Square were

worried also, as it was only a week before John Major announced the general election. They did not want Howard to be further associated with aliens since, as home secretary, he was supposed to be busy keeping them out of the country.

All this may explain the telescope Howard keeps in his study which he laughed off when appointed Tory leader as so "he can keep an eye on France" across the Channel.

But in Kent many are convinced there has been an invasion of the bodysnatchers. One need only look up the road to the Dover constituency, home to the Vulcan, John Redwood.

Meanwhile look out for a new Tory slogan: "The Truth is out there".

VIDEO footage of an unidentified flying object has been shown on ITV's popular *This Morning* programme.

The show was running a series of programmes on the unexplained but did not offer any explanations to the man who made the video, Karl Johansen, 28, who lives at Rayne.

On four separate occasions over an 18-day period, he says he filmed a silver-coloured, long, oval-type object hovering in the sky near his home.

He works in London doing hours which mean he returns home in the early hours of the morning.

It was on such a clear day that Mr Johansen noticed something unusual in the sky.

"I was driving home as usual when I saw something strange in the sky. I thought it was a star but noticed there were no other stars still visible."

He arrived home, got his video camera and filmed the object for six minutes.

by MARK APPLIN

mark.applin@thisisessex.co.uk

Mr Johansen said during the time the silver object was stationary in the sky before turning 98 degrees both left and right.

He said: "I just want someone to show that it is real. I don't mind what it is or what it's not."

His wife Faye, 27, added: "We've shown all the neighbours and they cannot explain it either."

Mr Johansen caught the moment when the object simply vanished from view and has not seen it again.

"It appeared to do a figure of six then shot off vertically and out of sight. I always take a video camera out with me now just in case," he said.

Mr Johansen has an unwavering belief that what he saw and filmed was an unidentified flying object and would dearly like to find out what it is.

Fooled by the great UFO hoax? No way, we're not village idiots



Sky lark: The Channel 4 UFO over Wiltshire from the hoax programme

By Tristan Cork
t.cork@bepp.co.uk

PEOPLE in a West village cried foul last night amid claims a TV documentary made them out to be gullible idiots. Villagers in Avebury had eagerly awaited a documentary which showed attempts to build and fly a UFO over their famous stone circle – only to discover they had been the victims of not one, but two hoaxes.

For the Channel 4 programme, A Very British UFO Hoax, did not exactly tell the whole story of what went on at the Red Lion pub back on a balmy Saturday in late August.

In fact, angry residents claim, viewers got the distinct impression the entire population of the Wiltshire village was fooled by the 25ft silver balloon, and that no one rumoured the dozen or so "crew" members controlling the craft from the ground.

But as the Western Daily Press revealed only days after the programme was shot, drinkers at the Red Lion not only knew immediately it was a fake, but also watched it crash land, and confronted the programme-makers on the spot.

This week, any reference to that somehow ended up on the cutting-room floor at Channel 4 – and viewers were treated to regulars being interviewed about what they saw, rather than what they thought it was.

As reported in the Daily Press, the saga began when regulars at the Red Lion saw a silver flying saucer float over at about 8pm on Saturday August 23.

Cellarman David Williams said no one was fooled: "My immediate reaction was this was a microlight engine, wrapped in a balloon of some sort."

"There was no one here who



David Williams: Nobody was fooled

thought for more than a split second that it was a real UFO, that little green men were on board.

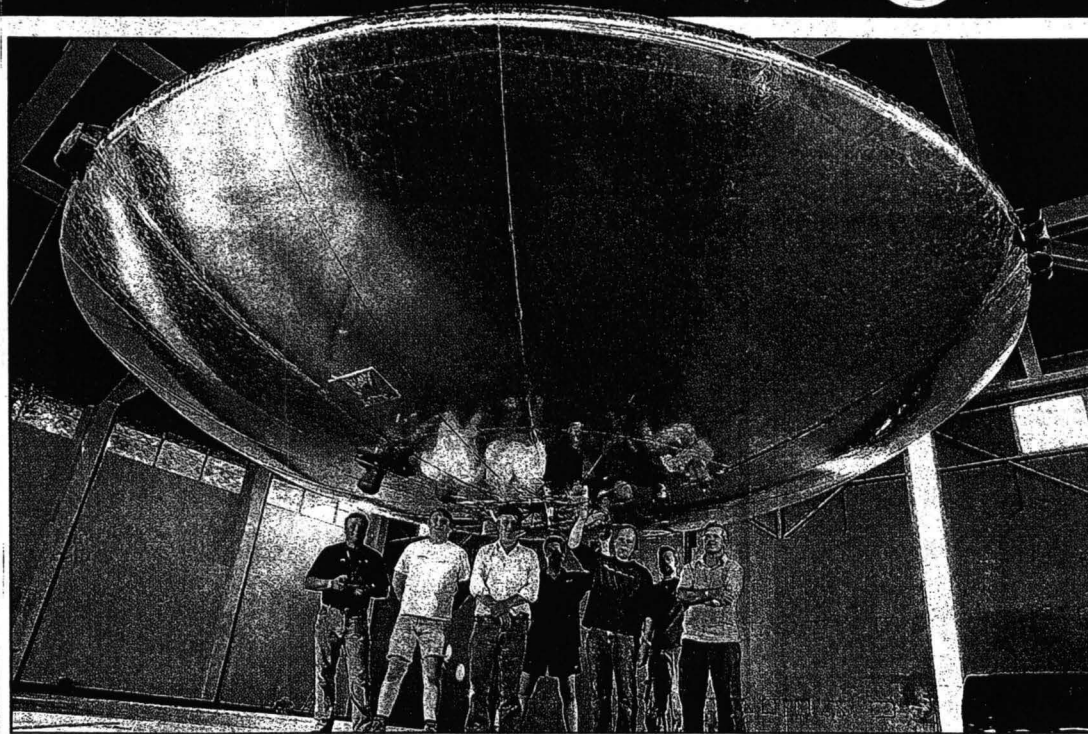
"A couple of lads here followed it and came back saying they'd seen it being bundled into the back of a van."

"Now most aliens don't have

their own Transit vans as far as I know. The programme seemed to have its tail-end missing. The question 'what did people think it was?' was not asked," said Mr Williams. "A few people have been in already today and said that it made it look as though we were all fooled, and that was not the case."

Yesterday, one regular, Paul Cummings, said Avebury had been a victim of clever editing. "They took out the bits where people said they never believed it for a second."

"How they did it was very clever. People spoke to the camera for a couple of minutes, described what they saw for 10 seconds and then



Sore point: Channel 4's crew with the saucer in its hangar and, above, model-makers Nigel Blake and Robbie Scott, whose silver balloon fooled nobody on the ground



Likely story: The Western Daily Press's original report on the Channel 4 hoax, above left, and right, the village of Avebury with its famous stone circle



friend and watched it crash land. Instead, viewers were told the landing and the "escape" of the hoaxers went "without a hitch".

In fact, JP and half the village had arrived at the crash site to watch the craft being packed up.

He said: "We knew from the very start it was a hoax. We got to where it landed and it was on its side in a ditch. These blokes with walkie-talkies were running around, and we asked them what was going on. They were reluctant to say anything."

"People here are a bit upset they didn't look at the reaction of the locals more. But then, that would have spoiled the whole thing for them."

The programme then covered the media "frenzy" that had developed – but strangely did not show the Western Daily Press, which told how villagers were not fooled for a minute.

Channel 4 declined to comment last night.

said 'but I knew it wasn't real', and each time they cut the tape before the word 'but' came in.

"What gave it away to us was the sound the thing made, the fact it was put away in a van after it crashed and the fact a TV crew arrived minutes later. No one was fooled."

"Obviously what they wanted to

do was show the hoax worked, even though it didn't. They were so chuffed at pulling this stunt off, they didn't care that everyone looks a complete and utter idiot."

Villagers are also unhappy that regular John 'JP' Pearce was not mentioned by the programme, even though he followed the craft with a

Boom in sightings of UFOs in region

By John Revill
john_revill@mrn.co.uk

Aliens have landed on Earth and are already flying around Worcestershire and Birmingham, it has been claimed.

But instead of little green men, a wave of strange shapes and lights have been seen in the region this year, according to UFO expert Michael Soper.

Contact International, an organisation which records and researches unexplained sightings, has already logged almost 50 separate sightings in the region this year.

A particular busy time came at the end of May, and then in early August when ten "objects" were seen.

Last month, a couple gardening at their home in Erdington, Birmingham, logged one of the most recent sightings.

Although sceptical about some of the claims, Mr Soper, who is spokesman for Contact International, is convinced many are real.

He said: "A man who was out mowing his lawn saw a bright light in the sky moving at a constant height in a north-westerly direction from the city centre."

"He called his wife to verify it and she too saw it. It was silent, had no trail or sparks, and was continuously changing shape."

"First it was a dot, then a line, and then other shapes. This was just the latest in series of sightings in the Midlands this year."

"There's been a major wave of UFO reports in the area, more so

than the rest of the country combined."

Among the other sightings have been triangular shaped objects hovering in the Broad Street area of Birmingham before heading northwards on May 31.

Meanwhile other reports came from Stourport, Kidderminster and Worcester of a series of strange lights moving around at great speed.

"These were all made by people of sound mind, who were not drunk," said Mr Soper, who believes the increase in reports is linked to the reduction in prejudice against people who think they have "seen" UFOs.

Mr Soper told of his first sighting as a teenage schoolboy in Malvern in 1960.

He said: "During a walk I noticed a Valiant bomber flying in the sky, and about two aircraft lengths ahead of it was a small silver disc, about a fifth of the plane's size."

Mr Soper said many of the recent surge in reports could also be due to conditions in space, particularly violent storms on the sun.

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

IT'S A WEIRD UNIVERSE WE LIVE IN...AND ARE WE ALONE? TODAY LAURA KENNERLEY STARTS HER WEEK-LONG LOOK AT THE STRANGE SIDE WITH A TALE OF ABDUCTION

Captured on film: The flying 'rods'



STRANGE SIGHT: A 'rod' captured on video during the recent Gulf War

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's...a rod.

These strange creatures have been recorded shooting across the sky at speeds barely detectable to the naked eye.

They are anything from four inches to a few feet long, cylindrical, a burning yellow colour and totally unexplained.

UFO hunters have put forward theories and sceptics have tried to explain the phenomenon away. But these objects still keep appearing on video footage and even still photographs.

One of the most recent sightings occurred in coverage recorded by CNN of the night sky over Baghdad during the latest Gulf War.

But sightings of these strange shooting columns are not just confined to the skies above exotic climes.

They have been recorded darting before the clouds in Britain and even Lancashire.

Rob Whitehead, co-ordinator of the Lancashire Aerial Phenomenon Investigation Society, LAPIS, has been searching for and recording evidence of rods for the last seven years. Along with other members of LAPIS Rob, equipped with his camcorder, heads off to some of Britain's rod hot spots to investigate the phenomenon.

He said that rods were first discovered in 1994 by American Jose Escamilla.

Many sceptics believe that if, as investigators say, the rods are not a new phenomenon, they should have been seen before 1994.

But investigators say the reason they have suddenly become aware of the existence of rods is because of the advance of technology.

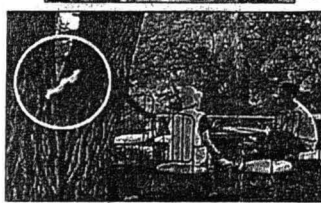
It was not until people started using camcorders that these creatures came to light. It is only by pausing the film that they can be clearly visible to most.

Rob, 36, a graphic designer, said: "Most people have camcorders and will have got these rods on tape without even realising it because of the speed that they travel at."

"They only appear in about three frames or one second of film. You have to pause it to get a good look at them."

Experts like Rob have trained their eyes to see these rods without the aid of technology.

He became a member of LAPIS after watching a programme about them and said: "I saw a documentary of Jose Escamilla, the man who discovered rods, in 1994. I thought: 'This is different to anything else I have ever seen before.'"



ON THE TRAIL: Above - Researcher Rob Whitehead and, below, a 'rod' seen in Korea

"I knew he was on to something, so I just started doing more and more research and eventually I ended up speaking to Jose. We started e-mailing and in 1999 we invited him over from America to do a speech."

Rob said the main theory about these creatures is that they are insects.

"Rods appear to be some kind of strange undiscovered life form, possibly related to insects."

