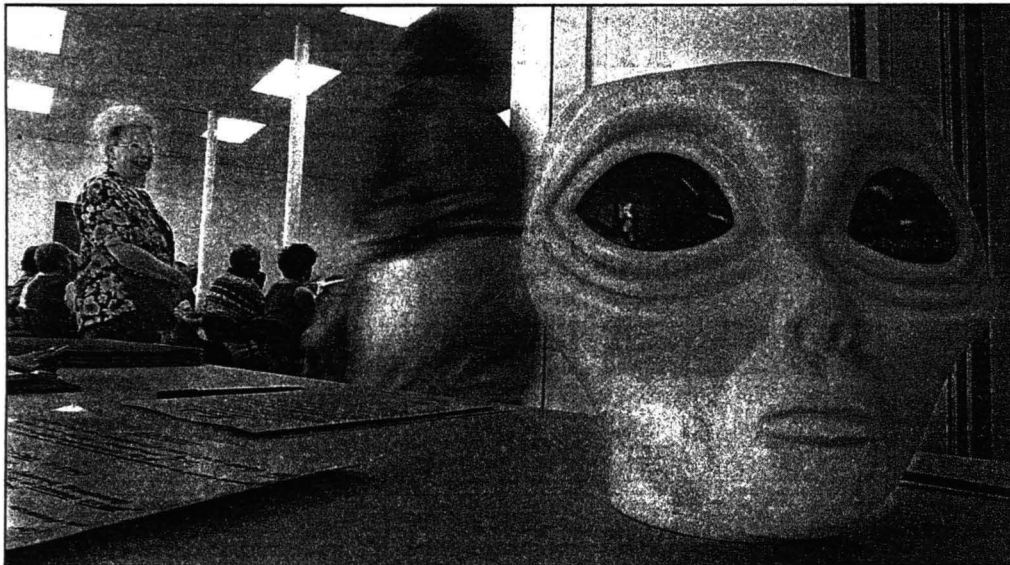


UFO

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ROBERT C. REED | RECORD PHOTOS

Marie Rink of Charlotte greets members as they arrive at the Brookford Community Building for the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina meeting on Sunday afternoon. Rink is the treasurer of the organization.

Out of this world UFO enthusiasts share reports, stories

BY JOSH YODER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

BROOKFORD

No one has ever believed Kate Hearn's story about what she saw in a tobacco field one day in 1937.

The story goes like this: As Hearn was picking weeds with her children, she turned around and saw about a hundred "little men." They were human-like creatures about 4 feet tall, and wore white and red uniforms. They were talking to one another.

Excited, she turned to her children to get their attention. But when she turned back again, the strange beings were gone.

"I don't know where they went, and I don't know where they come from," the 78-year old Raleigh woman said. "I just know I saw them."

Incredulous friends, family and neighbors always laughed at the tale, Hearn said. Not that she cares.

"I rightly don't give a damn if people make fun of me or not," Hearn said. "I come from that old school: If you saw it, you saw it. If you didn't see it, you didn't tell it."

Hearn had a more receptive au-



Bill Stanley of Knoxville, Tenn., discusses the ideas of Zecharia Sitchin, a Russian-born thinker who believed beings from another planet influenced the course of human history.

dience Sunday when she told her story to members of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina. She was one of about 30 folks from across the state to attend the MUFON meeting held at Brookford Community Center.

MUFON is an international organization dedicated to the investigation and research of the UFO phenomenon. Their goal: To ultimately reveal the truth that many members believe is out there.

Lincolnton resident George Fawcett founded North Carolina's chapter of MUFON in 1989. The 74-

year-old has studied UFOs for 60 years. He's investigated thousands of sightings, taught college courses and read more than 1,100 books on the subject. He's recently written his own book about his experiences in UFOlogy.

One of the purposes of the group, Fawcett said, is to provide a forum where people who've had past or recent UFO "encounters" can talk about their experiences freely and without the threat of ridicule.

On the issue of UFOs, Fawcett said he walks the line between "foolish faith" and "blind doubt." To him, the facts surrounding mysterious flying craft stand for themselves.

"I've never met an informed skeptic," Fawcett said. "They don't exist."

Fawcett said North Carolina was fourth in the nation in number of sightings. He received reports of UFO activity in 85 towns and cities in 2003. There were two sightings in Hickory, two in Maiden and four in Lincolnton that year, he said.

"People are generally not aware of what's happening in their own

town," Fawcett said.

There are about 165 members in the state chapter of MUFON, Fawcett said. The group meets three or four times each year to compare findings, share stories and enjoy fellowship. In addition, guest speakers give lectures on UFO-related topics. At Sunday's meeting, Bill Stanley of Knoxville gave a presentation on the work of Zecharia Sitchin, a Russian-born thinker who theorizes that human civilization was influenced by visitors from

another planet. Bob Null of Maiden has been interested in UFOs for about as long as he can remember. Now 63, he said he used to read newspaper reports of UFO sightings as a child. But after several scandalous hoaxes, the press backed off from covering them, he said.

Null said he enjoys attending the MUFON meetings to find out what others have seen or heard or found. And he's not alone: after Hearn told her tobacco field story, many members had questions for her.

Null said he's looking forward to retirement, when he'll have extra time to devote to his hobby.

"I've been very much fascinated," he said. "It has to do with something from not of our own world. That interests me."

ON THE NET: www.mufon.com

jyoder@hickoryrecord.com | 322-4510 x257

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - May 19, 2004

Meteor may be culprit in Tuesday night mystery

By BECKY HARRIS
LOG CABIN STAFF WRITER

A meteor, some said "as big as a basketball," could have caused the "big boom" and a streak of light in the skies over Central Arkansas Tuesday night.

Reports came from callers to the Log Cabin newsroom about the big noise and how dogs reacted — cowering or scratching at the front door — and from some fans at a Greenbrier night baseball game who reported a "shooting star" "as big as the moon."

According to a NASA Web site, most meteors pass by quietly and unseen, but "A sonic boom is sometimes heard for very bright Leonid meteors, called fireballs, that appear near the observing site high in the sky."

"If the particle is larger than the mean free path of the air molecules, a high Mach number shock wave forms in front of the meteoroid."

"Very rarely, this shock wave penetrates deep enough in the atmosphere that it can be heard. It sounds like the sonic boom of an airplane, but as a distant rumble." So says NASA.

The particles are tiny, but because they travel so fast — 2,663 times faster than a fast ball — they can light up the sky for hundreds of miles around.

Make a wish, and keep your head down.
(City editor Becky Harris can be reached by e-mail at bharris@thecabin.net or by phone at 505-1233.)

UFO witnesses sought for investigation

I have recently been assigned to track down and interview an unknown eyewitness from Lincolnton who reported two cigar-shaped UFOs flying from west to east above Lincolnton on April 1 at 6:14 p.m.

The observer was an aviation professional who contacted the National UFO Reporting Center at Seattle, Wash. through its "UFO Hotline."

The "unknowns" were traveling at an estimated 15,000 feet at a high rate of speed. They left no vapor trails and no sounds were reported. Other aircraft were in the same general area and surely must have observed the same objects on their way to Douglas International Airport.

The witness stated in the report that he had never experienced, or seen anything that traveled at this rate of speed, nor had he ever seen anything constructed in this cigar-shaped pattern.

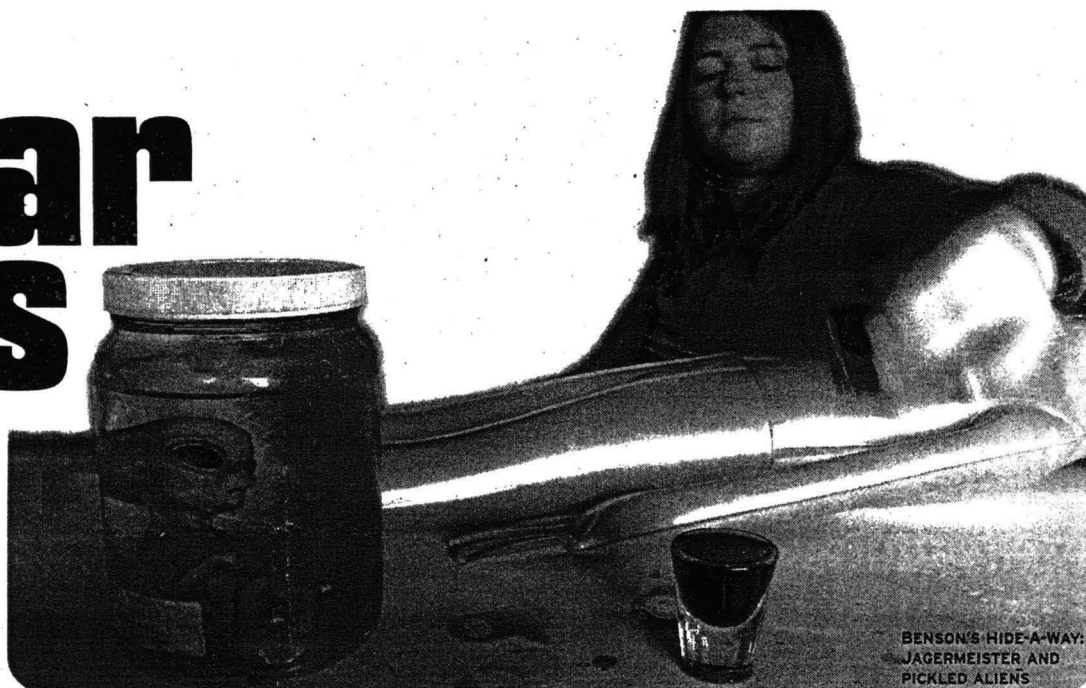
Witnesses are asked to contact me at 704-735-5725 or write to me at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092, so that investigations can be completed. The incident will be kept confidential if so requested.

GEORGE W. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

CR: G. Fawcett
LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - May 28, 2004

Star Wars

Three Wisconsin towns duke it out for the title of UFO capital of the world.



BENSON'S HIDE-A-WAY: JAGERMEISTER AND PICKLED ALIENS

BY JOSH SCHONWALD

There's a pickled alien in a jar labeled "Roswell, July 8, 1947" next to the cash register at Benson's Hide-A-Way, a bar on Long Lake in the town of Dundee, Wisconsin, 50 miles northwest of Milwaukee. A chart displaying spaceship types hangs on the wall and there's a stack of crop-circle photos on the bar. When the bartender abruptly turns off an NCAA tournament game on a Saturday afternoon in the heat of March Madness, slips in a herky-jerky home video of an alleged UFO sighting, and bellows in his best Vincent Price, "It'll make your blood curdle," no one seems to mind.

But when an out-of-towner announces that Dundee's status as the center of the paranormal universe is in dispute, eyebrows go up. "Really," says Kris Hegner, setting down her drink. Pulling a Miller off the tap, Bill Benson, the

America's Dairyland has become America's UFO-capital capital. Wisconsin has a long tradition of paranormal reports; an air force survey conducted during the heyday of UFO sightings, at the peak of the cold war (from 1947 to 1969), famously showed that Wisconsin had more sightings than any state other than New Mexico.

But the grab for most-favored status didn't begin until the 1970s. What triggered the civic braggadocio was the report of a small-town police officer. George Wheeler said he saw a flaming ball the size of a football field hovering over the Elmwood town quarry one day in 1975. A year later, Wheeler, known as a straight-arrow, no-nonsense cop, claimed another encounter: this time a 250-foot-long, two-story-high flaming ball struck his body and his squad car with a blue beam of light. Wheeler died of apparent heart failure six months later, but the story spread, the sightings

increased, and after dozens of Elmwood residents reported seeing the flaming ball, the village decided, in 1978, to embrace its unexplainable objects. "So many small towns around us celebrate things like Cucumber Days or Strawberry Days," says village clerk Jodi Pulk. "We happen to celebrate UFO Days."

Elmwood's UFO festival was no big deal at first—a strictly local event, a picnic with a UFO theme. Then in February 1988 Tom

other new businesses."

Weber held a press conference, created a nonprofit organization, hired a staffer to man the phones eight hours a day, and embarked on a quest to raise the money. The town immediately found itself in the media's spotlight. Elmwood became internationally famous—Gerald, *Hard Copy*, and Dan Rather came to town, and Oprah interviewed residents. In 1990 *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials*, a book by former *New York Times* reporter Howard Blum, devoted 60 of nearly 300 pages to the Elmwood sightings.

But after an initial outpouring of gifts from UFO enthusiasts across the country, the spaceship landing-pad plan was scrapped for lack of funds. Still, people in Elmwood, a town whose high school cheerleaders once chanted "We'll zap you with our ray guns," continue to claim UFO capital status.

About a year before Weber's UFO Site Center Corp. incorporated, folks started seeing strange objects in the sky above Belleville, 250 miles southeast. As in Elmwood, the original source of Belleville's claims was a well-respected cop. Glen Kazmar, on his nightly patrol of the village, reported seeing a clump of flashing red, white, and blue lights in the sky around 3 AM on January 16, 1987. Two months later another upstanding member of the community, longtime legislative aide LeVonne "Boots" Freidig, reported almost exactly the same thing. Later the same evening, Harvey Funseth, a surveyor for the state Department of Transportation, reported the same spectacle as he was driving back to town on Highway 69 at about 5 PM. Funseth added more detail: the lights appeared to originate from a rectangular object hovering over the ground, with three smaller, box-shaped objects directly below it.