He says they think insects evolved in two very distinct ways: one was in the way that we know - creating flies, ants and other common creatures. While the other strand developed into rods. They think rods are soft bodied creatures. This means that when they die they do not leave a skeleton, but biodegrade quite quickly, like jellyfish, or get eaten.

The most common time to see a rod is at dusk as the sun is setting, the time when most other insects come out to feed.

They believe that rods may feed off other insects.

"I personally think it will be explained by science and can be. At the moment science is a little bit in the dark and we do not really know anything about them."

This is partly explained by the fact that a body has yet to be recovered.

But despite this fact investigators are carrying out the most scientific research that they can.

Rob and his colleague from LAPIS are planning their next rod hunt at Middleton in Teesdale, in Durham, which is home to the highest waterfall in Britain and a very high proportion of rod sightings.

When they do go on this hunt Rob will employ a tried and tested process to track them down. He said that it is essential to set the camcorder tripod up at a 45° angle, then find what would be 12 o'clock. Film this position for 10 minutes then move the camcorder to a one o'clock position and film. This process should be repeated until a full 360 degree rotation has been completed.

Anyone who would like to report a sighting or find out more should contact Janet on 01253 890601 or go to one of the group's meetings which take place at 8pm on the last Thursday of every month at The Guards Club, opposite The Bellevue, Whitegate Drive, Blackpool.



THEY'RE HERE: Mary Carter transfixed by the searing light in Lancaster

Posed by mc

WHEN Mary Carter saw lights flashing outside her home she did not think twice about going to investigate.

To her surprise, when she left her living room on Percy Road, Lancaster, and went outside to have a look, she discovered the twinkling lights were coming from a low flying aircraft.

A couple of minutes later the lights were gone and she went back into her house.

But to her absolute astonishment Mary realised that she had been outside for 50 minutes, not just the two that she thought.

Mary, a nurse, could not explain what had happened to make so much time vanish.

For years the mystery nagged at her leaving her with a great sense of uneasiness.

Visions drifted in and out of her mind. She felt she had been cut, had something placed on her forehead and had floated in the air.

She thought she would never unravel the mystery surrounding the events on that chilling Saturday night.

That was until she got in contact with supernatural author Peter Hough, who was chairman of the Northern Anomalies Research Organisation.

When Peter heard Mary's story he agreed to help her and suggested hypnosis as a way to unlock any suppressed and trapped memories.

Peter, from Leigh, near Wigan, has been a writer, researcher and investigator of the unexplained for more than 20 years and accompanied Mary through her journey of discovery.

"When I first went to see her she had a problem and the problem was that she had this very strange



In some respects the story that unfolded particularly under hypnosis was fairly typical of abduction cases that have emerged around the world...



BEAM ME UP: As seen in the UFO film Fire In The Sky

experience a few years previously and it had been niggling away at her over the years. She knew there was more to remember, she wanted some sort of closure on it and she thought I could give her some answers.

"She was hoping I would be able to tell her it was all a fantasy or an illusion, which is interesting."

"Most people not involved in the subject assume people like me want to believe in what has happened, but it is quite the reverse."

Mary underwent three sessions of hypnosis, with Peter at her side.

"In some respects this brought elements to life which had previously been vanished."

The details these sessions brought to light shocked Peter and left Mary even more uncomfortable and traumatised.

During the sessions, she talks about small people dressed in silver with slitted eyes appearing before her.

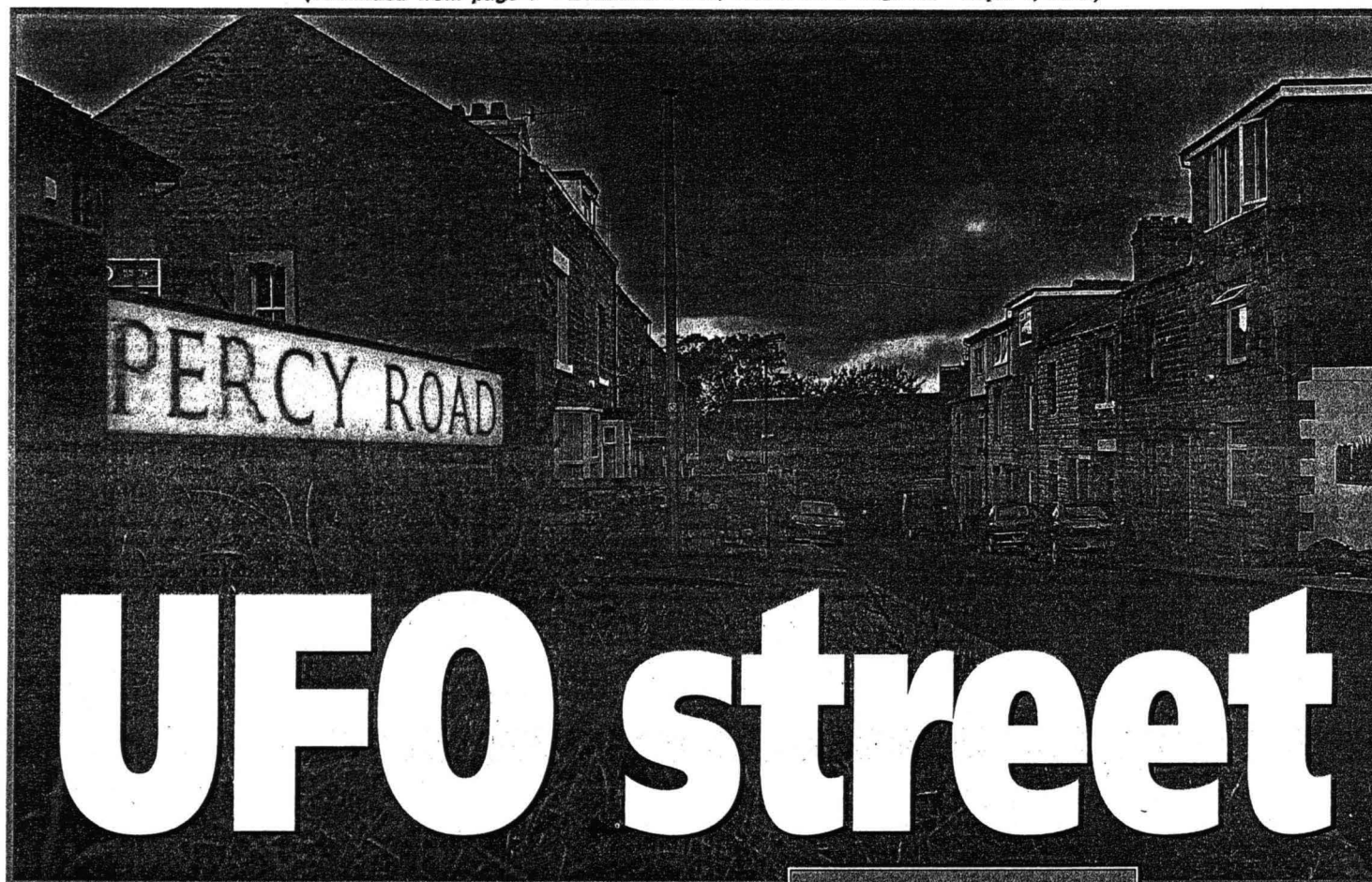
She remembered standing on her doorstep, then being paralysed, enveloped in a beam of light and finding herself in a strange room, lying on a table.

She then described a series of medical experiments being carried out on her. Wires were attached to



INSECT OR ALIEN LIFE FORM?: A picture of a 'rod'

(continued on page 8)



UFO street

Mary recalled a strange beam of light and medical tests by little men with slitted eyes dressed in silver

her forehead, blood was taken from behind her ear and her palm print was recorded.

While Mary found all of this disturbing, it was nothing compared to what she revealed in the final session.

Peter explained that she said that this had all been happening since she was a baby and that the abductions had taken place every four years or so.

The hypnosis was stopped as it was becoming too distressing for Mary, who was determined not to believe what she was saying was true.

WAS THIS MARY'S KIDNAPPER? A model of a slitted eyed alien. These creatures, often described as 'greys', have been reported throughout the world

Peter says that some people are keen to simply say they have been abducted by extraterrestrials while others will say it is all a dream.

"The thing about hypnosis is that it does not act as a truth drug.

"I always tell people it does not necessarily give the objective truth it shows what you believed happened to you, not necessarily what actually happened.

"It is a usual tool to use when you are investigating a case like this.

"Quite often it does fill in the gaps, in some cases people feel better because they now know what happened during their missing time.

"What is usually worse is not knowing at all.

"In Mary's case I did try and see if anybody else remembered anything about what happened, but we did not get anything.

"That is what usually happens when there has been a large passage of time.

"The way I go about investigating is to take every case on its merits.

"Quite often people report seeing a UFO and at least 90% of the time they have seen aircraft landing lights, weather balloons - people do misidentify things a lot."

In Mary's case the events that she described had a ring of truth to them.

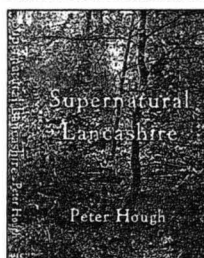
"In some respects the story that unfolded particularly under hypnosis was fairly typical of abduction cases that have emerged around the world.

"It was not a great surprise. It has a lot of common elements to it including missing time, undergoing some kind of medical exam and the feeling of paralysis."

e-mail: laura.kennerley@lep.co.uk



FLYING SAUCER: Actual footage of an alleged UFO



● To learn more about Mary's story read **Supernatural Lancashire** by Peter Hough (both pictured above) published by Robert Hale

What was it that hit our roof?

MARY and Keith Hutchins were just sitting quietly watching TV when they heard a loud thud on their roof.

When they went outside to investigate they could not believe their eyes. An Unidentified Flying Object had landed on their roof. The object, a piece of metal, had been embedded in the roof of their chalet home. Mary and Keith were baffled about where the object had come from.

Mary said: "At first we thought it must have been thrown from the children's play area next door. But when we saw how far it had struck the roof we realised there was no way the object could have been thrown. It had to have fallen from a great height for it to stick in the roof like that."

They contacted Blackpool Airport to find out if a plane had been flying overhead and could have dropped the metal.

But the trail was cold. "We were lucky it hit the roof and not someone's head. It could have killed somebody if it had hit them."

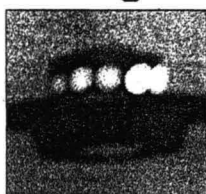
Shed some light on this mystery in our skies

I AM writing to you regarding the sighting of lights I saw over Fleetwood the other week.

I was going to my car when I saw the lights moving.

I went across the road to my neighbour's to confirm what I saw. She came out of her home, looked up and saw the lights had stopped. Her partner came home in his car and asked what was wrong. When we told him, he also saw them.

I have since spoken to a



LIGHTS MYSTERY: Are they UFOs?

few people and they also saw the lights.

On the night it happened, I phoned Blackpool Airport,

but I got no reply from anyone.

I then phoned Warton Aerodrome and spoke to a lady. She informed me that they didn't have any aircraft up that night. Also the police helicopter was "in bed".

I told her I knew what the police helicopter looked like, having seen it at night while working at Rossall Hospital.

They were not a plane as I know them, as the lights were all one colour, none were flashing and there was

no noise - planes don't stay in one place, as they did.

This is not the first or only time I have seen the same sort of lights.

Last year on Chatsworth Avenue many people saw the lights in daylight.

I also saw two lights while in my car near St George's playing fields a few months earlier, also in daylight.

Of the three times I have seen the lights, other people have also seen them.

I think as so many people around Fleetwood have seen them. Can someone really shed some light on what is happening, it is in everyone's interest to come clean.

I know that a lot of things go on that the general public are not told about, but I feel that what is happening could in the long term cause fear and panic.

So come on - whoever knows let us know.

Mrs Valerie Smithson
Burnside Avenue
Fleetwood

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - Aug. 8, 2003

UFO group witness call

A UFO group is looking for more sightings of a mysterious object in the skies above Birmingham.

Contact International UFO Research has had eight reports of a slow-moving, cigar-shaped object over Sparkhill and Erdington on Saturday evening.

Spokesman Michael Soper said: "We need more people to contact us to help give us a clear idea of the trajectory of the object."

The group can be contacted on 01865 726908.

UFO spotters say we in Hyndburn are not alone

WE are not alone ... and many people in Hyndburn believe that. Sightings of strange craft have been reported over the borough for many years and one of the most famous cases of alien visitation occurred at Baxenden Golf Club in July 1988.