Word spread rapidly. A television station in Madison, 20 miles north, did a story. That, says Stuart Shapiro, publisher of the *Belleville Recorder*, started the frenzy. The UFO spotters came, "whole bands of weirdos," says Shapiro, and so did the national and international media. "Reporters knocking on doors, calls at 3 AM from Australia," he recounts. "It was crazy."

Less than a year after the sightings, members of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce donned

coneheads and proclaimed the village the UFO Capital of the World. "I think [the capital] is here," Shapiro says. "I don't know what happened [in Elmwood]."

But folks in Dundee were underwhelmed by Elmwood's flaming ball and Belleville's clump of lights. Reports of paranormal oddities and unidentified objects had been almost commonplace in this tiny hamlet (population 673) for decades.

Dundee, which consists of a gas station, a hamburger stand, a baseball field, a scattering of lakeside cottages, and a handful of hole-in-the-wall bars, is tucked at the eastern foot of a topographical anomaly called the northern Kettle Moraine. The Kettle, a narrow swath of hills, valleys, and bogs that is now largely part of a state forest, is wildly different from the flatland that surrounds it. As a result of an Ice Age-era collision, it's pimpled with unusual geographical forms with bizarre-sounding names—there are cone-shaped hills (kames), gumdrop-shaped hills (drumlins), narrow, serpentine ridges (eskers), and dozens of craterlike depressions (kettles) poking the land.

Reports of paranormal oddities in Dundee can be traced back more than a century. According to local lore, early Irish immigrants to Wisconsin, frightened by the unusual landforms, bogs, and thick forests of the Kettle, claimed that "little people" inhabited the area. Then in 1948 a local farmer named Vilas Ludwig (a distant relative of Bill Benson) reported that "strange lights" were following him as he plowed his fields. Over the next 50 years, locals reported at least 75 oddities—ranging from an alleged crop circle on a marsh to unidentifiable lights in the sky to what is known as the Long Lake Monster, a



BILL BENSON

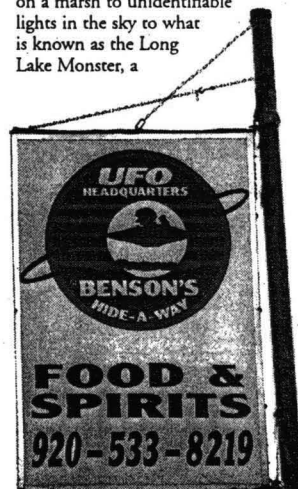
61-year-old Hawaiian-shirt-wearing proprietor, nods. "Yeah. There's Belleville and Elmwood."

They're not Roswell, New Mexico, or Gulf Breeze, Florida, or Hooper, Colorado, home of the UFO Watchtower, or even Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway. But Dundee, Belleville, and Elmwood, Wisconsin, all have a yearly UFO fest, UFO burgers, and UFO T-shirts. And all three towns—not one with more than 2,000 people—claim the title of UFO Capital of the World.

It won't be a surprise to people who watch *Strange Universe* or listen to Art Bell's radio show that

Weber, the owner of a small industrial-painting business in nearby Chippewa Falls, declared that Elmwood was "a community fully acclimated to the phenomenon" and chose a soybean field on the outskirts of the town as the spot for a two-square-mile spaceship landing site. The landing pad would beam lights into outer space, welcoming the aliens, and there'd be accommodations for scientists and radio and computer tracking devices. The price tag: \$50 million.

Elmwood's village president at the time, Larry Feiler, welcomed the idea but stopped short of embracing it. "If it happens, fine," Feiler said. "If it doesn't, well, no one is planning any hotels or motels or starting any



(continued on page 3)

45-foot-long Loch Ness-like creature with a head that looks like a football. Several locals also claimed to see what they believed to be air force fighter planes dashing across the lake in pursuit of "strange lights." The Dundee area became a mecca for paranormal enthusiasts, and groups of would-be UFO spotters trekked to the top of the town's Dundee Mountain, which some believed to have a mysterious pull.

In 1976 Bob Kuehn, a retired landscape architect from Lomira, moved to Dundee. Kuehn, who claims to have had an alien encounter at the age of three and a half, started frequenting Benson's tavern. He found a sympathetic ear in Benson, a lifelong Dundee resident who claims several paranormal experiences, including a possible alien abduction on a 1978 drive. Kuehn, now 73, claims to have prevented the Y2K disaster by collaborating with aliens and says he's "working with the ETs to stop the tornadoes," which he believes are manufactured by the government. He also hosts the *UFO Bob* segment on Fond du Lac's KFIZ.

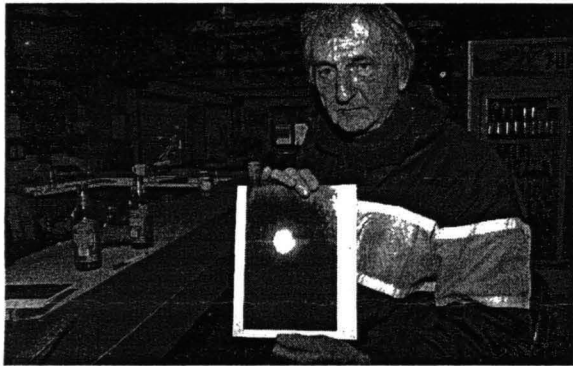
"Bill's was the one place where you could talk about these things," he says. "I'd never been in a place like it." As crop circles and time portals began to share equal time with fish stories at the bar, Benson,

They didn't feel comfortable talking about their experiences. "The next year," says Benson, "it was all UFO."

If only George Wheeler could see the legacy of his close encounter: UFO burgers, UFO brews, UFO bowling, cars dressed as flying saucers, girls dressed as martians, guys dressed as the Men in Black. Last year Wisconsin's UFO Capitals of the World collectively had two alien queens, two street parades, one boat parade, two UFO 10K runs, and six days of "out of this world" fun.

"It's a circuit," says Bonnie Meyer, who hosts the Lightside, a UFO and alien discussion group in Neenah, 55 miles north of Dundee. The season begins with Dundee's UFO Daze the third Saturday of July, then moves to Elmwood's festival the third weekend in July, and wraps up in Belleville Halloween weekend.

"Our thinking is that it would be good for business," says Shapiro, the newspaperman in Belleville, where the chamber of commerce gives promotional coneheads to local proprietors. "The parade seems to be getting bigger every year." Roughly 4,000 people attended Belleville's parade last year, about 750 (a record-breaking number) went to Dundee's lakeside fest, and Elmwood's event, which is nearing its 25th year, has attracted tens of thousands of visitors. UFO tourists buy souvenirs,



BOB KUEHN: COLLABORATED WITH ALIENS TO PREVENT Y2K

nicknamed "Martian Bill" around town for views that some felt were "whacked," made it official. In 1989, Benson's Hide-A-Way started calling itself Dundee's UFO Headquarters.

"People are scared to talk about UFO sightings," Benson says. "This is a place where you can talk about these things without being laughed at or scoffed at." Two years later, with some alien kitsch added to the decor and "Out of this World" pizza on the menu, it had become a gathering place for believers. "People were coming out of the closet about their experiences," Benson says. He and Kuehn decided to take the idea further, with an annual celebration: UFO Daze. The first UFO Daze, in 1991, says Benson, the former town chairman, was part community picnic, part discussion of UFO sightings. But the mix didn't work. The presence of the regular townspeople at the '91 event inhibited the UFO people, he says.

drink at local bars, and stay at local motels and campgrounds, pumping money into the small towns' economies. "It's our biggest event of the year by far," said Elmwood's Pulk. Liz Pickering of the Elmwood Area Community Club, which mans a beer and food tent during the festival, says UFO Days accounts for most of the nonprofit group's annual budget—\$20,000 to \$25,000 a year.

Some people complain about the traffic and noise and the odd people who invade the otherwise quiet town. Others, such as Belleville's town president, Jo Ann Therkelsen, aren't thrilled about having the reputation as the "UFO town." And some of the original witnesses find the commercialization of their experiences inappropriate. A few years ago, Belleville's Harvey Funseth complained bitterly to a Madison newspaper that the town had "made a joke out of" his story. "They use it like Halloween," he told the *Wisconsin*

The Dubious Believer

A UFO hunter demands evidence.

By day, Chad Lewis of Eau Claire, Wis., is an unassuming grant writer for a nonprofit organization. By night and weekend, he's Chad Lewis, PI, one of a handful of paranormal investigators in the state. Lewis, 29, logged roughly 30,000 miles last year crisscrossing Wisconsin to inspect everything from alleged haunted houses and crop circles to reports of vampires, werewolves, and spaceships.

Lewis, who received his master's degree in applied psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 2002 after completing a thesis on paranormal perception, takes his work as seriously as Fox Mulder ever did. He's been doing it for nearly ten years, and he has a methodology—interview witnesses, observe physical evidence, dig through archives, pore over flight data, check facts—which he calls "vigilant skepticism." And though he's public about his paranormal work—he hosts *The Unexplained*, a twice-weekly radio show in Eau Claire, and often talks to paranormal groups—he's picky about his venues. "I won't talk in a beer tent," he says. Last year he declined an offer from Elmwood's UFO Days.

Vigilant skepticism usually means debunking UFO reports. "Most UFO sightings can be explained logically," Lewis says. "A plane. A planet. An international space station. But people at UFO fests? They like to talk up UFOs. I'm a firm believer in the paranormal, but I can't sit by and let a dubious claim go unchallenged."

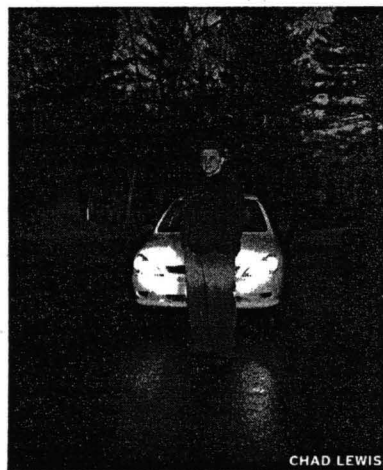
A year and a half ago he got a typical call from a man in Lodi who claimed that, in Lewis's words, "UFOs were flying all over the place." After driving four and a half hours to the location and being greeted by a gathering of believers, he quickly found the explanation. "He was looking at the Madison airport," says Lewis. "They were standard planes. If he would have described it better on the phone, we wouldn't have come."

Lewis has strong opinions on the UFO-capital issue. Though he spurned its beer tent, he calls Elmwood the "first legitimate capital." Testimony, he says, is extensive. Hundreds of residents have reported sightings. "And George Wheeler was a trained observer, a solid witness. People in Elmwood don't like to talk about this stuff. They don't want to see UFOs—it just happened."

State Journal. "They dress up weird. That's not what we saw. We didn't see aliens. It was a sight of something we didn't know what it was."

But the coneheads aren't likely to leave Belleville anytime soon. Town leaders say the UFO fests support community groups, like the Cub Scouts and Kiwanis Club, and churches that hold bake sales or other fund-raisers during the big weekend.

Money wasn't the motive for the Hide-A-Way's paranormal theme, but Benson says it has been good for



CHAD LEWIS

He's not so certain about Belleville. "I'm skeptical of UFO capitals that benefit from the tourist industry," he says. As for Dundee, which has reported not only UFO sightings but also crop circles and a Loch Ness-like lake monster, Lewis has serious doubts: "I'm just waiting for the vampire sighting."

He's also suspicious of the timing of the much-heralded UFO sighting during Dundee's UFO Daze in 2002. "You have to ask," he says, "is there a motive? Is the town benefiting from the UFO?" He adds a caveat: "I hate to

joke about this, because Dundee could be an area of high paranormal activity." Sightings or not, he acknowledges Dundee as the main clearinghouse for UFO-related info. "There's no place in Belleville and Elmwood where you can go in the middle of the year and talk about UFOs."

But the PI says it's a mistake to focus only on the Big Three. He's working on a book with fellow PI Rick Hendricks called "The Strange and Unique History of Wisconsin," which covers, among other things, the mysterious lights near Crivitz, a 40-foot-tall UFO beacon near the town of Poland, the ghosts of Caryville, and werewolf sightings in Walworth County.

Several theories about the preponderance of odd Dairyland sightings exist in the paranormal community (extraterrestrials like iron ore, they need water, there's a city under Lake Michigan), but Lewis has a more earthly hypothesis that has less to do with UFOs and more to do with Wisconsinites. Wisconsin seems to embrace its image as a weird state, he says, and so it has an infrastructure to report that weirdness. There are dozens of UFO Web sites based in Wisconsin. Lewis's colleagues are scattered throughout the state. He runs down a list: "Todd Roll in Wausau. Linda Godfrey, who studies werewolves, in the southeast. Rick Hendricks in Madison." The investigators share data about paranormal occurrences. It's possible there's more UFO action to report in Wisconsin, says Lewis, or "maybe we're just good at it."

—JOSH SCHONWALD

business. He estimates that during UFO Daze 90 percent of the people drinking at Benson's are nonlocal "UFO people." He has to hire three extra bartenders.

But when he says, "I hope they come this year," he means the UFOs themselves. At UFO Daze 2002, as seen in the home video Bill has shown hundreds of times, a series of strange lights appeared in the sky over Long Lake. The following year, not surprisingly, UFO Daze had a much larger turnout. "Probably 25

percent more," he says.

"They didn't show last year," adds Benson's wife, Judy. "So maybe we won't get as many this year."

As her husband heads off to the kitchen, Judy leans forward. "Honestly, I'm glad when it's over," she whispers. "I'm always a little worried. You just never know who's going to show up. One guy said he was abducted, and had aliens crawling over the top of his car." She cringes. "I guess I need to see it to believe it."

PhilStanford



ON THE TOWN

3 Days Before Roswell, Portland Buzzed By Saucers

Say I'm slightly unhinged or even that I'm trying to kick back and relax a little after all that Goldschmidt stuff. But I'd still like to know what really happened on July 4, 1947, when scores of flying saucers were spotted over Portland. And I'm not making this up, either. It was on the front pages of both newspapers.

Two police officers, Walter Lissy

and Robert Ellis—both World War II vets and civilian pilots—saw the first ones over Oaks Park. They were fast-moving, silvery discs, traveling in formation, Ellis and Lissy said.

According to the newspaper stories, the Portland Police Bureau was immediately placed on full alert.

That same day, Thomas Berry, who lived on Northeast Killingsworth, saw something, too. So did M.A. Deaton, who lived on Northeast 32nd.

Deaton said it was a disc, flying due east "faster than an airplane."

Downtown on Broadway at the Jackson Tower, where *The Oregon Journal* was then located, several employees saw a flyby of discs and if you can't trust a reporter to know a flying saucer when he sees one, I don't know who you could.

Three sheriff's deputies assigned to the harbor patrol spotted a cluster of discs at about 10,000 feet.

Another policeman, Earl Patterson, radioed in from his car at Southeast 82nd and Foster with another report of flying discs. He

said they were aluminum or eggshell in color, traveling at a high rate of speed.

That evening, more strange discs were spotted by the pilot and crew of a United Airlines flight en route from Boise to Portland. Nine flying saucers, which they all described as bigger than their airplane, cruised along with them for 15 minutes.

The next day, *The Oregonian*, obviously looking for a positive angle on the story, reported that despite the numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects, no damage to the city had occurred.

Whatever it was, though, it was catching.

The Portland flyby came hardly a week after the first-ever recorded flying saucer sighting, by a private pilot near Mount Rainier in Washington. On June 24, one Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine shiny objects, which, as he told the first reporter he saw upon landing, skipped through the atmosphere like saucers at speeds of up to 1,700 miles per hour.

Although, as a check of the

original news stories indicates, he also said they were shaped like boomerangs, the reports of "saucerlike" flying objects spread throughout the world. Over the next month or so, flying saucers were sighted in 23 states.

We can, nevertheless, take pride in the fact that the Portland sighting is generally acknowledged as the largest. As you might expect, the newspapers sought out expert opinions on the subject.

Frederick Courts, a psychology professor at Reed College, thought it was an hallucination, brought on by "the nervousness of the public over reports of atomic warfare and guided projectiles."

The Rev. Jessie Falmer of Portland's Assembly of God church took it as a portent that the end was near.

Myself, I kind of lean toward the mass hallucination theory, if only because it's been 57 years now and the world's still with us.

And, of course, it could have been visitors from space, too. You tell me.

Topanga Canyon, a 'UFO hotspot'

Preston Dennett wrote a book about alleged Topanga Canyon UFO sightings in 1992. He said he has seen unexplained moving lights in the sky on several occasions. So has the Mexican Air Force; pilots recorded strange moving lights earlier this month.

By Jonathan Friedman
Staff Writer

Preston Dennett is a believer. Dennett says beings from another world are regularly visiting this planet, and he calls Topanga Canyon a "UFO hotspot." The Canoga Park accountant wrote about this subject in his 1999 book, "UFOs over Topanga Canyon." In the summer of 1992, Dennett said there was what he called a "UFO wave of gigantic proportions" in Topanga Canyon. A "wave" is UFO lingo for a series of sightings in one area over a short period of time. Dennett said the wave began on June 14 when several people called the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to report unexplained lights and other strange objects in the sky. Former *Topanga Messenger* editor Colin Penno wrote an article about the alleged sightings in the newspaper. Dennett said the aliens have

a purpose for arriving on Earth in waves.

"I think that is a publicity campaign on the part of the aliens," he said. "They want to be seen."

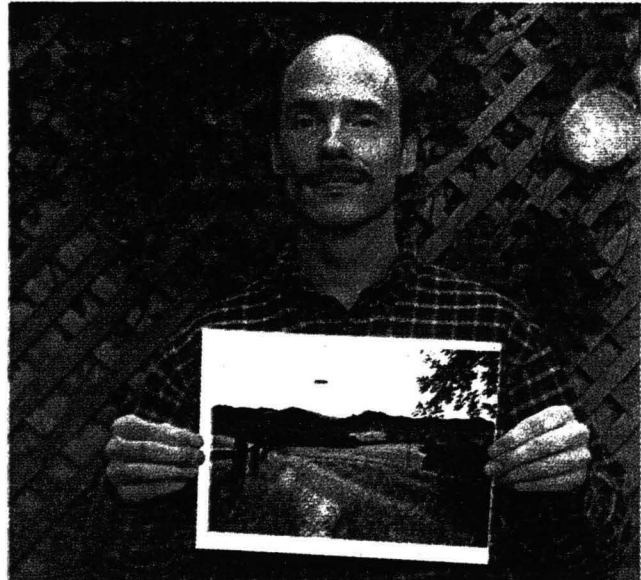
Dennett said he also witnessed the UFOs during the Topanga Canyon wave. The most shocking encounter occurred while driving along Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

"I saw this bright light, and I thought it was a plane coming toward me, but it wasn't," Dennett described. "It just got brighter as it got closer, and then it suddenly went up."

Dennett said he has seen several other bright lights that he believes were alien crafts in the sky over the years, although he has never captured any on photographs or film. The UFO believer said he never thought about carrying around a camera, but said he might start doing so after a suggestion that it might be a good idea.

Dennett has converted others into believers. One day he brought his boss at Gess & Associates, David Fleetwood, to an area off Topanga Canyon Boulevard with a film crew to look for alien crafts. Fleetwood said after several hours of waiting, a bright light finally appeared.

"I looked up and I saw a very bright light, with no sound," Fleetwood said. "I can't confirm it was a saucer. It was a light that was there, then it was not there. I know it was not a helicopter or an airplane. I have eliminated all pos-



Preston Dennett holds a picture of what he says shows an alien spacecraft hovering over Trippett Ranch in Topanga.

sible explanations."

Fleetwood said the film crew was in the process of switching tapes for the camera when the light appeared, so they were unable to capture the sighting on film. He said after that night he became interested in the UFO subject, and said he believes this planet has been visited by alien spacecrafts.

When Dennett's book was first published in 1999, he received a great deal of local media attention. He was interviewed by most

of the major local television stations and the *Los Angeles Times*. But Dennett said most of the interviews were done tongue in cheek, and did not take him seriously. This bothers him, he said.

"It annoys me because I take this subject very seriously," Dennett said. "I believe that saucers have crashed on this planet. I believe that this is a real phenomenon. But it's very hard to convince people when you don't have evidence."

Now, he might have some believers from the Mexican Defense Department.

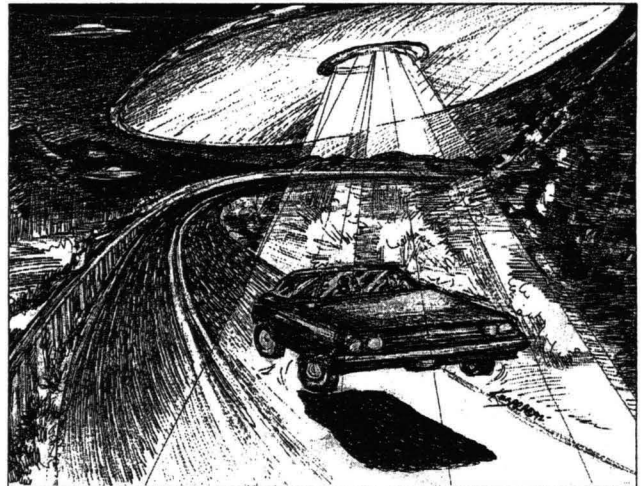
Earlier this month, the Mexican Air Force released a video showing strange moving lights in the sky. Some of the pilots who taped the incident said the lights were crafts from another planet.

The most famous UFO case in American history took place in July 1947. A spacecraft allegedly crashed near a military base in Roswell, N.M. That incident has inspired several films, books, a television series, and has become part of American pop culture. In 1994, the U.S. military said the craft that crashed in 1947 was actually a military spy balloon. But that did little to persuade true

believers. And in 1997, a large festival took place at this Mecca for UFO where extraterrestrial enthusiasts celebrated the 50th anniversary of the crash. Dennett attended the event.

Also, on the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident, CNN conducted a scientific poll that found 22 percent of Americans believe beings have visited Earth. Although less than a quarter of the country's population believes we have been visited by people from another world, most Americans do believe that we are not alone. A 1996 Gallup Poll found that 72 percent of Americans believe there is life in other parts of the Universe.

Dennett will appear at B. Dalton bookstore in Topanga Canyon on Thursday at 7 p.m. to sign his book "UFOs over Topanga Canyon."



Preston Dennett's sister-in-law, Kesara, drew this picture based on a person's description of a 1992 encounter with what he said was an alien spacecraft.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - May 15, 2004 CR: D. Smith

SKEPTIC DOUBTS SAUCERS FLY

By MARK BAKER
The Register-Guard

It would take us "Earth People" an incomprehensible amount of time, more lifetimes than have ever been lived, to travel to their world, a place known as Pleiades. But it only takes them seven minutes to get here.

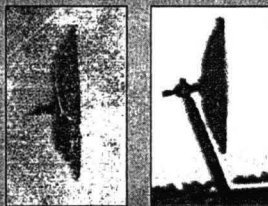
Hard to believe? Not if you're Michael Horn and have spent 25 years investigating the outrageous claims of Billy Meier, a Swiss man who says he's had contact with beings from another planet.

"It will curl your hair when you get into it," says Horn, a Los Angeles fitness instructor and operator of the Web site, www.theyfly.com, who was reached by telephone. "I can't prove that UFOs are real, but I can prove (Meier's) contacts are real. I will take on any skeptic or any scientist, any time."

Maybe Horn should have a close encounter with Robert Sheaffer, the San Diego software developer and Skeptical Inquirer writer invited to Oregon this week by Oregonians for Rationality, a nonprofit organization formed about 10 years ago to combat the wild claims of UFO fanatics and all things paranormal.

Sheaffer, who has spent 25 years himself studying UFOs, as a skeptic, will give a free talk today at the Eu-

DEBUNKING UFO CASE



ROBERT SHEAFFER

UFO skeptic Robert Sheaffer maintains that the famous Trent case in McMinnville was actually a side mirror of an old pickup truck (right), viewed sideways. The 1950 photo (left), taken with a box camera, shows a flying saucerlike object spinning over Paul Trent's farm.

gene Water & Electric Board.

"Some people would like to believe in something that's fun and exciting," Sheaffer says of UFO enthusiasts, "although it might not be true. But the more

you look into (these claims) in a rigorous sense, the less scientifically believable they are."

And there's no better time to talk unidentified flying objects, with sightings recently reported in Mexico and a UFO festival being held in Oregon.

Earlier this week, Mexican Air Force pilots say they filmed 11 UFOs in the skies above their nation. "I couldn't say what it was ... but I think they're completely real," Lt. Mario Vasquez told CNN.

Sheaffer also spoke Thursday in McMinnville, near

where the 5th Annual UFO Festival, the nation's second-largest annual gathering of UFO fans began Friday and continues today and Sunday.

And it is no coincidence that Sheaffer, 54 and the author of the 1998 book "UFO Sightings: The Evidence," was invited to speak in McMinnville and Eugene this weekend, says Jeanine DeNoma, an Oregon State University agricultural researcher and member of Oregonians for Rationality. Although he wanted to, Sheaffer says he was not invited to speak at the UFO Festival itself. UFO fanatics do not like skeptics knocking their claims and theories out of the sky, so to speak, he says.

Sheaffer's talk in Eugene will focus on the famous Trent case, one of the first widely publicized UFO sightings that happened in McMinnville in 1950. The photographs, taken with an

(continued on page 5)

old folding-box camera, show a flying saucer-like object spinning over Paul Trent's farm.

"I suspect that it was a practical joke that got out of hand," Sheaffer says. The photos ended up in McMinnville's weekly newspaper of the time, spread across the country, then the world, ending up in Life magazine.

About four years ago, a man named Joel Carpenter came up with a theory, which Sheaffer espouses, that Trent strung up the side mirror of an old pickup truck, which viewed sideways, looks just like the flying saucer in the famous photos. Reaction from UFO believers to Carpenter's theory was quite hostile, Sheaffer says.

"As for the sightings themselves, there really are unidentified flying objects," says Josh Reese, a former military fighter pilot and founding member of Oregonians for Rationality who lives in the Salem area. But there is some sort of rational explanation for most, Reese says, whether it's car headlights in the mountains or Jupiter floating in the distance. That's what Reese saw one time years ago while flying a fighter jet, although at first, he wasn't sure. The pulsating light appeared to move back and forth in the clouds. That spooked him, if only for a moment.

"And it was just a ... planet," he says.