Four golfers discovered four burn marks scorched in the rough near the third green after a motorist claimed he saw bright lights in the sky above the club.

The marks were dismissed as an elaborate hoax by London-based astronomer Ian Ridpath, who said: "It would be nice to think of beings from other planets coming here but I don't think they've landed yet."

However, the scared motorist begged to differ as when he drove underneath the object his car slowed down and his headlights began to dip and fade.

The Coppice has proved to be a real hot-spot for UFO sightings down through the years, with several stories appearing in the pages of the *Observer*.

In January 1984, Mrs Alice Moon, of Burnley Road, Huncoat, spotted a bright white light hovering over a clump of trees on the hill. She said: "I looked out of the window and

by Jonathon Dillon

there it was, shimmering just above the tree line of the Coppice.

"As I stood there a cloud passed in front of it and it was so bright the light shone right through the cloud."

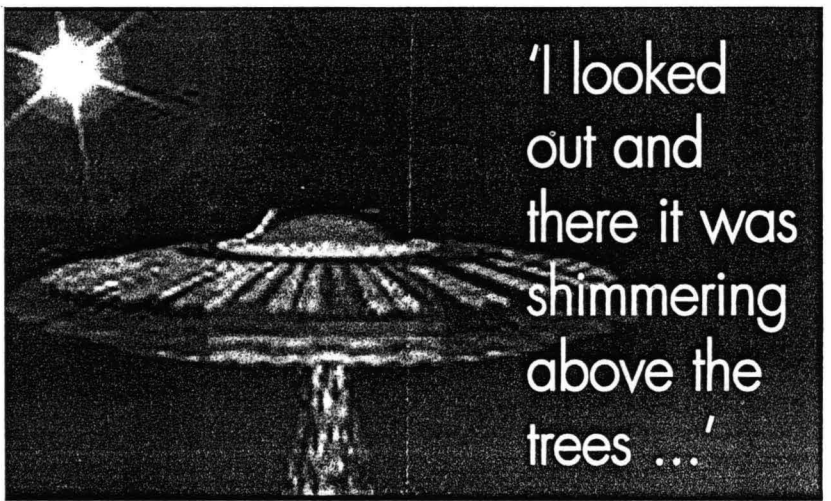
Her neighbour Nelly Holgate, who lived around the corner at Moorfield Avenue, witnessed the phenomenon on several occasions.

She said: "I've seen it regularly for the past two years, hovering like an enormous star over the Coppice. I always see it in winter and one thing I've noticed is that everything is still around it."

Her daughter, Sandra Mason, of Water Street, Accrington, was left shaken when her car was bathed in bright white light while driving along Burnley Road with her mum. She said: "It seems logical that people from other planets should want to observe us."

Another witness, Mr Raymond Broderick, of Devonshire Street, Accrington, who later became a UFO investigator, also had his fair share of close encounters.

He claims to have seen a triangular shaped object on the moors near Colne and also spotted a saucer-shaped craft with a blue dome and orangy-yellow base over the Coppice.



'I looked out and there it was shimmering above the trees ...'

This year, the strange sightings even led to an artist designing a space-age disc to be placed on top of the Coppice in a bid to draw more tourists to the area just like America's famed Area 51.

However, Hyndburn Council leader Peter Britcliffe vetoed the idea after an *Observer* phone poll found that the public wanted something more down to earth.

But sightings have continued unabated and more recently a strange black object was photographed above the former Rists factory in Charter Street, Accrington.

Engineer Arnold Fenton, of Exchange Street, Accrington, couldn't believe his eyes when he developed his pictures and is adamant there wasn't a plane, bird or helicopter in the skies at the time. He said: "My dad was sitting down to have his tea and he saw it come down from a cloud and then zoom back up again. He said: 'What's that in the sky?'"

The bizarre sightings aren't just confined to the skies. Barry Makin, of Lindadale Avenue, Accrington, has been taking pictures of strange glowing orbs in the attic at the Globe Bowling Club for several weeks and has put them on a website. Some of the spheres even appear to have ghostly faces inside them.

So next time you look up at the sky and see a shooting star or a plane, ask yourself are we really alone in the universe?

A MYSTERIOUS object hovers over the former Rists factory on Charter Street, Accrington.



WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Nov. 14, 2003

More than 200 police officers have reported seeing UFOs in 50 years

The boys in blue and their little green men

By Erin Dean
e.dean@bepp.co.uk

ELLO 'ello 'ello, what's goin' on 'ere then? There seem to be rather a lot of spaceships hovering in the West's night skies.

More than 200 police officers have come forward to say they have seen UFOs flying over the British countryside, a detective revealed yesterday.

And according to the bobbies' X-files experiences, for the past 50 years the West has been a buzzing hotspot for extra-terrestrial activity.

One of the first recorded incidents out of the 84 recorded on the Prufos (Police Reporting UFO Sightings) website, comes from 1963 when PC Anthony Penny, on duty and wearing his uniform, saw an orange shape zoom over the sky and disappear into a field.

A few days later, when a large crater was found in the meadow, a bomb disposal team was sent to investigate, and the incident was even mentioned in Parliament.

Cigar-shaped flying saucer

Det Con Gary Heseltine, who works for the British Transport Police in Leeds and runs the database, feels the sightings are particularly credible because they all come from serving or retired officers.

"To my logical, police-trained mind, the officers provide excellent witness testimony promoting the 'nuts and bolts' evidence that supports the extra-terrestrial hypothesis," he wrote in a special report for this month's *UFO Magazine*.

And yesterday, the 43-year-old said he believed the sightings were only the tip of the iceberg.

"Many officers are worried about saying anything in case it affects their jobs or careers. That's why many sightings are only reported to me after officers have retired or if there are multiple sightings that several officers have seen," he said. "The police are trained observers, they are out 24 hours a day."

A firm believer in extra-terrestrial life, Det Con Heseltine has himself had two

UFO experiences. But one of the most dramatic brushes with a UFO was reported by two off-duty policemen at dusk on an October day in 1967, in Lytchett Minster, Dorset.

A large cigar-shaped spaceship, that was changing colour and form, was hovering over the village. As they watched, it split in two, disappeared and reappeared, and then shot from view.

And PC Roger Willey was one of two officers in a patrol car who reported giving chase to a cross-shaped spaceship in Okehampton, Devon. Their official report filed after the flying saucer sighting said it hovered over Salisbury in Wiltshire for almost a minute.

Giant that filled the night sky

ON a clear night in 1978, three uniformed officers were driving through the countryside when they saw a huge shape appear in the sky.

As they watched, a UFO that seemed to be the size of a football field moved towards them.

According to their reports, it was only flying at 500ft and projected a giant beam of light on to the ground. When it was a quarter of a mile away smaller objects appeared to come out of it and started flying around the spaceship.

One of the most strange things, they said later, was that the craft was completely silent.

After the officers, from the Thame area of Buckinghamshire, had watched it for more than five minutes it suddenly disappeared from view - and as suddenly as if someone had turned out the light.



JOHN SAYER: Pictured here in a crop circle – what do they mean and where do they come from?

Cryptic messages in the crops...

LANCASHIRE was enjoying a long hot summer, much like this one, when they appeared as if out of nowhere.

Crop circles, an unexplained phenomena which usually appear in fields down south, were found scattered across the countryside.

Theories that they were man-made, caused by bolts of lightning, an underground seismic effect or even UFOs have all been put forward.

But no-one has ever managed to present any conclusive evidence to explain why in the summers of 1995 and 1996 Lancashire became a hotbed of crop formation activity.

Investigator John Sayer, who is editor of crop circle magazine *The Cerealologist*, has diagrams and reports about all the crop circles and formations found in Lancashire over the years.

He opened up his records to the Evening Post.

They reveal the first formation was discovered in oil seed rape in a field in Charnock Richard on April 21 1995.

This formation was the first one to appear that year anywhere in Britain. It was made up of five circles ranging from 18ft down to 6ft.

Later in the summer a further formation was found in a barley field in Mawdesley, near Chorley. Its overall diameter was a staggering 90ft.

A month later another appeared in Mawdesley. This time it was just 50ft in diameter. These finds were undoubtedly interesting, but they were nothing compared to the circle which was discovered at Sollum, near Southport. The night before this 200ft feature was found, people reported seeing strobe lights

LOCAL CIRCLES

Pictured left, top to bottom, are the shapes of crop circles and more intricate diagrams seen in Lancashire over the last decade in Sollum near Southport, Mawdesley and Charnock Richard

over nearby Harrack Hill. A year later on May 22 1996 a 54ft circle with a tapering path leading to a smaller circle was again found in Sollum.

Other circles appeared in a field opposite Warner Brothers Cinema in Walton-le-Dale, the largest of which was an amazing 200ft wide. A similar circle had been discovered two years earlier in almost the same position.

Another 50ft circle appeared in a wheatfield in Preston.

John, who has been researching crop circles for 13 years, says it is not unusual for areas to become hotspots of activity then experience a number of quiet years.

He explains: "There are some areas where they might appear frequently, but not every year in a row. Quite often when one appears, others will be found at later dates."

Meditate

He also says it is quite easy to determine whether a circle or formation is man-made and he believes some of those found in Lancashire might have been.

He says some people will use dowsing-rods or sit and meditate in the circle, but he prefers to examine the physical evidence to determine whether a circle is man-made.

"One of the problems with man-made circles is that you will find the crop is crushed down, by a board or foot, which causes damage to the crop."

It is when there is no physical damage to the crops or any other evidence of interference that things really start to get interesting.

"To this day we still do not know what they are. Personally I support the UFO phenomenon theory," he said.

John does not believe that the circles are made by UFOs landing, but he does believe they play a part in the creation of the circles.

Mystery lights...

A GLANCE up into the clear blue sky could leave you with shivers running down your spine.

For flashing around between the clouds are streams of unexplained objects.

Onlookers could catch a glance of a mysterious light formation, a strange triangle or one of the unusual pillars that have been recorded above Lancashire.

Mysterious light formations were seen blazing in the night sky above Fleetwood.

Hundreds of people reported seeing the lights on at least five separate occasions.

The Lancashire Aerial Investigation Phenomenon Society were fascinated by the sightings.

Rob Whitehead, Lapis co-ordinator, said they were the biggest phenomenon the organisation has dealt with in its 15 years.

The sightings, which took place in 2001, were generally of a number of lights in formation – they were even captured on video.

Janet Walkey of the Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society, explained: "They appeared to be generally a number of lights in formation."

"The formation changes but the common threads are there in all the sightings."

While these strange light formations were baffling, they were not as puzzling as the appearance of triangle shaped objects in the sky above Morecambe Bay, Southport and the Ribble Estuary or the strange pillars that appeared in the sky in Blackpool. When the objects were first spotted above Morecambe Bay, paranormal investigator, Simon Lewis, visited the seaside resort.

He explained: "Here in Morecambe, we had five sightings of same triangular object, which measured the size of a football pitch."

"These five sightings were separate and were all made by people of repute."

"I would never use the phrase flying saucer. Most of the object which have been seen are triangular or like a rugby ball or cigar-shaped."

Experts believe many of these objects will be aircraft.

Rob Whitehead from LAPIS explained: "At the end of the day these physical areas are quite sparsely populated and boast big expanses of sea, so if aerospace companies or the military want to test new technology it is a good place to do it."

But this explanation does not resolve all of the sightings.

Some could be could be natural phenomena, including Earth-lights.

These are balls of light thought to be caused by the intense magnetic fields in the tectonic plates under the Earth's crust which are forced up in an energetic manner.

Other phenomenon could be explained by the weather.

It's out there, but what is it?



Strange events – reporter Mark Applin studies video footage shot by Karl Johansen of a silver, oval object he says was hovering in the sky near his home.

28132-2

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England - Nov. 21, 2003

Hunt for expert in local UFO sightings

AN unusual appeal to find a UFO expert from the 1950s has been issued by Torbay's Investigators of the Paranormal.

The society is trying to track down former Paigntonian AW Bearne who wrote a book called "Flying Saucers of the West" after he saw a UFO in 1950.

David Phillips of the paranormal society, which meets every Monday evening at Churston Court, said: "We have been contacted by somebody who wants to include excerpts from the book in a new electronic list of UFO sightings, but he needs to contact Mr Bearne, if he is still alive, or his family if they still live locally, to ask for copyright permission."

"AW Bearne lived at 14 Southfield Avenue, Paignton with his wife Gwendoline until the 1970s and we believe he had a daughter."