Ted Clay, a statistician from Ashland and also a member of Oregonians for Rationality, will give a talk at the University of Oregon's Willamette Hall on Wednesday titled "Crop Circles: Man-made or What?" Are the unusual patterns, found mostly in the wheat fields of English farmers, made supernaturally? Made by aliens? Or made by people?

"I think they're made by people," Clay says. "But some people say they're made by a plasma vortex. Some people believe they're created by people's thoughts."

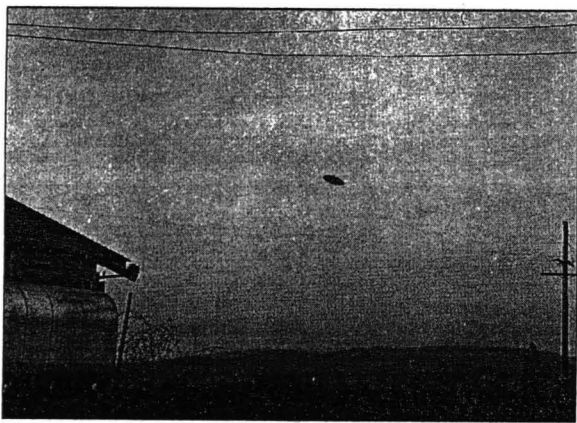
As for the case of Billy Meier, who claims he was first contacted by the Plejarans as a 5-year-old in 1942, Horn will go on believing.

"There's so much accurate information in this case," he says of the thousands of photographs Meier has of the Plejarans ships landing in Switzerland. "Either it's the biggest hoax or the most important story in human history."

Meier also claims the Plejarans can peer into the future, telling him, among other things, about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks way back in 1987. Why didn't Meier warn the world? Would the world really have listened? Horn asks.

As for the future, Meier says the Plejarans have told him World War III will erupt between 2006 and 2012 unless America changes its foreign policies. Why don't the Plejarans just come to Earth and tell the American people themselves?

"You think our world would handle it if discs suddenly started coming down?" Horn says. "People would just go violent. They couldn't handle it. 'Earth People' are too illogical."



Robert Sheaffer's talk in Eugene will focus on a 1950 McMinnville case, some of the first publicized UFO photos.

UFO SIGHTINGS: THE EVIDENCE

What: Lecture by UFO skeptic Robert Sheaffer
When: Today at 4:30 p.m.
Where: Training Room at EWEB, 500 E. Fourth Ave. in Eugene

CROP CIRCLES: MAN-MADE OR WHAT?

What: Lecture by Ashland's Ted Clay, statistician and member of Oregonians for Rationality
When: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Where: 100 Willamette Hall at University of Oregon

CR: G. Fawcett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UFO researcher looks for citizen

To The Editor:

I am currently investigating both old and new UFO reports in the Carolinas. I'm writing this letter to try to reach a Cherryville resident, who had a unique UFO encounter near a Cherryville pier with a misty blue rectangular-shaped UFO 75 feet away and described the large object, a static crackling sound and several physiological effects during a 10-minute duration.

The Cherryville eyewitness reported his experience to the National UFO Reporting Center at Seattle, Washington on their UFO Hotline on November 20, 2003 at 7:47 p.m. as an anonymous witness.

This report has been assigned to me to investigate along with others at several other localities in North Carolina. I am hoping that this Cherryville resident will contact me by phone at (704) 735-5725 so that I can complete a follow-up investigation confidentially. He can write to me at 602 Battleground Rd., Lincolnton NC 28092 if he wishes.

George D. Fawcett
Field investigator for MUFON-NC, Inc.
Lincolnton



Close Encounters

My father was always on the lookout for aliens. His obsession made his kids expect the inconceivable. By Dan Barry

We were just another family living on Long Island in the late 1960's, but we were also the family from another planet. Although the books of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen decorated our shelves, they were little more than props from the days when our faith-doubting father sought Catholic church blessing to marry our mother, an Irish farm girl who had been orphaned and then air-mailed to relatives in Brooklyn. And for every one of these unopened books about the mysteries of our faith, there were 10 about the mysteries of our universe: U.F.O.'s, extrasensory perception, reincarnation and other subjects tiptoeing into blasphemy.

Our father may have looked like the typical Wall Street salesman, commuting daily on the Long Island Rail Road, but he was not. His pessimistic worldview, cemented by a Depression-era childhood, was tempered by an optimistic belief in extraterrestrial life that was rooted in the same lousy childhood. He corresponded with other conspiracy theorists, collected photographs of plausible sightings and even participated in a panel discussion on the subject at Hofstra University, while his children sat in the back of the auditorium, eating French fries and basking in the reflected glory of a father finally being recognized for his mastery of a potentially world-shaking discipline.

The pursuit of U.F.O.'s became integral to our family life. There were late-night phone calls, strange packages in the mail and unsettling discussions lasting until dawn. Wisps of those alcohol-fueled conversations rose like heat from the living room, up to the bedroom where my brother, Brian, and I lay, tossing and turning, minds veering from one heart-stopping image to another. That photograph we saw of ectoplasm dripping from a woman's mouth like a warmed-over Charleston Chew. That story we overheard about the farmer who vanished in front of his wife while walking across a field. For years afterward, the wife would return to the spot and hear her husband calling for help — because, my father theorized, the farmer had fallen through a fissure in time.

I naturally reasoned that a fissure in time could just as easily develop in my hometown, Deer Park. Of course I'd be the one to stumble through, my cries for help too low to be heard above

the summer roars of lawn mowers, the winter moans of cold car engines, the everyday suburban clatter. Whenever I walked alone at night, I thought of the vanishing farmer and hurried my step.

One summer evening, our parents piled us into the station wagon for a "very special" 70-mile trip to a place in New Jersey called Wanaque — where, kids, spaceships have supposedly been hovering over a reservoir. I never thought how strange this mission was, how odd that my family half-expected to see an alien spaceship that night. We had been reared on the general premise that it was arrogant to think that humans were the only intelligent beings in the universe. Our father was persuasive in his arguments, and persuasive because he was our father.

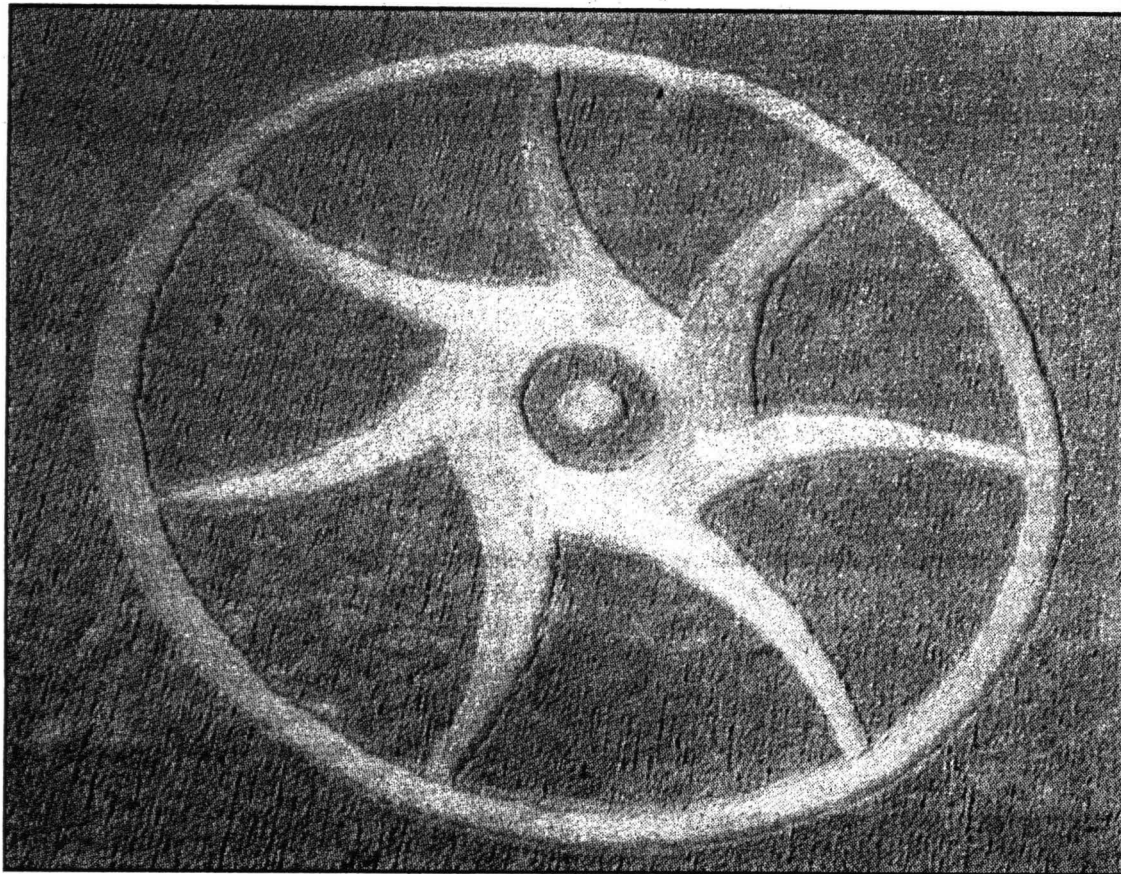
Our parents bought coffee and some sugar-powdered Linzer tortes, then parked at the edge of the pitch-black reservoir to begin our surveillance. The two girls fought off drowsiness. The two boys second-guessed the stars. Our father peered through binoculars like a vigilant air-raid warden. And our mother sat behind the wheel, calmly sipping her coffee, as if she had been conducting U.F.O. stakeouts all her life. Nearby there were several parked cars containing silhouettes in clutches. Word of the U.F.O. sightings had clearly leaked, we reasoned. Others were keeping watch as well, holding one another to ward off the fear.

The oldies radio station played "the music of your life." My sisters fell asleep. Each time an airplane passed overhead, Brian and I shouted, "Is that one?" And each time, my father trained his binoculars on the moving light, just to double-check that it was only a plane. With a small camera waiting at his feet, he was a hunter, looking to bag the extraterrestrial tiger that would change his life and all others.

With the distance of 35 years, I see now that these family outings were one of the ways that my parents imparted larger lessons: life is fragile; take nothing for granted; everything can change in the bat of an eye. You could be called in from the fields to be told that your mother has died on the operating table in Dublin. You could turn a New York City corner to find your mother sitting on her living-room sofa, there by the curbside, the family evicted, again. You could be abducted by aliens.

The U.F.O.'s never came to the Wanaque Reservoir. At least not that night. At least as far as I know. After a while, my brother fell asleep, and then so did I. But before I closed my eyes, I took in the wonder of it all: the taste of powdered sugar, the warmth of my siblings beside me and the sight of my parents staring into the Jersey darkness, peering with hope, peering up. ■

Dan Barry writes the About New York column for The Times and is the author of "Pull Me Up," to be published next month by W. W. Norton & Company and from which this article is adapted.



there was evidence of wheat lying in three different directions, which may provide information to persons who are trained to read such phenomena.

Analysis

Nancy Talbott, of Burke, Levensgood, and Talbott (BLT), has spent years researching "crop circles" and expressed delight in an opportunity to investigate this occurrence in Western Clay County. JoAnn Scarpellini, High Ridge, Missouri, will spend a few days gathering evidence from the wheat field as part of a study.

"We are working with a scientist from the University of California, Davis on examining soil and root systems of plants in the areas of crop circles," Talbott states. "We have scientists ready to examine mycorrhizal fungi in root systems and we will make a molecular and chemical analysis of the soil of the immediate area."

She explains this is the first study of its kind of fungi living in root systems of plants inside crop circles and how they are affected by all sorts of energy.

"A description of this crop circle indicates we can get an extensive sampling, since there are both standing and downed crop in the immediate area," Talbott states.

Persons wishing more information can refer to Talbott's online website, www.blresearch.com and look for undergoing research.

by Fred Martin

Most wheat farmers realize that Spring storms may level acres of their crop, but few farmers in Western Clay County have faced the reality of "crop circles," an unknown phenomenon that may leave circles, lines or any possible configuration in the midst of a crop.

Tuesday of this week, reports began circulating of another large circle in the area.

"This crop is about three weeks from harvest, and I can see many curious people coming to the field and damaging what is still standing," says the latest local victim of "crop circles."

For this reason, we have agreed not to print his name or give the location of his farm, even though word began circulating on the street before press time.

It has been reported that a pilot spotted the design in the middle of a wheat field, earlier this week. On Tuesday morning, the farmer, on his first trip for a close-up view, invited representatives of Clay County Courier to the field to see the patterns and take an unlimited number of pictures.

"I've never seen anything like this," he said. "There are no tracks coming in and no evidence that anyone has yet been in this field. There is not much difference in the color of that (wheat)

standing and that on the ground, so it must not have happened too long ago."

Recalling the "crop circle" incident of last June in the field farmed by Todd Young at Knobel, several persons looked for the lay of the wheat and found downed crop layered in at least three different directions, thus squashing a theory of persons with long boards or planks crushing the wheat.

As in the past, at least two uncrushed bird nests were found, still intact.

No one in the area reported any strange occurrences during the past few days.

Circle design

A moving wagon wheel may best describe the design that appeared in the Clay County field. Inside the inner circle, approximately 12 feet wide, wheat was flattened in a clockwise direction. Standing wheat circled that which was on the ground and the width of standing wheat was approximately 10 feet. Another circle of downed wheat was approximately 25 to 30 feet wide. Seven spokes with slight angles to the left extended more than 100 feet joining an outer circle approximately 10 feet wide.