Anybody who can help can contact David Phillips (Telephone 01803 524 980).

FOR years television and newspaper reports have shown what many believe is conclusive proof that alien unidentified flying objects are out there, somewhere.

Some are convinced that every such report can be explained by terrestrial goings on.

But the most consistent aspect of all sightings is the unwavering belief shown by those that have witnessed the event.

Karl Johansen, 28, of Rayne, is sure he has witnessed UFOs. They may not have been alien craft, but he has yet to be convinced by any more mundane explanation.

During a two-week period in May 2001, he videotaped on four separate occasions, a silver oval object hovering in the sky near his home.

Mr Johansen, employed in London, works shifts that mean he returns home via the A120 in the early hours of the morning.

On a clear Saturday morning

by MARK APPLIN

Mr Johansen was returning home when he noticed something unusual.

"I was driving home as usual when I saw something strange in the sky. I thought it was a star but noticed there were no other stars still visible," he said.

On arriving home, he grabbed his video camera, went outside and recorded the UFO for six minutes.

CLEARLY

During this time the silver object, seen quite clearly on the footage, is stationary in the sky before turning 90 degrees both left and right.

Mr Johansen said: "I just want someone to show that it is real."

"I don't mind what it is, or what it's not. We showed a solicitor and other people at the time but never heard anything from

them."

Mr Johansen's wife, Faye, 27, said: "We've shown all the neighbours and they can't explain it either."

The Johansens have lived at their current address for four years and the sightings occurred only over an 18-day period.

Mr Johansen caught the moment when the UFO simply vanished from view and was never seen again.

He said: "It appeared to do a figure-of-six then shoot off vertically and out of sight. I always take a video camera out with me now, just in case."

Recently Mr Johansen contacted ITV show This Morning, which was running a series of programmes on the unexplained, and his amazing footage was broadcast.

If you, like Karl Johansen, have seen anything unexplained in the sky, contact our Braintree newsroom on 01376 343344 or write to Times Post.

HALSTEAD GAZETTE, Essex, England - May 23, 2003

Something in the air

by MARK APPLIN

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But the consistent aspect of all sightings is the belief shown by those that have witnessed the event.

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During a two-week period in May 2001, he videotaped on four separate occasions, a silver oval object hovering in the sky near his home.

Around the same time, similar sightings were seen in Earls Colne and other villages in north Essex.

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CHEADLE TIMES, Staffs., England - Jan. 21, 2004

UFO Sighted at Parkhall

A MAN claims to have seen a UFO flying over Parkhall Country Park.

At 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 17th January, Police at Chedale received a report that a UFO had been spotted hovering for twenty seconds over land at parkhall.

The Unidentified Flying Object was described as glowing bright red, shaped like a light bulb with the stem pointing to one side.

It is said to have moved off towards Leek.

The male eyewitness told police the UFO went out of sight in seconds and made no sounds.

Police checked with the air ambulance and helicopters but no-one was in the area at the time.

Manchester Air Traffic Control was also contacted but had not been made aware of anything untoward in the area.

Opportunity, the Americans' Mars rover, has confirmed that the commitment to explore the mysteries of the Red Planet remains strong. Once again, we're asking: is there life out there? Brian Paine spoke to a Kent man who's been studying the subject, particularly the mystery of UFOs, for 30 years.

Is there space for other life?

Let's get one thing straight from the start – Chris Rolfe is not convinced that aliens are visiting our planet.

The 44-year-old UFO investigator, who lives in Folkestone and has examined hundreds of sighting reports, says: "Something is going on, but we don't know what. These things are probably not extraterrestrial, they are possibly from other dimensions around us. Or it could be just a natural phenomena.

"Some scientists on the fringe are now looking at all this, but they keep it low-key because of the giggle factor. There are lots of things out there that we don't know about."

Yet, Chris, whose interest in the unexplained began as a teenager at school,

agrees with the general scientific consensus that the sheer number of planets in the vast expanse of space dictates that there must be other intelligent life: "Whether it's on Mars is difficult to say – there may be biological life – but there's no doubt that it is present somewhere else in the universe."

Shot off

A veteran of the UFOMEK group (UFO Monitors East Kent), Chris recalls the day as a 14-year-old he stood outside school with his chums and saw two white disc-like objects in the sky: "I thought my pals were looking at a couple of RAF jets that were flying over, but they said, no, look at those, pointing to the white discs. One of the objects shot off towards the Channel and a jet followed the other one.

"I had not heard about flying saucers then, but just about that time Gerry Anderson started his TV programme, UFO. One of my friends said his relatives lived in Warminster where there were a lot of strange things going on. That was where Arthur Shuttlewood, the local newspaper editor, wrote his well known book about UFOs."

So, with his interest now sky-high, young Chris started a small group at school and made contact with BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) which was formed in the Sixties and is still at the forefront of ufology.

Between 1973 and 1975, he was instrumental in setting up another organisation with the rather extravagant title of the Cosmic Society Research

Consortium. He now smiles about the name: "We called it that because we began getting contacts from France, Australia and America."

The Seventies was a period rich in flying saucer stories. Newspapers were full of them – one piece even made front page headlines in the Daily Mail. "There was a wave of sightings in Kent, around the Dover and Deal area," said Chris. "I've got cuttings from the local papers, there were some in the KM, too."

Pirate

It was around this time, however, that his interests turned sharply in a new direction: he moved into radio broadcasting, working for the pirate ship Radio Caroline. Later he headed up an English service for a station in Boulogne.

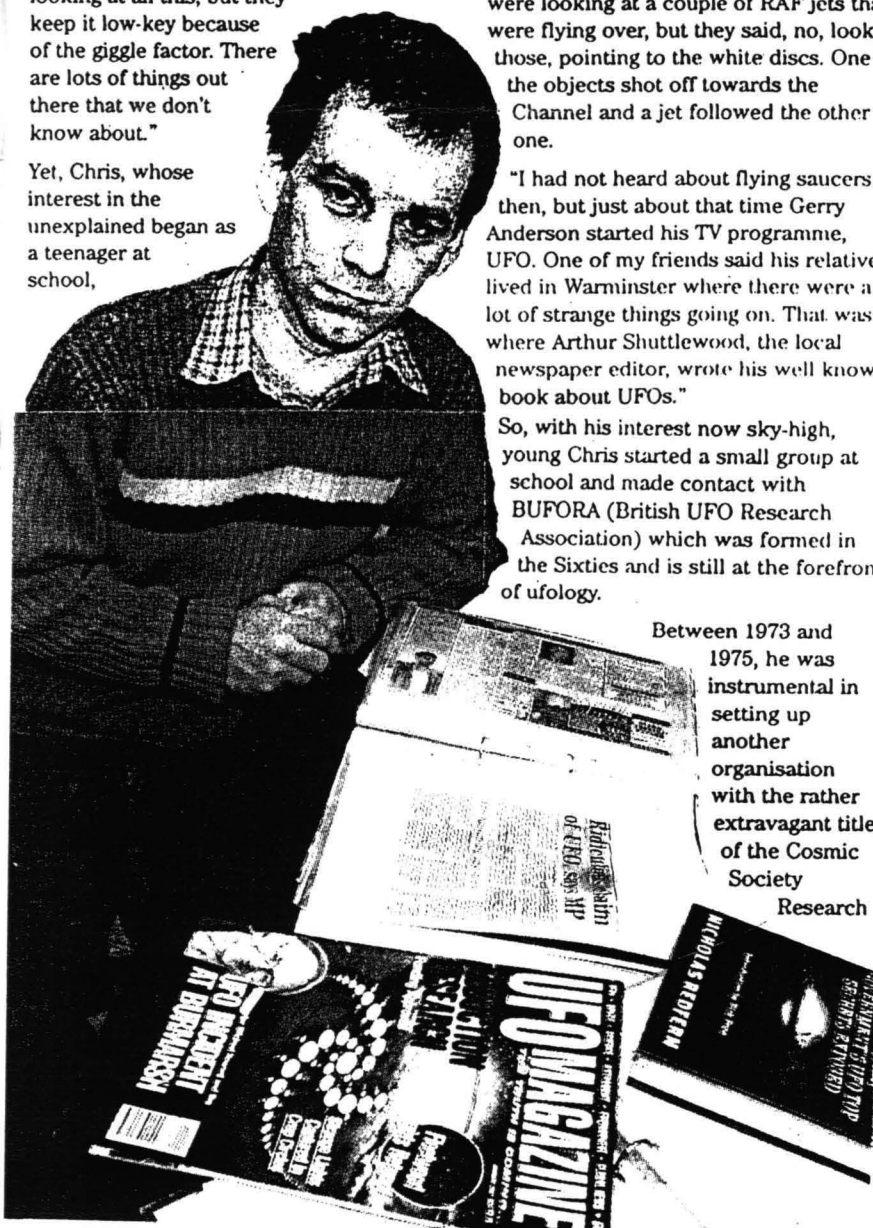
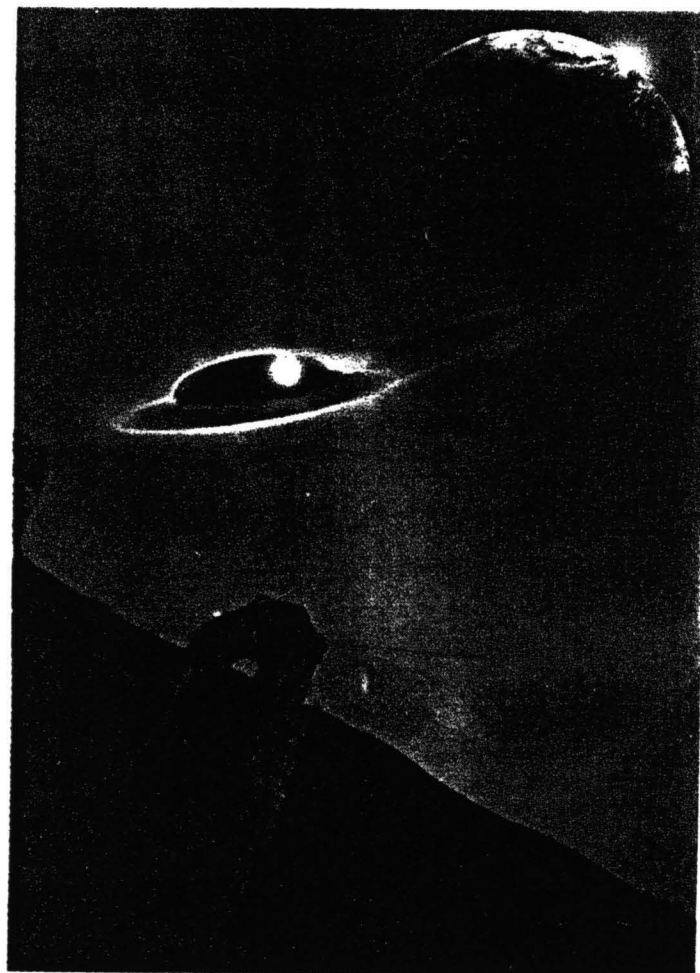
In 1983, he joined the "Voice of Peace" radio in Israel and it was not until four years later, after his return to England, that he was switched on again to the saucer mystery – by a book written by UFO investigator, Timothy Good.

UFOMEK was established and, after a decade of probing into strange reports, has now developed into a respected research unit. So, with such a fund of sightings to draw upon over the years, are there any which stand out for Chris?

"The incident on March 8, 1997, when a triangular object with lights round its rim was reported in the sky near the house of Michael Howard, now the Conservative leader," he said. "The police admitted there had been a security incident and I've got letters about it from the Home Office and MoD, but since then there have been denials.

"I think the military had something to do with it, but we never got the truth."

■ Chris Rolfe can be contacted at Ufomek@tiscali.co.uk (tel 07968 583435); UFO sightings: 0871 872 0010 (24 hrs).



■ Left: Chris Rolfe, of Folkestone, who writes and studies reports about UFOs

pic 2002

TRANSLATIONS

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

February 4, 2004 — *La Cuarta*, Santiago, Chile — Thick, Curled Hairs on Microscope; Americans Visited Buin To Hunt Monster — ***Monster Hairs Found*** — by Hector Cossio — The discovery of a fistful of hairs measuring 10 centimeters long—hard, ringleted, black on the ends and white toward the center—represent the first biological evidence of the Buin Monster. According to paranormal researchers on the trail of "Animal X", this would be its pubic hair.

Juan Berrios, the driver who ran into the beast in the lonely Santa Filomena alley on January 5, and who was unable to return to work due to the shock of the encounter, showed the evidence exclusively to *La Cuarta*. The evidence consists of a handful of hair that became ensnared on the windshield wipers of the Buin-Maipo microbus. The driver only became aware of them after reaching the Las Vertientes terminal in Viluco. The mane hair was stuck on the rubber squeegee when the creature leaped from one side of the road to another, being slightly impacted by the bus driven by Berrios.

"It was an animal I'd never seen before. It's tall, well over a meter and a half, standing at least 1.80, I would say. And its eyes weren't red—they were black," he recalled vehemently, claiming that he had 20 seconds in which to look at it in detail.

Berrios said that prior to the monster's appearance, an enormous tree limb fell to the side of the road. Seconds later, the beast jumped in front of the microbus, barely clearing the windshield.

"When I saw that something crossed my path, I hit the brakes. The animal was on the right side of my vehicle. Its muzzle was longer than a wolf's, it had a small hump on the back of its neck and had a creature in its maw. It looked at me, crouched into a fetal position and jumped, vanishing instantly," said Berrios yesterday. He returned to work only Monday and he is still unsure if he will ever go out so early again.

Upon checking his vehicle at the terminal, he noticed the hairs and kept them jealously before showing them to anyone due to the mysterious presence last weekend of a pair of foreigners who, equipped with camcorders and still cameras, photographed the site into the wee hours of the morning. "I wanted to speak with *La Cuarta* first, so they could see the evidence. I think they should be analyzed by experts," added the driver, who has still not fully recovered from the shock.

Juan Espinoza, another driver of the bus line, claimed that the foreigners were probably "gringos"—seemingly Americans—who arrived in a Jeep to determine the place where the event occurred.

"They were there until 6 in the morning. They came around, took some photos, but didn't ask any questions," said Espinoza, who was startled by their high-tech gear.

Alberto Urquiza of the GEO Group considered that the find is of great significance to the scientific world, since in the event that the hairs do belong to an unknown animal, the breach separating mystery, fantasy and reality would be considerably narrowed. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez

February 17, 2004 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — CUBA WINS AWARD FOR UFO DOCUMENTARY — Cuban producer was awarded the top award at the Vina del Mar UFO film festival, which attracted over 500 persons this weekend.

VINA DEL MAR, February 16 — "Ovnis en Cuba: 50 anos de Misterio" was the audiovisual production that won the alien statuette at the First Latin American UFO Documentary Festival, an event that ended yesterday after an intensive day of UFO projections at the Vina del Mar Municipal Theater.

Event organizers told *Terra.cl* that at least 500 people attended the event, which was organized by the AION UFO research group.

The competition had a jury made up of renowned national and international ufologists who ruled unanimously that the winning video was an audiovisual production by Antonio Cortazar, who presented hitherto unseen images taken in Havana and other island locations. Cortazar is the current vice-president of the Cuban Writers and Intellectuals Society.

Honorable mentions were given to two other productions from Brazil and Germany.

UFO buffs were able to enjoy cases collected by researcher Carlos Munoz in Punta Arenas, as well as the work of analyst Eugenio Ford, who presented CEFAA's latest computer analyses on UFO sightings in Santiago, Iquique and Vina del Mar. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

February 22, 2004 — *El Norte Digital*, Chaco, Argentina — ARGENTINA: Commotion in Saenz Pena Over an Aguara Guazu Sighting — SAENZ PENA: ALL BELIEVED IT WAS A LOBIZON, BUT IT WAS ONLY AN AGUARA GUAZU — "I saw it, I saw it ... it was huge. I don't believe in such things, but others at the '10' service station also saw it. It was a lobizon," said Francisco, a young man who yesterday evening was driving along Calle Belgrano in his small Fiat Spazio when suddenly "a dog the size of a calf crossed my path and uttered a very ugly cry. I pulled over because I was really scared," he told a radio station.

The appearance of an animal similar to a large dog in the downtown area caused a stir in this city and it wasn't long before word spread—mainly over the phone—that "the Lobizon is loose in Saenz Pena," according to the countless eyewitness stories collected by radio stations contacted by frightened locals, who claim having seen and heard a strange beast they didn't hesitate to associate with the Lobizon. "Call Professor Lopez and ask for his opinion, because it's the same creature that appeared in Concepcion del Bermejo," suggested an AM radio listener.

The alleged Lobizon appeared suddenly—who knows how—in the downtown area. Witnesses claim seeing it around the Club Accion (15th street, between 16th and 18th) and later along 11th street heading eastward, zigzagging in the vicinity of a service station.

"I was on my motorbike, about to fuel up, when I saw that the service station employee got scared and ran into the office, but I had no idea what was going on. Then I stopped the bike and heard a howl similar to that of a human, something chilling, but saw nothing until a boy told me that the Lobizon was afoot. I tried to start the motorbike but it wouldn't turn over... I almost fainted," said Alejandro Soto to an FM radio station. He works as a security guard and was heading back to his home in Barrio Puerta del Sol.

A well-known radio journalist from Barrio Santa Teresita acknowledged that the howling of local dogs "didn't let me sleep. Then I went outside and heard growls that gave me goose-flesh," he said.

Other accounts were also heard: "Why shouldn't we be afraid, when a huge dog the size of a calf, with big

ears and howling like a human [appears]?," asked Martin Caballero, who was heading home along 11th street on his bicycle, returning from a friend's house.

"This was a hairy, long-eared critter that ran very fast--I saw it! It screamed like someone was beheading it," explained Ramon Arroyo, who had just finished his work shift at that early hour of the morning.

Jorge Garcia, the director of the city's zoo, confirmed that the alleged Lobizon was a "poor harmless Aguara Guazu" that was captured after a long chase that ended at a garage on 17th street. The reason for its appearance downtown is a result of the prolonged drought that afflicts the region, explained Garcia to LT16 Radio Saenz Peña. Add to this the modification of its natural habitat, the excessive expansion of the agricultural area and the permanent modification and fragmentation of natural environments, "and the animal goes out in search of a more suitable habitat, disorientedly so, sometimes in a suburban and urban area finding an excess population of dogs, which frighten it. With every step it hears more barks, more klaxons and it begins a frightened race." This is the second time that an Aguara Guazu appears in the business district. The first was on 1st and 28th streets. "On that occasion, it ran onto the premises of a shop and we captured it without the media ever hearing about it, but don't forget that in Napenay, when one of these creatures got into a ranch house when Boca was playing the final game of the America Liberators Cup, national television showed up to film the alleged Lobizon and all that foolishness," remarked the zoo director. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 22, 2004 — *El Norte Digital*, Chaco, Argentina — ARGENTINA: WOMAN NEARLY BATTERED TO DEATH BY "IMP" — SAENZ PEÑA (Agencia) — While the generalized commotion over the appearance of an Aguara Guazu was still fresh in the public's mind, after relating it to the legendary "Lobizon," a woman and neighbors from Barrio Santa Teresita reported that a strange being, "short and black, like a dwarf," had appeared. It was linked to the legendary "Pombero," but the possibility that it could be a product of black magic was not dismissed out of hand, according to the protagonists of this case.

The only person who managed to see this alleged "Pombero" is Liliana Nieves, 26, who was allegedly assaulted by the entity. She described it as small man, completely black, that "battered her and wanted to drag her away." Until yesterday, this woman was confined in the mental ward of the 4 de Junio Hospital.

The story gains credibility because over 10 eyewitnesses agree on the events which commenced on Tuesday night, repeated on Thursday, and were expected to recur on Saturday night. And they are all the more interesting because they occurred in a neighborhood considered tranquil by its residents.

According to numerous statements collected by *Norte*, the beginning of the story must be traced to last Tuesday, when a shower of stones fell over the home located at 31st and 0000 streets in Santa Teresita. No one could see who was throwing them. "She"—meaning Liliana Nieves—"saw something ripping out mandarin and tomato plants in the back yard. She said a person ran out. This was on Tuesday. Her husband and another man who was with her gave chase," said Norma Cordoba, Liliana's sister in law, who lives on the same property as the battered woman.

"While the two of us were alone, a brick hit the roof. She told me, 'come here, there's another one,' and a shadow shot out toward the back of the property. It kept throwing stones at the roof until 4 in the morning, when I had a breakdown. They took me to the hospital because I broke down."

Nothing happened on Wednesday evening. Just when the family started to think Tuesday's ordeal was just a prank, the events repeated on Thursday night, but with more serious consequences.

"Liliana and her husband were sitting in the patio and I was in bed. Stones were hitting the roof again, and when I went out, all of my neighbors were up, because they'd heard the ruckus. The stones kept falling on my house and neighboring houses alike. All the lights were on, all of the people were in the back yard, and the stones kept falling."

The neighbors' houses are joined by a common patio filled with trees whose branches reach the ground. The alleged attack took place in back of the dwellings, and residents claim that the shower of stones came from the same area, but no assailant could be seen. "She [Liliana] went back to see who was throwing the stones. And she wouldn't come back. And we called out to her, until another man found her spread on the ground with a blow to her face, part of her eye and mouth. It's all broken [sic]."

"She says that it was a man this tall," the woman indicates the height of her waistline, "who covered her mouth, dragged her to the bushes and beat her. He let her go when he heard neighbors calling her name, when they searched for her," said the battered woman's sister in law.

"Later, when they brought her in, she fell to the floor. She asked her brother and the neighbors to remove whatever was grabbing on to her feet. They would stand her up and she would fall down as if her feet were being pulled out from under her. No one could see anything, and they rained machete blows around her. She was desperate, saying that someone was there."

The woman remained in this frenzied state until the police arrived to take her to the hospital where she remains in the Psychiatric Ward.

"She said that [it] would come back every so often, saying it wanted to take her away," according to Mario Obregon, the young woman's brother. "I would stand in front of her and would try to defend her as best I could, but I couldn't see 'it', and she would see it even more. Then a neighbor came with a crucifix to pray, and the thing came back even more. Liliana said it would grab her even more fiercely."

"This was the scene that impressed neighbors the most, because it seemed that a strange and invisible force was pushing the woman and tried to drag her away. She said it was a little man, all black, that she could see and who looked like an imp. We took her outside, because it said that it wanted to take her away and beat her."

Midday yesterday, deacon Dionisio Castagna of the San Jose Parish visited the locals, spoke to them and prayed with them, agreeing to bless their homes. The clergyman didn't question whether the event was true or not, but asked them to strengthen their faith in God and reaffirm family ties.

The police reported yesterday that around 02:00 on Friday--curiously, at the same time that the Aguara Guazu appeared in the downtown streets--they received a report from neighbors claiming that a woman had been the victim of a brick attack. Police personnel reported there and "witnessed brick shards at the site."

An hour later, the police returned to the site and undertook an operation led by deputy sheriff Aldo Fernandez, who found an unusually large number of people who claimed that the woman in question "was lifted and thrown against the wall, but we could not see who was throwing her. She was bruised and had to be hospitalized." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 23, 2004 — *El Norte Digital*, Chaco, Argentina — SAEZ PEÑA STILL IN UPROAR OVER STRANGE PHENOMENON ASSAILING WOMAN — SAENZ PEÑA (Agencia) — From midnite on Saturday until two in the morning on Sunday, residents of 31st Street and 0000 of Barrio Santa Teresita were on the lookout, fearful that the strange events that may have taken place last week would occur again. These attacks were attributed to the work of a "pombero" (imp, goblin) and black magic.

However, yesterday morning was peaceful, as it had always been in this neighborhood until the strange event shattered the habitual calm. In the meantime, the 26 year old woman at the center of the events is still hospitalized, claiming that she was attacked by a creature standing less than 1 meter tall, completely black, that struck her in the face and wanted to drag her away by her feet. Neighbors armed with sticks, machetes and daggers tried to defend her against something they couldn't see.

Even the police were alerted, and residents were told to call law enforcement again should a repetition of the events occur. Police officers reported to the scene on the evening of Thursday and early Friday morning when the entire neighborhood was turned on its ear by the alleged Pombero attack on the girl, and the shower of stones that fell on the dwellings. They [police] were also witnesses--although armed with weapons, they didn't know where to point at--of the strange "brickbatting" of the homes, according to the police report itself.