Digging into the intersection of spokes to the middle circle,



Close-up of a crop circle . . .

Layers of wheat, lying in various directions, are pictured above in a photo taken Tuesday of this week in Western Clay County.



We are not alone!



Caught on camera: Six of the rapidly moving objects over Mexico

Squadron of UFOs is filmed chasing an air force plane

IT was the moment an air force pilot realised he was having a close encounter.

Cruising at 11,000ft, he and his crew suddenly found themselves surrounded - by unidentified flying objects.

Video footage apparently shot from the plane shows a squadron of the brightly shining 'craft', moving and turning rapidly in the late evening sky.

'We are not alone! This is so weird,' one of the pilots can be heard shouting on the tape, which has just been released by the Mexican government.

The crew of the Mexican Air Force reconnaissance plane captured this fascinating image after switching on a camera after the mysterious objects were picked up by radar.

Crewmen filmed the 11 UFOs in the skies over southern Campeche state, a defence department spokesman confirmed.

The 15-minute videotape shows the bright objects, some sharp points of light and others like large headlights, moving rapidly.

Lieutenant Mario Adrian Vazquez, the infra-red equipment operator, said: 'I couldn't say what it was - but

By **Tim Utton**
Science Reporter

I think they're completely real. Lt Vazquez insisted that there was no way to alter the recorded images.

Radar operator Lt German Marin added: 'Was I afraid? Yes.'

'A little afraid because we were facing something that had never happened before.'

The footage is among the most credible evidence yet that extra-terrestrials may have found us, it was claimed last night.

Richard Lawrence, British UFO expert and author, said: 'There has been video and radar evidence of UFO activity for decades, but this is the first time that it has been openly confirmed by government and military officials.'

'The Mexican government's honesty and openness about UFOs is to be welcomed by all ufologists. Let's hope that other governments will follow Mexico's fine example - including our own.'

The lights were filmed on March 5 by pilots using infra-red equipment.

They appeared to be flying at an altitude of 11,480ft, and surrounded the jet as it conducted anti-drug trafficking duties. Three of the objects showed up on the plane's radar - then a further eight revealed

'I felt a bit tense'

themselves when crewmen switched on their infra-red camera.

At this point, the surveillance plane gave chase.

The plane's captain, Major Magdaleno Castanon, said he became nervous when the objects turned back and surrounded his plane.

He said: 'There was a moment when the screens showed they were behind us, to the left and in front of us.'

'It was at that point that I felt a bit tense. I believe they could feel we were pursuing them.'

When the jets stopped following the objects, they disappeared, he said.

t.utton@dailymail.co.uk

The Thing From Outer Space

Cley Hill just outside Warminster has been identified as the second most likely place in the country to be abducted by aliens, new research has revealed.

Apparently over the last 50 years thousands of people in Wiltshire have seen the UFOs, flying near Cley Hill's iron age fort.

Of the five types of UFO 'identified' - saucer, ring, cigar, delta and the 'foo fighter', given its name by World War Two pilots - all have been seen in the skies above Cley Hill.

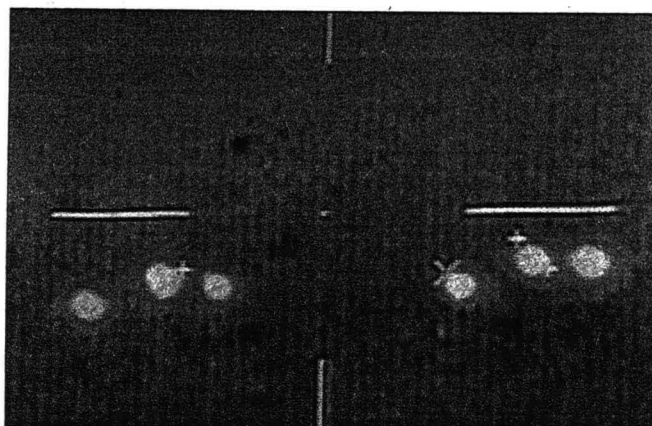
The new list of top 40 UFO British hot-spots was compiled by Grolsch to complement their new TV advertisement. It shows aliens attempting to abduct a 'hillbilly', however they are asked to take their time to consider a higher calibre of abductee.

Grolsch say the list provides a route map for anyone hoping to be abducted by aliens and claim up to 40,000 people in this country, and as many as four million Americans, insist it has happened to them.

Not all witnesses are the usual UFO watchers. Sightings have been reported by firemen answering 999 calls to the pilot of a police helicopter.

Bonnybridge in Lanarkshire topped the UK top 40 list.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - May 12, 2004 CR: G. Conway



Video image shows unidentified flying objects in the sky over southern Campeche state filmed by Mexican air force pilots on March 5 evening.

Air force pilots film UFOs over Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Mexican air force pilots filmed 11 unidentified flying objects in the skies over southern Campeche state, a Defence Department spokesman confirmed yesterday.

A videotape shows the bright objects, some sharp points of light and others like large headlights, moving rapidly in what appears to be a late-evening sky.

The lights were filmed March 5 by pilots using infrared equipment. They appeared to be flying at an altitude of about 3,500 metres and allegedly surrounded the air force jet as it conducted routine anti-drug trafficking vigilance in Campeche. Only three of the objects showed up on the plane's radar.

'Was I afraid? Yes,' said radar operator Lt. German Marin in a taped interview. 'A little afraid because we were facing something that had never happened before.'

'I couldn't say what it was... but I think they're completely real,' added Lt. Mario Adrian Vazquez, the infrared equipment operator.

Vazquez insisted there was no way to alter the recorded images.

The plane's captain, Maj. Magdaleno Castanon, said the military jets chased the lights 'and I believe they could feel we were pursuing them.'

When the jets stopped following the objects, they disappeared, he said.

The video was first aired on national television Monday night, then again at a news conference yesterday by Jaime Maussan, a Mexican investigator who has dedicated the last 10 years to studying UFOs.

Maussan said Secretary of Defence Gen. Ricardo Vega Garcia gave him the video April 22.

— Associated Press

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - May 13, 2004

Mexican military mum on UFO report

MEXICO CITY — Mexican Defense Secretary Ricardo Vega Garcia said Wednesday the military had made no conclusions about a series of brightly lit, rapidly moving objects filmed by Air Force pilots earlier this year.

But Vega said neither had the military concluded that the objects, visible only with infrared equipment, were flying saucers as UFO investigator Jaime Maussan insisted during a news conference Tuesday.

'This is Maussan's point of view, for that reason he was given [the video] so that he could draw his own conclusions,' Vega told W Radio. 'But that is his version.'

On March 5, Mexican Air Force pilots videotaped the series of brilliant objects flying at more than 11,480 feet over southern Campeche state using a video camera equipped with an infrared lens. Infrared equipment can only detect heat emanating from objects; it is unable to provide an image of the objects' exact form.

In the videotape, first aired publicly on national television Monday night, the objects appear to accelerate rapidly and change course suddenly.

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD HILL-NORTON

Chief of Defence Staff who, as Chairman of the Nato Military Committee, steered a safe path through Cold War tension

Peter Hill-Norton crowned a long and estimable naval career by his chairmanship of Nato's Military Committee, a post which requires the incumbent to have been his own nation's Chief of Defence Staff and to have a reputation that satisfies the governments of all the Nato countries. Based at the Nato headquarters in Brussels, the military committee, when in permanent session, is composed of senior armed service representatives from each nation and also meets several times a year at national chiefs of defence staff level. Its duty is to provide military advice to the political authorities of the Alliance and to execute their decisions.

In his book *No Soft Options* (1978), a statement of the challenges confronting Nato, Hill-Norton described this role as follows: "The chairman is by definition and recognition the star at the top of the Nato military tree. However, contrary to the classic definition of a harlot, he has immense responsibility but very little power. Even though his hands may be on the levers of power, he can only move them by persuasion and personal influence which flow in equal measure from his personality and his office."

Reaching the required unanimous decisions involved the massaging of national positions, but also, as Hill-Norton put it, "the not always identical hopes and fears of three Services had to be moulded in national capitals into one coherent policy before exposure to the multinational gaze".

During his tenure in the mid-1970s the inevitable constitutional shortcomings of such a voluntary alliance were compounded by economic difficulties amongst its members and the workings of a détente process which, while it showed gains in some political areas, blunted the collective will to deter the Soviet military threat. In times when the end of the Cold War seems already so far off, the formidable fecundity and the offensive posture of the Soviet arms production of those days is often forgotten. The need to preserve an adequate nuclear threshold in the interest of credible deterrence often obliged Hill-Norton to sound sombre warnings of the immense danger of reductions in Nato's conventional capabilities. In the words of the Secretary-General, Dr Joseph Luns, Hill-Norton "rendered extraordinary service as chairman" by a controlled use of his powerful personality coupled to a developed political sensibility.

Peter John Hill-Norton was born in 1915 and entered the Royal Navy in 1928 at the age of 13, first going to sea as a midshipman in the cruiser *London* in 1932. He subsequently served in the battleships *Malaya*, *Rodney* and *Ramillies* and the cruiser *Sussex* before qualifying as a gunnery officer just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Appointed to the anti-aircraft cruiser *Cairo*, he saw service protecting convoys to Norway and at the evacuation of Narvik in March 1940. In 1941, further North Atlantic and Russian convoy duty followed his transfer to the cruiser *Cumberland*. He next spent two years in the gunnery division of the Admiralty, followed by an appointment as the gunnery officer of the battleship *Howe* in the Pacific Fleet, operating against the Japanese.

After the war he remained at sea in the cruiser *Nigeria* and, having been promoted to commander in 1947, subsequently had two years in the Admiralty. During this period he was the first British officer to be allowed through the US "Iron Security Curtain" erected after the betrayals by the atomic scientist Dr Fuchs. What he saw in the guided missile field led to a report to the Chief Scientist, Sir Henry Tizard, which resulted in the virtual scrapping and restarting of Britain's



After long service at sea, Hill-Norton took on a long series of senior planning roles, acting briefly as First Sea Lord before becoming Chief of Defence Staff in 1971

guided weapons programme. Hill-Norton always regarded this as the most important achievement of his life. After a tour as second-in-command of the new aircraft carrier *Eagle*, Hill-Norton was promoted early to captain and sent as naval attaché to Argentina.

On return to the United Kingdom, he was given command of the destroyer *Decoy* which took part in the Suez invasion of 1956. Contemporaries record that *Decoy* supported the landings near Alexandria with great enthusiasm, firing off nearly all her ammunition — in spite of orders to cease fire — in support of a plan which had interdicted the use of guns of larger calibre in the interests of saving civilian lives.

His next command was the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* which was followed by promotion to rear-admiral and the first of a series of senior flag posts as Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff. His final sea-going appointment was as second-in-command of the Far East Fleet from 1964 to 1966, followed by three years in the Ministry of Defence as Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics), then Second Sea Lord (Chief of Naval Personnel) and subsequently Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff.

While he was VCNS, he and the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, were heavily occupied with the aftermath of the February 1966 Defence White Paper which, after much bruising interservice infighting, decided that the Navy's fixed-

wing carrier capability should wither. Although signalled as a blueprint for the next 30 years, this White Paper would soon be seen as yet another short-term attempt to make inadequate capability cover overambitious commitments. Sir Varyl Begg wrote at this time that Hill-Norton "had a sense of humour, but kept it strictly in its place".

Hill-Norton's next appointment, in 1969 as Commander-in-Chief of all military forces in the Far East, faced him with the task of implementing the intentions of the 1967 Defence Review, to withdraw some 80,000 people from the Far East and close a dozen bases to a timescale that was shortened yearly by national balance-of-payments pressures. Seato was a major preoccupation as were nasty inter-communal riots in Malaya. Politically, Hill-Norton played a major part in the setting up of the Five Power Defence Agreement for the future defence of Malaysia and Singapore.

The terminal illness of the First Sea Lord, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Le Fanu, caused him to withdraw his acceptance of the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and to retire in 1970, giving way to Hill-Norton who, after a brief tenure as First Sea Lord, became CDS himself in March 1971. Hill-Norton's impact on the naval staff was immediate: Le Fanu's geniality was replaced by a brusque steeliness. With Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy, he produced the "Hill-Norton-

Grandy concordat" which required a final stop to interservice bitterness and infighting. Anyone caught "not stopping" would find his career vitiated.

He was an effective CDS throughout a period of continuing financial stringency, taking further the historical trend towards tri-service integration that had been started by Mountbatten.

After his retirement from Nato in 1977 he was created a life peer. His interest in maritime matters did not wane. As president of the British Maritime League he made his views known in many forums, enlisting the aid of television on a number of occasions. A less fortunate initiative was the lending of his name to the Hill-Norton Committee, which also included Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount Royal (Minister of State MoD, 1979-81) and Professor R. V. Jones.

This group was formed to promote a novel frigate hull design by Thornycroft Giles Associates which, because of its bizarre beam-to-length ratio, gave rise to the "short fat ship" controversy. Although rejected by the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee, so much media interest and acrimony had been generated that Margaret Thatcher ordered in 1986 an independent inquiry by Lloyd's Register of Shipping which concluded in 1988, at a cost of £13 million, that there was no merit in the proposal and that the ministry's experts were justified.