As these events occurred on Tuesday and Thursday, the fear was that they would repeat on Saturday, following the logic of one "off night" between events. But this was not the case, and locals consulted by Norte yesterday pointed out that this is due to the visit of a holy man who prayed with them in their homes. "I've come to give you some relief, not to increase your fear. And your knowledge of God must be increased, and of the value of the family itself," said deacon Dionisio Castagna of the San Jose Parish, who visited the dwellings affected by these events at the neighbors' own request. "They asked me to bless their homes, and I thought it was a good thing. What's important is not that I should go pour water at the homes, but to give them a chance to speak with God," said the clergyman in a marked Italian accent.

Mario Obregon, a neighbor of the young woman attacked by the alleged Pombero, witnessed her falling to the ground and being dragged along, screaming that someone was pulling her feet and trying to drag her away. "She went into some shrubs where she was beaten. All of the neighbors went out to check the site and found nothing. In the meantime, from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m., the shower of stones continued."

"My neighbor saw a shadow behind my house. The locals crowded into the back of my property, and that's when something grabbed this girl and threw her to the ground. When I saw that she was prone, I went back and saw that something was dragging her along. She screamed that it hurt, that [someone] should get it off of her, that she saw a critter, or a man, something. We could see nothing."

"I never saw this, nor did anything remotely similar ever happen to me. The boy who lives next door says it could be the Pombero. I don't know the Pombero, so I can't say, because I don't know. We simply saw something we can't describe, but it was supernatural," he concluded.

According to tradition and the remarks of Maria Jaime, a Corrientes native residing in Canada, the Pombero or "Pomberito", as he is affectionately known, is the most popular of the Corrientes goblins throughout the ranch country of that river basin. He also appears in conversation, songs, sayings and tales.

He is short and squat, always covered by his large straw hat. He is as lascivious as the "curupi," has hairy feet and walks noiselessly--for this reason, he is dubbed "Pirague," a name that has been used to describe independent or left-wing politicians.

It is said that the Pombero can be a faithful friend in whom one can trust blindly in a time of need. An inveterate smoker, he likes to chew tobacco, and cigarettes or tobacco products must be left out for him at night, by a window, on a barbed wire post, etc. For this he is also known as *mascadita* ("Chewie"). Black tobacco is his favorite.

The Pombero is a protean imp. He can turn into a bird, a floating log, anything. He has the gift of turning invisible and penetrates ranches through any hole. He sings like a small chicken when announcing himself, but can imitate all birds perfectly. Out of fear of causing a manifestation, some only name him in low voices, but he also has adepts who claim to have dealings with him and hold conversations as well.

He sleeps in backfills and abandoned ovens. He mesmerizes the girls he wants to seduce, which is why whenever there is a suspicious birth in town and the father is unknown, people say: "Surely it was the Pombero!"

In regard to the Pombero's preference for women, it is said in Corrientes that he falls in love with pregnant women who are carrying girl children. Women say that they know for sure if they're giving birth to a girl, because they can feel, from the very first months, that the Pombero is escorting them when they walk at night, or when they are asleep.

Among the Araucan natives, there is also a Pombero known as *Peuken*, who pursues women. He is also a short, lascivious dwarf from the forested regions of Chile. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 23, 2004 — *Primera Linea*, Chaco, Argentina — NEIGHBORS BLAME POMBERO — Residents of Barrio Santa Teresita claim having witnessed a paranormal or poltergeist phenomenon that was unleashed in an empty field in this location--an episode they have retold in vivid detail. Blame has been assigned to the popular character of Guaraní legend known as the "Pombero."

The Pombero reappeared this time as an explanation to what happened on Thursday night to a local resident, Lili Medero (NOTE--name given as Lilita Nieves in other sources--SC), who was interned in a medical facility with strong, disfiguring blows to her face.

Locals claim that the woman was seized by a metaphysical phenomenon before their very eyes, naming the Pombero as the offending entity. More skeptical hospital workers believe this fallacy was employed to cover up an alleged case of domestic violence.

"We don't know what was going on there. All we saw was something grab her and hold on to her, dragging her along the ground. Some said that it was the Pombero, because Lili said later that an old black creature had seized her neck and wanted to kill her," said Felipe Goitea, one of the witnesses to the strange event.

When a group of local residents entered an empty field in search of the culprit behind a shower of stones falling on their houses, they did so armed with flashlights, sticks and bladed weapons. Upon entering the empty field, they claimed having walked beside a tree under which a "large nest made of branches" was found. It was at that spot that something--they cannot describe what it was--seized the only woman among the men (Lili Medero) and started beating her. They say that for a brief moment, half of the woman's body had vanished into thin air.

Fear spread throughout the neighborhood and some said that they would go off to neighbors' houses to sleep at night until the strange events came to an end, which, they claim, were repeating in the early morning hours of Tuesday and Friday.

At the close of this edition, a priest from the San Jose Parish had appeared to calm down the residents of Santa Teresita. He blessed the dwelling beside the empty lot where the phenomenon took place, and he was also asked to repeat the blessing in the empty lot, and particularly, in the large nest of branches found under a tree, and which allegedly belonged to the Pombero.

"I have come to bring peace to these people, who are gripped by fear and need something to comfort them. We are going to bless this family's dwelling to inspire peace among the residents of this neighborhood," said the clergyman. Other residents awaited visits from ministers of other religions to repeat the same ritual at

the site. Local residents stated that they are upset because orderlies at the 4 de Junio Hospital did not believe Lili Medero when she told them what had happened. When she described the black imp, medical personnel said that "it was an invention to conceal an episode of family violence."

Skepticism by medical experts is based on the fact that if the woman's assailant was the Pombero, no one can be held liable for the major injuries to her face. It is worth noting--regardless of whether the Pombero was involved or not, or that it may be a case of domestic violence--that the injured young woman is poor, unwed and the mother of a numerous family. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

February 25, 2004 — *El Norte Digital*, Chaco, Argentina — WOMAN ATTACKED BY POMBERO WAS IN THE SAENZ PENA PSYCHIATRIC WARD — The woman who claimed having been assaulted by the dwarfish entity known as the Pombero was a patient in the 4 de Junio Hospital's Psychiatric Ward (Room 8) from early morning on Friday to Monday morning.

During this time period, physicians were unable to complete the evaluation of her mental condition, but they believe that she suffered hallucinations common to a hysteric attack.

However, there are doubts about who inflicted the blows to her face, leading experts to believe that it could all be a case of domestic violence, and the possibility that doctors may ask law enforcement to investigate the case has not been ruled out. It is worth noting that Mercedes Liliana Nieves [NOTE--this is the third name given to the victim, the other two being "Lili Mederos" and "Liliana Nieves" -- SC] caused a stir in Barrio Santa Teresita when she claimed having been attacked by a short, black, animal-faced entity that beat her. Earlier, both the young woman's family and some neighbors reported that the roofs of their homes had been pelted with shards of brick.

When the police intervened, the woman was taken to Ward 8, victim of a nervous attack that caused hospital personnel to bind her hands and feet and administer powerful sedatives. "She left the hospital on Monday because her family took her away. In other words, she wasn't released by physicians, because we advised her to stay longer in order to complete our findings," Dr. Ramiro Islas, head of the psychiatric unit, told *Norte*. "The evaluation was not completed, but all indications point to a hysteric attack. There are several types of hysteria, and hers was of the dissociative type, meaning that there is confabulation on her part," noted the physician.

Dr. Islas interviewed the patient on two different occasions, and says that she provided a different version in each case. "The first time she said she'd fallen in the bathroom, but I didn't believe her because the injuries on her face seemed to be the product of a blow more than a fall. The second time she said it was a Pombero." According to the psychiatrist, hallucinations of this sort are very common in hysteria cases "but what is not common is that the confabulation should involve a popular imaginary character such as the Pombero."

Finally, Islas believed that the hysteria attack could be the result "of a conflict that sometimes involves family, finances or critical situations which lead to the nervous breakdown." Consequently, there is the suspicion that domestic violence could be involved. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

March 2, 2004 — *CIFAE* [www.ovniaventura.com] — INTENSE UFO ACTIVITY AMID POLITICAL UNREST by Hector Arturo Escalante — Venezuela's social and political situation remains tense. Hundreds of people are demonstrating up to twice a month in the capital city to publicly express their political ideals and statements. Parallel to this conflictive situation it has been possible to report UFO sightings.

Caracas, Venezuela. 2/26/04. While Venezuela's political future is debated in the streets after manifestations and streetfights between adversaries and supporters of the Hugo Chavez government, a strange phenomenon, seemingly invisible before our very eyes, has been manifesting itself in Venezuelan airspace. This is the UFO phenomenon.

UFOs in the October 28, 2003 Uprising

As can be seen at www.ovniaventura.com, on October 23, 2003 it was possible to photograph a UFO by pure chance in the skies of Caracas. While nothing was seen at the time, the camera eye managed to pick up a strange "something." It all happened at the same time that groups opposed to the Venezuelan government were meeting at squares, streets and avenues throughout the country in order to collect signatures for a possible recall referendum against President Chavez. As of that moment, all members of the "OVNI Venezuela" group have been on alert in the face of constant conflict and social unrest in Venezuela.

UFOs During the January 23rd Celebrations

Two months later, a new chance photo of a UFO was taken during a renewed and well-attended social demonstration in Caracas, creating even further expectations as regards the phenomenon's manifestations. The celebration was the 23rd of January, a yearly holiday celebrated in the country since 1958 in commemoration of the overthrow of the dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez.

On this anniversary, a considerable group of Venezuelans supporting the Chavez government marched through the main streets of Caracas to celebrate 46 years of democracy in Venezuela. Their opponents marched as well in the suburbs of eastern Caracas, but in this event, their goal was to alert the population to the alleged hazards that democracy could be facing under the Chavez Administration.

As is my custom, I took many photos of the sky, trying to locate the line of sight over the disturbance area. I took care that nothing strange should be going on around me (sic), aside from what was going on at the time. When I took the first photos, the time was between noon and one o'clock in the afternoon, and the skies were partly cloudy. On this second opportunity, another "strange" thing was photographed: it was a dark, elongated object over the western area of the city, not far from the Miraflores presidential palace, an electric power station and the Cagigal Observatory.

UFOs During the Mass Demonstration of February 4

Days went by and it was time for a new and intense social demonstration. For the third consecutive time it was possible for me to obtain another UFO image. At the time, the political situation was worsening with the arrival of the expected official holiday of the 4th of February. The origin of this holiday goes back to the morning hours of February 4, 1992, when a group of insurgents, led by Cmdr. Hugo Chavez, tried to drive President Carlos Andres Perez from office after an abortive coup d'etat. In this new image, the UFO appears to be hovering over the central districts of the city, just as a multitude of government supporters met in the La Rinconada sector to pay tribute to those fallen during the attempted coup and commemorate Chavez's first participation in Venezuelan politics.

When analyzed in detail we can see that this phenomenon, aside from manifesting itself coincidentally at certain moments of social stress, has certain visual similarities. When comparing the November 28 photo with the February 4 one, it is possible to see an almost exact location between the objects identified therein, as though these had never moved or rather, giving the impression that this was a strategic placement to carry out a mission that requires their presence during said moments. Surprising, isn't it? This is where the matter rests. Images can be seen at www.ovniaventura.com — CREDIT: CIFAE



TIMES, New York, NY - Feb. 15, 2004 CR: V. White

Martian Bunnies?

ON Nov. 10, 1907, the magazine section of The New York Times added this headline to the historical record: "Martians Probably Superior to Us."

Some might assume that the newspaper was speaking only for itself, but the larger implication — that there might be Martians up there — is one that remains fixed in the popular imagination (if not the popular press).

NASA's two robotic rovers, which touched down on Mars last month, continue to relay crisp images of the planet's landscape, and the distribution of those pictures on the Internet has given armchair explorers a rare chance to scrutinize the planet for what they consider signs of life.

Enter the bunny.

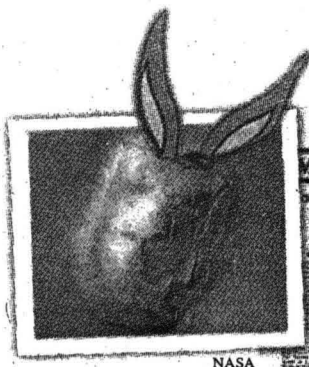
Perhaps it was not as compelling as the Martian "face" that was first photographed by the Viking Orbiter in 1976 (experts said it was a naturally occurring feature, not some extraterrestrial totem). But when several Internet viewers noticed a puckish-looking bit of ... something in the middle distance of a recent Mars photo, another artifact was added to the long history of Martian lore, which has included everything from pyramids and canals (see another Times article at right), to systems of giant glass tubes.