Lord Hill-Norton was president of the Defence Manufacturers' Association and

of the Sea Cadets as well as vice-president of the Royal United Services Institute for 13 years to 1990. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1973.

Latterly he had written the foreword to Timothy Good's book *Unearthly Disclosure*, and founded the pressure group UFO Concern. His own concerns focused on the activities of a US surveillance squadron based at RAF Feltwell in Suffolk. "I have asked a number of questions about the base and never get a satisfactory answer," he was on record as saying. "There are no man-made objects in interstellar space, so I want to know what they are really doing. And I want to know what the Government is doing about the UFO problem. There is overwhelming evidence that there are physical objects in Earth's atmosphere and they are not man-made."

In his last few years, though not in good health, he had devoted himself unstintingly to the care of his increasingly frail wife, Margaret, to whom he was married for 68 years.

He is survived by her, by their son, Vice-Admiral Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton, and by their daughter.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, GCB, Chief of Defence Staff, 1971-73 and Chairman of the Military Committee of Nato 1974-77, was born on February 8, 1915. He died on May 16, 2004, aged 89.

Our UFOs on film

A UFO group has produced its own film investigating mysterious craft seen over the Chase.

The film, *Flying Triangles*, has been produced by the group with the help of Ocean Internet, a video animation company in Cannock.

Stuart Hurd, the director at the company, said: "This has been an interesting job for us. We usually just do work for e-commerce sites." He added that his involvement with the film

hadn't changed his beliefs on UFOs. "I am still the eternal sceptic. I don't think there is anything out there."

The film concentrates on events in and around the Cannock Chase area which became known as a hotspot of UFO activity in the late 80s and early 90s.

Staffordshire UFO Coordinator Graham Allen said: "Although the film is based around events from a few years ago, we do still get sightings in the area. Just four weeks ago a man in

Rugeley reported a strange object moving towards Little Haywood at 3am."

Graham says he hopes 'Flying Triangles', which has been professionally produced, will eventually be seen on the Discovery Channel.

The film is available to order from the group's website: www.sufog.co.uk

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - April 7, 2004

Movie is a step closer

A FILM about the mysterious sighting of UFOs at an East Anglian air base is a step closer to being made after a funding body pledged to support it.

Despite not reaching the finals of the Landmark East competition, the feature film has been given a strong thumbs up from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

Joanna Carrick, creative director of the film and theatre company Red Rose Chain, said: "We are really glad that

we entered the competition in our maverick and different way. I think they found it impossible to pull it in with the other projects, which were mainly architectural."

The project first came into fruition four years ago when the company performed their play in Rendlesham Forest, which was inspired by the UFO sightings at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk.

The EEDA has also expressed an interest in an annual Rendlesham Forest production, raising the possibility of developing it into a drama festival.

The Chronicle **features**

UNEXPLAINED FORCES UNDER OBSERVATION

BETWEEN 1980 and 1992 there were a series of strange sightings in the sky over Cannock Chase including a high profile incident on May 16 1998.

Dozens of people, including police officers and Government officials, witnessed two triangle shaped objects in the sky.

The then Stafford & Stone MP Bill Cash even went as far as to take the matter up with the defence minister to get some answers.

The answer was that, by definition, what had been seen were unidentified flying objects.

Still trying to find out the truth behind the mysterious goings on over Cannock Chase is Graham Allen of the Staffordshire UFO Group.

Next week, Graham's documentary about UFO sightings over the Chase will be released and could encourage more people to examine what seems to be a very real phenomenon.

The video was two years in the making and its potential worldwide audience could put Cannock on the UFO map.

It has already been featured in the international publication UFO Magazine and Graham said further coverage could even boost tourism in the area.

"We took it to the UFO Congress in Nevada recently and it went down really well. We are hoping it will get on TV here or over in America," Graham said.

The decline in TV shows such as the X-Files has not dampened the spirits of those who follow matters of the unknown and Graham says Staffordshire has been a paranormal hotspot for decades.

"It is still very mainstream. Reports date back to the 1940's in Cannock Chase. Why is it a hotspot? It could be because it is such an ideal area for viewing but there could well be other reasons," he said.

"The Chase has even been credited by a retired US Naval Intelligence Officer as the location for a crashed UFO in 1965, which was swiftly whisked away by British and American military personnel.

"This puts Cannock Chase up there with the infamous Roswell Incident of 1947 though very few people even know about it," he added.

The documentary, called Cannock Chase UFO Hot Spot UK, covers the sightings within the Staffordshire skies of silent flying triangles and

FEATURE by RICHARD WYATT

includes interviews with MoD officials, police and other witnesses.

Graham believes that critics cannot discount the numbers of sightings of triangles during the 80s and 90s.

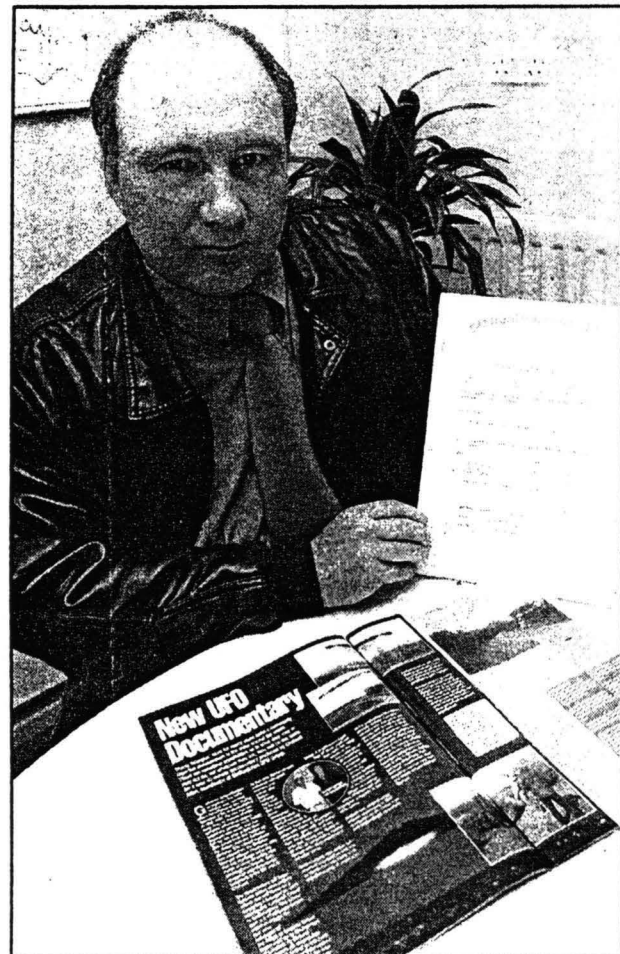
He even likens a famous incident in Belgium, referred to as the Belgian Triangle, to what has been spotted over Cannock Chase.

"The Belgian airforce chased one of these in an F16 fighter and didn't even get close," he said.

"It carried out manoeuvres that would have killed a human pilot through G-force alone. The case is well documented and was released by the Belgian authorities. We have used it in comparison to the Cannock Chase wave of events," he added.

Regional footage of UFOs has also been caught on tape.

The Yoxall Triangle, so called because it was filmed heading towards Rugeley from Yoxall, was



Graham Allen, from Staffordshire UFO Group

captured on tape by a couple from Abbots Bromley. "You have to look at the evidence and make your own mind up," says Graham.

The Staffordshire UFO group regularly meets to discuss UFOs and other sightings on Cannock Chase.

"The Cannock Chase area in particular has proved to be a place where strange goings-on cannot be ignored," Graham said.

"It is now well established that Cannock Chase has been a UFO hotspot for decades and has been verified as such by credible authors on the subject," he said.

Staffordshire UFO Group was started in 1995 and its meetings include regular talks given by military and retired RAF officers, scientists and investigators.

The documentary will available from next Thursday (March 18).

Those who want to venture further into the unknown can contact Graham Allen on 01889 585149.

wales of the UNEXPECTED

Were fairies the aliens of the past?

By RICHARD HOLLAND

THERE are many intriguing parallels between the old belief in fairies and the modern day belief in aliens and UFOs. Take the following story, for example. The action takes place in the close neighbourhood of Portmeirion and the time is one dark night one year in the first half of the 19th century - more than a century before the concept of a UFO was even thought of.

A young woman named Miss Jones was walking home from a neighbour's house and she had with her a servant known by the nickname

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England - April 15, 2004

of Dafydd Fawr, "because of his great strength and stature". Dafydd was carrying a joint of bacon on his back and walking rather slowly. Miss Jones hurried on her way through the night, as Dafydd followed.

When she arrived home, however, Miss Jones was surprised to find that Dafydd was not with her - and it was another three hours before he finally turned up, the bacon still on his back.

The servant was amazed when he was told how late it was. He was sure he had been just a few minutes behind, but he explained that he had been briefly delayed by a strange sight.

"He observed," she said, "a brilliant meteor passing through the air, which was followed by a ring or hoop of fire, and within this hoop stood a man and woman of small size, handsomely dressed. With one arm they embraced each other, and with the other they took hold of the hoop, and their feet rested on the concave surface of the ring."

"When the hoop reaches the earth these two beings jumped out of it, and immediately proceeded to make a circle upon the ground. As soon as this was done, a large number of men and women instantly appeared, and to the



The toadstool in this old woodcut of fairies dancing has often been compared to pictures of flying saucers

sweetest music that ear ever heard commenced dancing round and round the circle.

The sight was so entrancing the man stayed what he thought a few minutes to witness the scene. The ground all around was lit up by a kind of subdued light, and he observed every movement of these beings.

"By and by the meteor which had at first attracted his attention appeared again, and then the fiery hoop came to view, and when it reached the spot where the dancing was, the lady and gentleman who had arrived in it jumped into the hoop, and disappeared in the same manner in which they had reached the place.

"Immediately after their departure the fairies vanished, and the man found himself alone and in darkness, and then proceeded homewards. For this reason he accounted for his delay on the way."

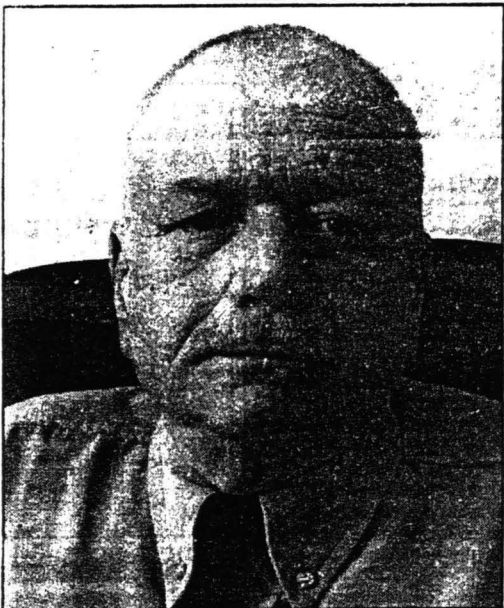
The "meteor" and the strange beings arriving to earth in a glowing circular object are clearly reminiscent of UFO stories. It is also significant that the experience of missing time - hours, or even days or years, passing by in what seems but a few minutes - is equally common in fairy-lore and in accounts of alien abduction.

This begs the question: were fairies the aliens of our forefathers?

● If you have seen anything strange, or experienced the supernatural in any way in Wales, please let me know. You can send your story to: Richard Holland, Wales of the Unexpected, 2 Alyn Bank Cottages, Long, Mold, Flintshire CH7 4JR.

ECHO ALIEN STORY SPARKS REVELATION

'I was beamed into spaceship'



Robert Stephenson, who says he had a close encounter with a UFO. JBDSC-4416.TU17

ALIEN abductions and strange lights in the sky sound more like the stuff of Hollywood movies than your average day in Loughborough.

But following the news that the town is among the top 40 UK hotspots for being abducted by aliens, as revealed in the *Echo* last week, one man has come forward to say he has experienced the phenomena firsthand.

Robert Stephenson, who lives in Selbourne Street, claims he was beamed into a spaceship two and a

half years ago while he was sleeping.

But rather than being little green men, these strange beings were rather more familiar.

"They told me they were humans from the future," he said.

The 61-year-old said one of his abductors bore a striking resemblance to Jesus while the others were grey and "funny looking."

During his ordeal, Mr Stephenson said probes were inserted into his mouth to examine his stomach.

But he didn't take kindly to the examination and said he got very

aggressive with his captors.

"They got fed up with me because I was making a nuisance of myself. They didn't like me because I was aggressive to them," he explained.

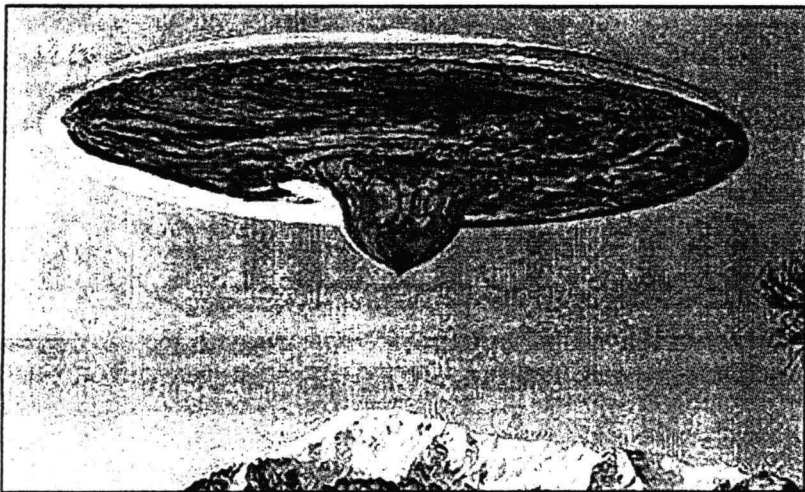
Mr Stephenson said he was amazed that when he was returned to his house, no time had passed at all.