Online discussions hummed with theories on what this new object might be — a rabbit, a plant, a bit of coral, a dirty sock. One Web site, martiancrabs.com, dedicated itself to the notion that it was a crab. "It's probably not an underground sand crab," said Tom Van Flandern, an astronomer and president of Meta Research, an organization dedicated to "alternative" ideas in astronomy. "Without more hard data, we can only speculate," he said.

For its part, NASA said it was simply a bit of debris from the rover itself — probably a bit of "softgood," said Joy Crisp, one of the Mars project's scientists. (Say, cotton insulation, or a piece of airbag.)

"We try to make sure that bits do not fall off," said Dr. Crisp, in an apparent nod to neatness. But it happens, she added, "and we were not at all surprised."

No further investigation of the bunny is planned. The rover has now moved well beyond where the object first appeared, and later photographs showing Opportunity's path suggest to some that the topic is moot: the rabbit may have been run over. **TOM ZELLER**



WHAT'S UP? The Mars "face" (ears added).



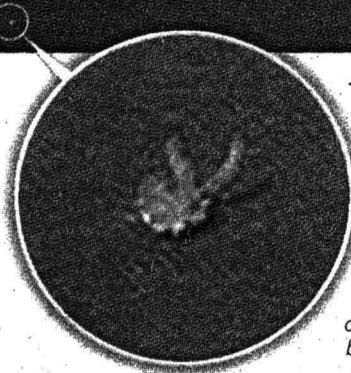
CORRECTION NEEDED? MAYBE NOT The late-19th-century theory of purpose-built "canals" on Mars (attributed to a mistranslation of an Italian astronomer's discovery of "channels" on the planet's surface) gave rise to much speculation about the industrious nature of Martians, as this Times article in 1911 indicated. Rabbit engineers were not mentioned.

L'OBJET DE MARS

This image was the first 360-degree, high-resolution color image taken by Opportunity's panoramic camera. The rover eventually headed toward the rock outcropping in the distance. The full panorama can be seen online at photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA05199

What IS This Thing?

Shortly after the image appeared on the Internet on Feb. 4, some viewers noticed an object lurking curiously nearby. The Mars project team "believes that this odd-looking feature is a piece of softgood that definitely came from our vehicle," said Joy Crisp, a NASA scientist, referring to any soft material. But that came after a week of creative speculation online. The most popular alternative theory: it's a bunny.

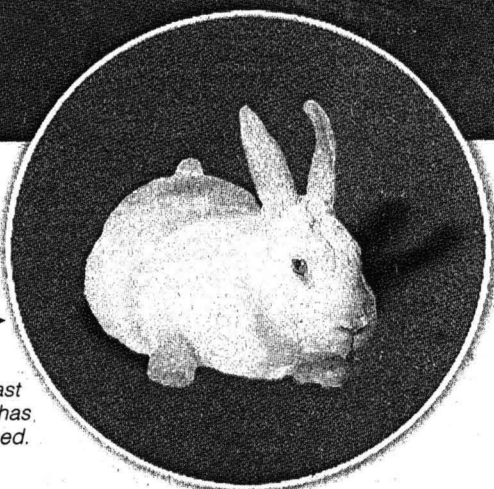


WOULD A CLOSE-UP OF THIS...



... REVEAL THIS?

Note: Contrast of the object has been enhanced.



Other Theories

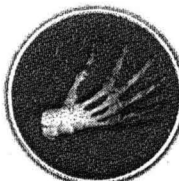
The bunny theory was not the only one. Online discussions at Web sites like martiancrabs.com, mars.laden.nl and markcarey.com/mars revealed a number of other possibilities, four of which are illustrated at right. The Bob Hope theory is herewith added to the mix.



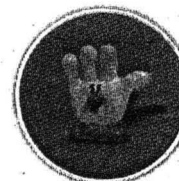
Ghost crab



Playboy bunny air freshener



Skeletal claw



Hamburger Helper Helping Hand



Bob Hope

Is ET a cattle rustler?

**Mutilated cattle
may mean aliens are
building a celestial
Noah's Ark...**

IT sounds too far fetched to be worthy of a moment's consideration. But investigators believe, and maintain, that aliens are coming to Lancashire to carry out experiments on cattle, sheep and other animals.

Independent investigator, David Cayton, has spent five years researching this phenomenon and is convinced there is no easy way to swallow the explanation for what he has seen.

Each week at least one animal is found dead, suffering from gruesome injuries.

These most commonly include missing ears and tongues, amputated limbs and injuries to the left side jaw.

In two separate incidents mutilated sheep were found on a farm in Todmorden.

David went to investigate and what he saw fitted the pattern he has seen over and over again.

The injuries inflicted on the sheep were not crude mutilations

as could have been inflicted by predators, or a person.

He says many people have tried to write of the injuries as being inflicted by members of satanic cults or other twisted people.

But David says the injuries he has seen are surgically precise medical procedures.

He said: "The case in Todmorden was of a three-year-old yew. The farmer allowed me to go and look at its carcass, but he did not tell me about the second one.

"I rang him to see how things were, he told me about it, but said it was different."

When the farmer told David about the injuries the second sheep had suffered they were almost identical to those inflicted on the first.

But the farmer maintained the second time was different. David says this is quite common as people are reluctant to believe that there is no earthly explanation as to what has happened.

He is urging other Lancashire farmers to give him access to animal corpses with strange injuries to further his investigations.

He knows that many incidents take place which are never reported.

After seeing the results of post mortems carried out on countless animals which have left vets baffled as to the cause of death and injuries David has developed his theory to explain what he has seen.

"What is causing this is the \$64,000 question. This has been happening for long periods, records go back to the 1890s.

"It is not just something that has happened over the last few years.

"One theory is that they are taking material for cloning to reproduce these life forms elsewhere - making a Noah's Ark."

The need for an Ark is said to stem from the belief that Earth is on borrowed time and life will not be able to be supported here forever.

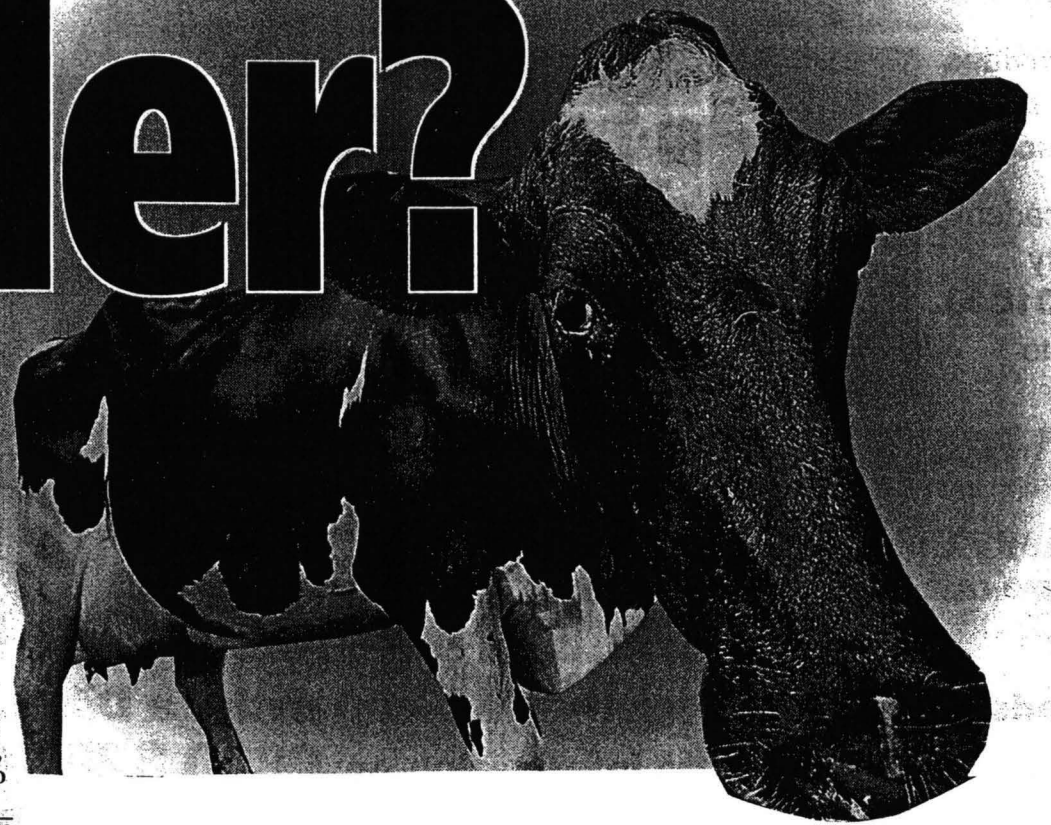
"I think it for much tl reasons, but they are m ing the health of this because we are causi much pollution."

David believes that we placed here by these crea from another world as experiment and they are mo. toring our progress.

Whether it is possible to believe David's explanations for these animal deaths or not, does not change the fact that farmers are losing stock.

David says: "This is serious stuff, it is not a joke matter, farmers are losing animals to this.

e-mail: laura.kennerley@lep.co.uk



VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Bigfoot doesn't hibernate!

In case you've wondered, Bigfoot does not hibernate around here.

We have photographic evidence of "thousands of" its tracks found January 13 near the top of Scenic Loop Road by Brian Smith. The tracks were apparently made a few days or maybe a week before Smith came upon them on his routine Bigfoot patrols. Melting of the snow has dulled the outline.

There remains some evidence of toes at the front of the big prints, though, he said. Tracks seemingly were of a single individual. They were 19 inches long, indicating further a fairly sizable creature, since most tracks reported over the years here are in the 14- to 16-inch range. Smith put the tape measure from toe to toe of some prints and came up with a stride length of some 60-65 inches, more evidence of a pretty big one.

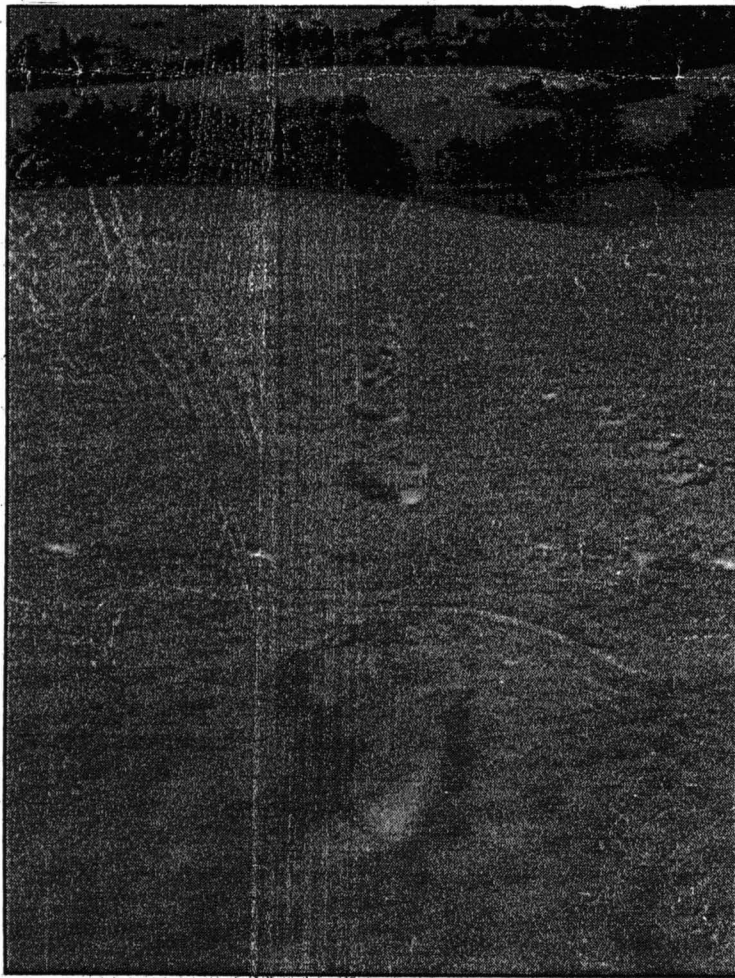
Returning to the scene later in the week, Smith said melting had practically obliterated the tracks.

Smith said the tracks indicated the bigfoot had come out of the Mormon Grade area but stopped short of going beyond the Scenic Loop road.