"It seemed like it was three days but no time had gone by," he said.

He added: "I have heard of people seeing green lights or something, but when I saw the story in the *Echo* I thought 'that happened to me'."

CHIPPENHAM NEWS, Trowbridge, England - April 16, 2004

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



MYSTERY SIGHTINGS: An artist's impression of an unidentified flying object

Aliens head for Cley Hill

By Matt Wilkinson

LITTLE green men from outer space enjoy nothing better than taking their flying saucers to Warminster, a study into UFOs has revealed.

Thousands of people have experienced mysterious lights and weird sounds above the ancient fort at Cley Hill during the past 40 years.

Cley Hill became the unofficial observatory for British UFO spotters in the 1960s after strange lights in the sky were captured on film.

A spokesman for brewers Grolsch, who carried out the survey, said: "Warminster came so high because thousands of people across Wiltshire have seen lights and objects in the sky circling above Cley Hill in the past 40 years."

"Alien activity here took off in the 1960s with lights and rings being seen from time to time by many people."

"Local people refer to the strange phenomenon as 'the thing'."

A peculiar shimmering light was observed and filmed by Gordon Faulkner in August 1965 but condemned 30 years later as a fake.

Recently several more people reported UFOs flying over the skies in Semington and Trowbridge in 2001.

Matthew Williams, who has investigated UFO activity at Cley Hill in recent years, said: "It is definitely a hot spot because of the sheer amount of people who have reported seeing something in the skies."

"It is a place of high activity, and because it receives a lot of attention more people come to watch the sky and see things."

UFO expert Christopher Martin, who claims he was once abducted, believes Cley Hill is a prime spot for extra-terrestrial behaviour.

He said: "You can be abducted by aliens anywhere and at any time but the classic abduction happens at

night when you are lying in bed and you're awakened by a bright light."

"You are lifted or floated out of your room, often through the walls and brought on to a spaceship."

But many of the sightings at the 240 metre-high hill near Warminster have been dismissed as military aircraft operating over Salisbury Plain.

The Grolsch survey looked into extra-terrestrial activity to reveal the 40 UK Hot Spots for Alien Abduction for a new advertising campaign.

Top of the list for UFO activity in Britain is Bonnybridge in Scotland.

Not all witnesses in the town were UFO watchers but many people, from firefighters answering a 999 call to a pilot of a police helicopter, have reported out-of-this-world experiences.

wtimes@newswwits.co.uk

NORTH WALES WEEKLY NEWS, Conwy, Wales - April 15, 2004

Great Orme is a hotspot for UFOs

THERE have been no reports of little green men landing there, but it seems the Great Orme in Llandudno is a hotspot for UFO sightings.

Author and ufologist Nick Pope has recently compiled a list of the top 40 vantage points for sightings, and it seems the Orme comes in at number three, although quite how Mr Pope came to this conclusion is a little unclear, as he admits there is no true system for recording data.

However, he claims that, during research for a booklet on the subject to accompany a television advertising campaign for Dutch lager *Grolsch*, a number of references to sightings of UFOs from the Orme were uncovered.

Mr Pope, who is widely respected in UFO circles and ran the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk from 1991-94, commented: "It is difficult to arrive at a precise number of sightings in any one place as there is no central data collection point."

"We must also take into account widespread under-reporting due to fear of ridicule, and the fact most people are unsure where to submit reports."

"However, the listed hotspots exhibit up to 20 more sightings than anywhere else."

In first place in the league table is Bonnybridge in East Kilbride, Scotland, followed by Cley Hill, Wiltshire, and then the Orme. Manchester, Liverpool, and Denbigh are also in the top 25.



A new report by UFO expert Nick Pope to accompany an

advertising campaign by beer manufacturers Grolsch puts Keighley in the list of top alien abduction hotspots. But what might be a bit of a laugh to sell more lager for the firm is a deadly serious subject to one man. **TIM WYATT** spoke to him



ALIEN NATION? A scene from the new Grolsch advert and, right, Tony Dodd, who has spent 26 years attempting to explain the unexplained

He speaks about being threatened by CIA spooks, being followed by shadowy figures from the intelligence community and being given ultra-sensitive information by nervous diplomats. And he's made sensational revelations about alleged top-level Government cover-ups.

After 26 years Tony Dodd, Britain's leading investigator into unexplained phenomena, is still beaver-ing away to unmask the truth.

By unexplained phenomena we mean such things as UFOs, aliens, abductions and weird animal mutilations.

Mr Dodd, 69, a former Keighley and Skipton policeman with 25 years' service, has spent the past 26 years investigating unusual goings-on across the world.

It all began at 2.30am one night in 1978 when he and another officer were driving on the A629 from Skipton towards Steeton. As they reached the turn off to Cononley, something happened which changed the course of his life forever.

"We were totally gobsmacked," he explained. "It was the most amazing thing I'd ever seen. It was disc-shaped with a dome on top and it appeared to have port holes.

"It was about a hundred feet in diameter and a skirting round the bottom around which coloured lights were flashing. As it went past I could see three spheres underneath. The whole structure was glowing incandescent white."

Mr Dodd, a hard-nosed copper who had also served in the RAF and worked in the prison service, had never seen anything remotely like

this on night duty before. He was determined to discover more.

"I was so impressed by what I'd seen that when I was off duty I used to visit the moors with friends. I was quite amazed because time after time these things appeared floating across the hill tops," he said.

"It developed into an extraordinary sequence of events."

One night Mr Dodd, who now lives in Grassington, and two friends were sitting in his car when they discovered a strange object hovering above them.

"It moved away and I started shining my torch at it. It did a U-turn and started flying back towards us. It was no more than 50 feet off the ground. It stopped dead right in front of us hovering there.

"Across the front was an elliptical light which went from amber to bright white and then back to amber again. I thought at the time: 'Is it scanning us?'"

It didn't stop there. Not only did the strange sightings continue. They became commonplace.

"There were such extraordinary things happening. I didn't even have to be on the moors. Even here in Grassington I would be in my car and after five minutes one of these things would appear.

"There was no bigger sceptic than my wife until she was with me in the car and she saw one. It frightened her to death," said Mr Dodd. Eventually he set up a special UFO

The UFO incident that left Tony a marked man...



The men eventually drove Mr Dodd and his wife back to their hotel with the stark warning: "Wherever you are, we'll get you."

"I said: 'I'm aware of your expertise in these matters.' Their parting shot to me was: 'Be very careful when you're driving your car in the future.'"

As might be expected, Tony Dodd suddenly started to worry.

A week after he returned to England a mysterious American turned up on the doorstep. He admitted to Mr Dodd that he worked for the highly secretive National Security Agency based at Menwith Hill near Harrogate.

"I've come to see what you're doing," he told me. But I knew exactly what they were up to. They were letting me know they knew where I lived. But I wasn't going to be brow-beaten by these people," said Mr Dodd.

hotline, which for years rang night and day with hundreds of reports worldwide.

He continued his intense research into this deeply controversial area. It is, of course, a subject area many people believe is nothing but the fantasies of unbalanced conspiracy theorists.

During the 1980s he was lecturing across the UK and Europe. He appeared frequently on television and radio and in newspapers.

Shortly after he retired from the police in 1988 he came across his biggest scoop to date, which at first even he found difficult to comprehend. But the hard evidence he obtained and checked, detailed an incredible story of a mysterious craft being shot down by the South African Air Force in the Kalahari Desert.

The debris had apparently been quickly spirited away to a secret military base in the United States. It was an almost unbelievable story but a sinister chain of events confirmed that he was almost certainly on to something.

It was 1989 and he was lecturing about the Africa incident to hundreds of UFO buffs at a conference in Tucson, Arizona. Suddenly the situation turned unexpectedly nasty.

"When I had finished speaking, I was in the foyer with other ufologists. Two men approached us and immediately the others left. They were somehow terrified of them and refused to stay. I couldn't understand

this.

"The men told us they were members of the US government. They said: 'You want to be extremely careful about what you're doing. We have ways of stopping you.'"

Undeterred and unafraid, Mr Dodd assured the smartly-dressed agents that he had no intention of abandoning his quest.

At a lecture in Las Vegas some time later he found his wife in tears. She said two men had been threatening her and they needed to speak to him urgently.

"I wasn't at all pleased because my wife had had a heart attack recently. I approached them and they said: 'You're going to get yourself into trouble.'"

Despite being warned by other UFO-watchers never to get into a car with anyone who looked like CIA agents, Mr Dodd and his wife agreed to take a drive into the desert with the men in a chunky 4x4 bristling with aerials.

"One was friendly. The other was sullen," recalled Mr Dodd. "They said they wouldn't want to see me get hurt. I was obviously giving out stuff they didn't like."

Exactly what they didn't like wasn't made clear but there was an extensive list to choose from. Headline-making claims such as long-term contact between Governments and aliens. Clandestine underground bases. Widespread abductions. And much more.

For several months after this what happened sounds like something from a spy novel.

"I was followed day after day," added Mr Dodd. "I don't know who it was but they made it clear they were there. This was intimidation."

Worse was to come. Death threats on the phone as well as persistent surveillance. Then as suddenly as it had all started, it stopped.

Eventually he published an acclaimed book detailing his painstaking research work called "Alien Investigator", which has sold well internationally except in the United States where its publication was unwelcome in some circles.

Despite the dire threats, Mr Dodd carried on with his research work into areas many people think of as the kingdom of cranks. But then cranks don't spend a quarter of a century locking up criminals. And cranks are not normally singled out for attention by busy secret agents.

On the other hand, if our Governments are colluding with creatures from the outer cosmos, why haven't they bothered to tell us about it?

Tony Dodd's conclusion is that we simply could not take it. "I honestly don't think any government will release this information," he said. "And the reason they won't announce it, is because it would freak people out."

It seems the truth is still out there. Somewhere.

Want to be abducted by aliens in a UFO?

By Gordon McCully

A VISIT to the moors above Chorley could certainly be out of this world.

For Rivington has just been identified as 19th in the top 40 spots for people to be abducted by aliens in this country.

The latest research is part of a book called *How To Be Abducted By Aliens* and accompanies a new TV advertisement showing beings from space attempting a kidnap.

The UK top 40 was compiled by leading UFO expert Nick Pope for Grolsch beer.

Top of the list is Bonnybridge, Lanarkshire, where there have been more UFO sightings than anywhere else in the UK.

Local UFO enthusiasts Kris Costello, aged 35, and her son Terry, 10, of Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock, are regular sky watchers up at Rivington.

She revealed: "We did see one, one night. As you are going through Blackrod down Dark Lane, it was three orange lights in the shape of a triangle over Rivington."

"They were there for about ten minutes and we stopped in the car, another stopped behind us and another behind that. Then the lights all dispersed and just went in different directions and vanished."

"We go up Rivington a lot."

Rivington moor is a top spot for abductions by aliens, according to a new book

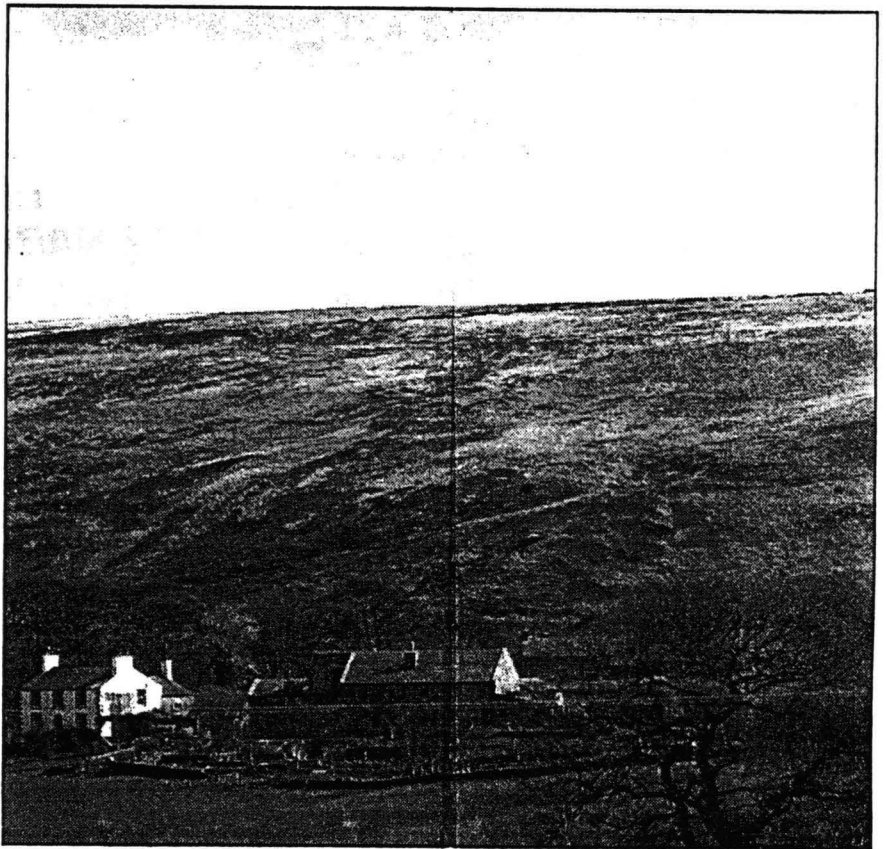
Terry loves anything like that.