"I followed the trail for about a mile but it became pretty foggy, so I came back," he noted. "But, there must have been thousands of the tracks."

This is not the first incident reported here of these creatures apparently moving about during the winter months. I recall one report of the huge footprints found in snow two feet deep up near the top of Tiger Canyon road a few years back. In another instance, an airplane pilot reported seeing a long line of tracks in deep snow east of Table Rock.

The Scenic Loop Road tracks remind me of the several miles of tracks found in the same vicinity in January of 1995. These also came out of the upper Mill Creek region, made possibly by some bigfoots which possibly had been "spooked out" of the area by the helicopter logging going on at the time. The tracks were first found right at the top of the grade, where they crossed an open area frequented by beer keg parties. They veered off and back to the Mill Creek Road below, coursing



Bigfoot tracks in snow on Scenic Loop Road.

—Photo courtesy Brian Smith

diagonally through an open field, then down to the Lyons place before turning to go up the Meiners Road and thence back into the mountains.

The oddity was the fact there were three sets of tracks — three bigfoots. One track measured 16 inches and the other two smaller. To some of the investigators at the time, the three tracks indicated proof that a "family" of bigfoots had been making this their home territory.

It is pretty easy for me to drift from the recent report of tracks by Smith to tell readers about a new book about our elusive creature, "Raincoast Sasquatch." Author of this fine book is Rob Alley, who readers of my second bigfoot book will remember as the artist doing the cover for the book. Alley once lived in Milton-Freewater and that is where we first met. He was a skeptic when he first heard of the creature but finding a 16-inch footprint started him on the way to research which has led to this book, describing the animal in settings far removed from mankind, the region from southeast Alaska, British Columbia and northwest Washington.

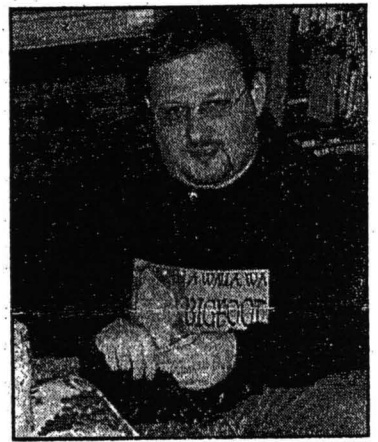
The bulk of his book consists of the many stories he has recorded from this territory, and they represent a wide range, a range which should prove much good reading for believer or skeptic. But, it is the conclusions drawn from this and anything else said that seemed pretty pertinent.

It is certainly possible for a primate as large as the Sasquatch to exist. There is at least one extremely large hominid, known as Gigantopithecus, which, according to physical anthropologists, survived from 7 ½ to at least a million years ago.

The Native folklore of western coastal North America has numerous names and descriptions of just such a large, nocturnal, hair-covered, humanlike being said to inhabit the forest of the Northwest.

There exists a body of documented reports from individuals on the British Columbia and Alaskan coasts, among other areas, of the existence of large, hair-covered hominids.

Larger-than-human tracks displaying a typical shape with wide heels and no claws or



Brian Smith
—Vance Orchard photo

human arch have been found over a broad area of the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere in North America, often in association with sightings, unexplained vandalism or, on occasion, vocalizations of unusual volume and form.

If you seek more information about the sasquatch (or bigfoot) a read of Alley's fine book will more than fill the bill.

Further in the bigfoot vein, I went to the Internet recently to get a copy of an excellent 50-minute documentary film about how several scientists have researched this hominid. I found it, at the suggestion of Brian Smith, by going to the website of the bigfoot organization he belongs to, Big Foot Research Organization. At the site: www.bfro.com, one is directed on how to buy the movie. The cost is \$35. It is in the new DVD format but might be available in VCR format.

Oh, yes, the title is "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science."

Major importance of this film is it has drawn together the findings of several well known scientists who have delved into this mystery. This is in contrast to the previous supposition that science has pretty much left this subject alone or have walked around it.

The subject of bigfoot/sasquatch is coming of age, so to speak, and is getting the serious attention it has long deserved.

Findings made locally by researcher Brian Smith also indicate our own region is getting recognized (or should) as a prime "home" of the hominid.

Spooklight generates a century of theories, no answers

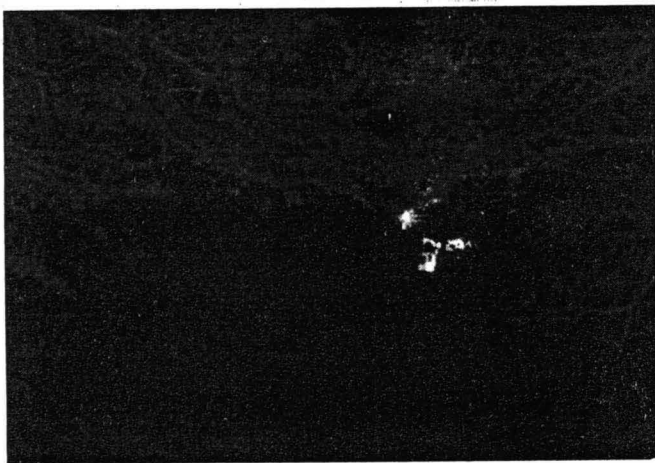


Photo by GARY CROW

Northeast Oklahoma's "spooklight" has been seen for decades and is described as a bouncing ball of light that is quick to retreat if approached. Theories of its origin date back more than 100 years.

By Jacob W. Brower
For the Tri-State Tribune

QUAPAW — Dating back at least 100 years, people have traveled to what is today East 50 Road in rural Quapaw near the Missouri state line to observe the phenomenon known as the spooklight.

Observers describe the light as a glowing ball that varies in shades of illumination and may bounce from one area to another. Of the many legends about the source of the light, one of the most popular is that the glow is from a lantern carried by the ghost of a Confederate soldier trying to find his head, which he lost in a battle.

Raymond Barnett, who was raised in Peoria and lives on East 40 Road, said he first encountered the light as a teenager while visiting the site with friends. He said the glow was strong enough to brighten the interior of his car.

"It scared the devil out of me," he

said. "It got right up on the car hood and it looked like daylight out there. It just looked like a ball of fire that came out of nowhere then, all at once, it disappeared."

Researchers who have visited the site claim the light is caused by a reflection of car headlights from the Will Rogers Turnpike. Several area residents dispute this claim, stating that the light's first sighting dates back to the late 1800s.

"A friend of mine who passed away many years ago told me it was there during the horse and buggy days," Barnett said. "The turnpike wasn't there when I saw it. There is no way something of that magnitude is caused from the turnpike."

Barnett said he does not believe the light is caused by a ghost, but thinks the scientific reasons given for its existence are inadequate.

"I don't believe it's supernatural, but they've had people from California,

Arkansas and all over trying to find out what it is," he said. "They never did."

Tom Jackson of Joplin, Mo., said he first visited the site as a high school student approximately 10 years ago on Halloween night at the urging of his girlfriend. He said he went to the site thinking it was a hoax, but soon changed his mind after encountering the light.

"I remember it started out at the end of the road, got about 10 yards from the car and then shot back," he said. "It looked like it was going to shoot into my truck. I think that's the scariest thing I've ever seen. I screamed so loud I probably woke up every person within 20 miles."

Jackson said he has not returned to the spooklight since, nor does he plan to again anytime in the near future.

"You couldn't pay me enough to go out there again," he said. "I don't know what that is or what causes it, but there's no way that's of this world."

CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton, England - Jan. 29, 2004 CR: T. Good

Big Foot sighting on the Chase

Exclusive
by Andy
Richardson

Animal mystery expert investigated report of large hairy beast

World renowned cryptozoologists were called to Cannock Chase to investigate sightings of the legendary Big Foot.

Cryptozoologist Jonathon Downes held an investigation after a group of four spotted the creature on the Chase in woods near to the German War Cemetery.

The terrified group wouldn't report the sighting at first for fear of ridicule but finally contacted the official Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organisation based in America.

On their website the sighting - which took place in September, 1998 - was logged and said: "In my own words I would describe it as being around 6ft 8ins tall. One of its legs would be thicker than two of mine. It was very strong looking, darkish blacky brown coat.

"All four of us would confirm the exact story if separated and questioned. You could ask me to explain it any way around and I could be exact. Because we really did see something we could not explain.

"This is the absolute truth to the best of my memory. I have kept this to myself but felt I had to tell someone."

Graham Allen, chairman of Staffordshire UFO Group, said: "This is a well documented case and Mr Downes did take part in an investigation on the Chase. I have not heard of another case of this type outside USA and Canada."

There have been hundreds of sightings of Big Foot in the western regions of America and sasquatch, as the creature is known in Canada.

The creature communicates through grunts, cries and whistles and is believed to be a placid and shy creature.

The Big Foot creature is added to the growing list of Chase mysteries including the Chase Beast, reports of triangular shaped UFOs, ghostly apparitions and the wild boar.

Were you one of the four who saw the Chase Big Foot or have you seen the legendary creature on the Chase? Contact the Chase Post on 01543 501762.

■ An artist's impression of the beast the Canadians call sasquatch.



Are falling ice balls a product of global warming?

By Michael Woods
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

BARCELONA, Spain -- A Spanish-American scientific team will be scanning the United States this winter for what might be one of the weirdest byproducts of global warming: great balls of ice that fall from the sky.

The baffling phenomenon was first detected in Spain three years ago and has since been reported in a number of other countries, including the United States. So scientists now plan to monitor in a systematic way what they call "megacryometeors" -- or great balls of ice that fall from the sky.

"I'm not worried that a block of ice may fall on your head," said Dr. Jesus Martinez-Frias of the Center for Astrobiology in Madrid. "I'm worried that great blocks of ice are forming where they shouldn't exist."

Ice balls, which generally weigh 25 to 35 pounds but can be much bigger, have punched holes in the roofs of houses, smashed through car windshields, and whizzed right past people's heads.

Incidents like those may be just the beginning, according to Dr. David Travis, who chairs the department of geography and geology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"If megacryometeor formation is linked to global warming, as we suspect, then it is fair to assume that these events may increase in the future," Travis said.

Martinez-Frias pioneered research on megacryometeors in January 2000, after ice chunks weighing up to 6.6 pounds rained on Spain for 10 days.

At first, scientists thought the phenomenon was unique to Spain. During the past three years, however, they've accumulated strong evidence that megacryometeors are falling all around the globe.

More than 50 falls have been confirmed, and researchers believe that's a small fraction of the actual number, since others may hit unoccupied areas or melt before discovery.

Travis said most megacryometeor falls occur in January, February and March.

Researchers were able to analyze ice samples from the 2000 incidents, thanks to witnesses who kept the material cold. Martinez's team quickly ruled out obvious explanations.

The ice balls, for instance, were not frozen water from toilets flushed on jetliners. The ice contained no human waste and none of the blue disinfectant used in airplane toilets. Air traffic control records showed that no planes flew over the areas near the ice falls, so the ice had not been shed from aircraft wings.

Chunks of debris from a comet? Again, lab tests showed that ice in megacryometeors had the distinctive chemical signature of ice in ordinary terrestrial hailstones.

Hail forms in the updrafts and downdrafts of thunderstorms. The updrafts carry droplets of super-cooled water, which freeze. More droplets hit the frozen particles as winds toss them around. The water freezes instantly and the hailstone grows, layer by layer.

Most hailstones weigh a fraction of an ounce, with 27 ounces the U. S. record.

Megacryometeors show the telltale onion-skin layering seen in hailstones. They also contain dust particles and air pockets found in hail. But they are formed in cloudless skies, a notion that defies research on hail formation.

"Scientists are naturally reluctant to say something never can happen," said Charles Knight, a hail expert at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. "But oh, dear. I would be tempted to say 'never' on this."

Knight has reviewed scientific papers on megacryometeors, and thinks the explanation that cites unusual atmospheric conditions possibly linked to global warming, is probably wrong, although he doesn't have a better one.

Global warming involves higher temperatures on Earth's surface, but creates colder conditions in the stratosphere, the uppermost layer of the atmosphere, according to Travis.

He has linked megacryometeor events to unusual conditions in the "tropopause," the boundary between the troposphere (the lower atmosphere) and the stratosphere. Located 5 to 9 miles above the surface, the tropopause marks the limit of clouds and is important in the development of storms.

Global warming may be making the tropopause colder, moister and more turbulent, Travis said, creating conditions in which ice crystals grow like ordinary hailstones in thunderclouds.

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