"We also go to Anglezarke Moor because lights from the town don't take your eye away there."

Kris added: "I'm definitely a believer, there must be something out there."

Many incidents still go unreported because people are worried about being ridiculed, and also because folk do not know where to send reports.

● Have you seen a UFO over Chorley? If so ring the newsdesk on 01257 269313, email gmccully@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk or write to us at the Chorley Citizen 45-47 Pall Mall, Chorley PR7 3LT.



OUT OF THIS WORLD: White Coppice on the edge of Rivington Moors

MAIL, Northwich, England - April 16, 2004

In search of truth

IF you are interested in looking more deeply into UFOs then extra-terrestrial expert Eric Morris knows the truth is out there.

In the latest of our Mail club focus features, Eric declassifies the happenings of the British UFO Studies Centre (BUFOSC), which for the last decade has arguably been one of the strongest UFO Research Groups in the UK.

BUFOSC and CCCSC investigate UFOs and crop circle reports throughout the country.

We receive many reports a year and, armed with video cameras, our quick reaction team can get to the area of a sighting or crop circle within 24 hours to investigate.

Both organisations are run by a small dedicated team of people, ranging from electricians to nurses, who devote much of their spare time to researching UFOs and paranormal phenomena.

In the past we have made three BBC television programmes, the latest being *The Mythologist* which was shown on BBC4. We have also made many programmes with independent television producers.

We had the world's Press at our door in 2001 when we exclusively showed footage of a UFO flying over Hartford, Cheshire.

We have since amassed recent unexposed footage of UFOs over Cosford at an air show, footage of UFOs over crop circles shot during our research project down in Wiltshire last year and we are currently making a video documentary on the infamous Rendlesham Forest UFO crash outside a USAF air force base at Bentwaters, Suffolk in 1980.

The Cosford footage (as yet never publicly shown) which was shot at the air show in 1999 is a source of embarrassment to the Royal Air

Force and the Ministry of Defence.

Basically they are not interested in a phenomenon which delayed the display by 30 minutes and was observed chasing the French Air Force display on the Friday before the main event. BUFOSC are currently chasing up further leads into this footage that again, once released, will make front page news.

Our footage from Wiltshire last year was shot by a BUFOSC member on the first night we were down there - it shows an object flying over a crop circle formation in the East Field at Alton Barnes, Wiltshire during July.

BUFOSC and CCCSC hold regular meetings every second Tuesday of the month at the Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Runcorn, beginning at 7.30pm.

Admission is £1 and all profits are forwarded to two animal charities in Warrington and London, in memory of a BUFOSC colleague who passed away in 2001.

We also arrange two UFO conferences a year usually on a Saturday at the same Runcorn venue inviting a variety of speakers to present lectures on related subjects.

We are hoping to organise an event in July/August after our July project in Wiltshire researching crop circles. It is hoped BUFOSC will publish the first DVD/video of 2004 crop circles this year.

Both organisations hold one of Britain's largest UFO archive collections and were suc-



ALIEN VISITORS?: The truth is out there.

cessful in having classified letters released by the Ministry of Defence in 2002 relating to the UFO crash at Rendlesham Forest.

It took BUFOSC a year to go through the Parliamentary ombudsman to get these classified letters released and we were originally told these letters did not exist.

BUFOSC and CCCSC publish a quarterly magazine, *INTELLIGENCE*.

Anyone can join us during our projects or meetings. We welcome anyone interested in the paranormal phenomenon and look forward to celebrating our 10th year in existence in Wiltshire this year.

■ People interested in joining us can contact us on 01606 737687, or meet at the Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Runcorn every second Tuesday of each month.

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.]

April 27, 2004 — *Fundacion Cosmos AC* and *www.toc.com*, Chile — **NEW CHUPACABRAS ATTACKS IN SOUTH AMERICA** — Arturo Strange is adamant. He insists that it is not common for a dog attack to result in all of their prey bunched up, as he has seen inside his henhouse -- one chicken piled on top of another. Furthermore, he maintains that "there is a hole in the back through which the creature came in. As far as I know, dogs don't dig and travel underground."

A henhouse suffered a bloody attack in this area and this time 25 hens were the victims--along with don Arturo Strange's wallet. The owner of the birds is a long-time resident of the Pudeto Alto sector in Ancud, a region where the urban borders the rural. It cannot be said that the rooster stirred things up in the small henhouse, since he too paid with his life for being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

No one can disabuse Strange of the notion that the animal that killed his birds is a strange beast--the Chupacabras itself. He is so convinced of this that despite having lost all of his birds, he has summoned a veterinarian to conduct an analysis. This has happened only two days after a mink was shot in the outskirts of Llanquihue. On that occasion, 14 birds were killed by the animal, who is known for sucking blood and entrails out of its victim, which led people to believe that the Chupacabras was involved.

In what is now being known as "the Ancud Case," it is possible to believe that the Chupacabras was actually involved. Veterinarian Andres Norambuena visited the scene of the attack at 13:00 hrs. at 772 Pudeto Street. Without discarding any speculation, the professional has ventured with some certainty that a dog could be involved. But Strange is unconvinced, since he insists that "the only dogs I heard barking yesterday were my own. The hens didn't make a sound; they were nice and quiet."

Another person living in the same household corroborates this thesis. The only thing that the veterinarian is willing to consider with a fair amount of conviction is an attack by a mink, but given the area's physical characteristics and the density of buildings and human presence, this is doubtful. "Minks attack massively, but I think this would be the first such report ever known here. In other places there is considerable carnage, since [the mink] is a rather aggressive animal when it attacks. But we're in a city. It's unlikely that it would ever come here," Norambuena observed, returning to his original idea. "But this attack can be attributed to an animal with a larger muzzle, such as a dog."

The owner of the property says that there are wild creatures in the area, such as mountain cats and foxes, which have been seen around where he lives, so he does not discard the possibility of minks or the Chupacabras.

Strange's beliefs have been corroborated by local residents, particularly on Las Americas street, where two residents have witnessed an unknown animal. The creature was described as having "an elongated body, pointy head, slanted eyes and stands on two legs ... I only saw it for a few seconds," says Jacqueline Cordero, one of the locals, who only six months ago saw an unidentified creature that she believes claimed the lives of six young chickens. — CREDIT: Ing. Marco Reynoso

April 28, 2004 — *Diario La Discusion*, Chillan, Chile — **Sheep Found Dead With Wounds On Head, Neck** — The legend of the Chupacabras acquired relevance yet again among farmers of the western sector of Chilan after a hellish vision shattered the day for a farmer in the El Huape sector.

Every morning, Jorge Huichalaf visits the pasture where he keeps his 75 sheep. It is easy to imagine his shock when he found that 15 of them were dead, showing wounds on their heads and necks.

While the likeliest explanation, by virtue of cases that have occurred before, can be found in canine attacks, the affected livestock owner indicated his surprise at the nature of the injuries.

Even though no formal report was presented to them, sanitary authorities learned of the case and manifested their concern over possible damage to smallholders and their herds. Without commenting on the species of the aggressor(s), experts coincided that the theory of the dog attack represents the likeliest explanation.

"There has been evidence of wild packs in the El Huape and San Nicolas sectors. These can engage in violent activity, particularly if a fierce leader emerges from the pack," said Jorge Gonz-Ellez, head of the Zoonosis Unit of the Undersecretariat of the Environment. Sergio Donoso, a veterinarian at Concepcion University, agreed that it is possible to explain violent acts by dogs when they act as a pack.

"There are different ways in which cats and dogs attack. While the former usually go for the neck and tend to asphyxiate their victims, canines bite and tear," said the vet. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

April 28, 2004 — *SEIP*, Spain — **TEENAGER REPORTS SEEING UFO OVER ATXONDO** — ***UFOs Return to the Duranguésado*** — ***A 14 year old boy reports seen a luminous artifact flying over his community*** — On Thursday, April 22, a mysterious object was reported in the vicinity of the Biscayan town of Apatamonasterio at around 21:30 hours.

A 14 year old boy was returning home when he saw lights in the sky that attracted his attention. He saw something in the far distance that "didn't seem like an airplane and had different lights, aside from moving at faster speed." According to his testimony, the alleged UFO changed directions just to go right back the way it had come, losing itself in the night toward Durango.

[SEIP] received word of the incident a few minutes after it occurred, and we did not hesitate to spend nearly two hours traveling around the town, stopping at various locations, in the hopes of finding the object, but all of our efforts were in vain. The photographic scan performed on the area did not yield anything of interest, either.

A week later we ran into a woman, almost by sheer coincidence, who told us of her own experience. It seems that on the very same day of the event, and at the same time (21:30 hrs.), she observed three small white lights that appeared "to be stationary in the sky. The woman is unsure if it was a single object with three lights, or three small objects in formation.

Months ago, we had already been told of certain events occurring in areas of Bizkaia and Guipuzcoa pertaining to luminous spheres and triangular objects, which reminds us of the UFO flaps experienced in the

Duranguésado in 1995 and 1997, and which became known through the communications media, such as Radio Euskadi, Euskadi Irratia, *Enigmas* magazine, Durango Irratia, the Deia newspaper and other media specializing in the paranormal.

At this time, we are engaged in learning of new sightings and are attempting to locate new witnesses to the aforementioned events. — CREDIT: J. Manuel Duran, *SEIP*

April 30, 2004 — *Diario La Tercera*, Santiago, Chile — CHUPACABRAS IN PROVIDENCIA? — A group of workers made a strange discovery: they came across three carcasses of a strange animal while they worked at a house located on Calle Condell in the commune of Providencia. The three skeletons at first sight are reminiscent of the image of the feared "chupacabras."

"All three were the same, without any front legs. We were told to dispose of them, but we were stunned and are still confused ... they can't be rabbits by their shape, the teeth, the long legs and the fact that they lack hands," said one of the workers to Chilevision Noticias.

The animals have skulls similar to a cat's, fifteen ribs, large fangs separated by a one centimeter gap and only two hind legs.

"We'd all like this to be a chupacabras or the offspring of a chupacabras. I'd be famous, but I don't know if that would be the case," said the worker.

The skeletons will be examined by veterinarians of the University of Chile. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

May 3, 2004 — *Proyecto Catent*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO OVER CAPILLA DEL MONTE — At 22:05 hours on May 2, 2004, a resident of Barrio Las Gemelas in Capilla del Monte contacted the CATENT group to report the transit of a yellow light that was reflected on the treetops and traveling in an East-West direction, that is to say, from the Sierras toward Dique El Cajon, at an estimated elevation of 150 meters above ground and without making any noise whatsoever. The caller's parents were also witnesses to this event.

Townpeople tend to comment quite often on these cases, and they are so many and so numerous that they are often not passed on to information lists.

Last week, on Wednesday, April 28, researcher Hector Picco remarked that he had seen a small white light coming from the Sierras and vanishing into the rocky floor of an empty piece of property adjacent to his home.

A local fisherman said that in the year 1983, while on his way to a fishing trip with some friends in Dique Los Alazanes (in the region of La Toma), he had seen a UFO with several lights that moved below mountain level between the Uitorco and the Overo [hills]. This case predates the famous Pajarillo footprint. — CREDIT: *Proyecto Catent*

May 16, 2004 — *La Nueva Espana*, Asturias, Spain — LANGREO--A HAVEN FOR UFOS? — Maria del Pilar Davila, a resident of the town of Llandosu, recorded a video in April, broadcast by TVE, showing strange objects in the sky whose characteristics are similar to the ones seen in Mexico — Langreo, Luisma DIAZ — Last month, elements of the 501st squadron of the Mexican Air Force detected 16 mysterious lights moving at unheard-of speeds over the skies of that country. Military radars also detected the presence of these strange objects in the Mexican sky. Subsequently, members of the squadron informed their superiors of the incident, and the Mexican government decided to transmit the images last Tuesday in an unprecedented act by a military body.

But in order to find strange events related to sightings of strange flying objects, it isn't necessary to go so far. On April 1st of this year, a resident of the small town of Llandosu, in Langreo, saw something unusual in the sky. Maria del Pilar Davila is a fan of astronomy and has always enjoyed scanning the constellations, planets and whenever possible, won't miss an eclipse. On April 1st, at around 9:30 pm, she went out of her house armed with binoculars and a camcorder. The reason for this was an alignment of five planets--Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn--visible to the unaided eye, something that will not occur again until 2036.

Maria was startled when she took her binoculars and tried to focus on the five planets and instead, found something altogether different. Before her eyes were six lights that "attracted her attention." Four of them were vertical and the other two were horizontal, forming "a sort of inverted L." It was then that she decided to record it on her camcorder.

"I wasn't quite sure what I was seeing. All I'm sure is that it was something strange and for which I could not find an explanation." The recording lasted a minute and a half "with what tape I had left." She went inside for another cartridge and upon coming outside again, "the lights had vanished."

It was then that she called her husband and both examined the recording. "As I looked through the camera viewfinder, in black and white, it all seemed very strange. But once I saw it on a color TV set, it looked even stranger."

Aside from the "L-shaped" formation, it was possible to see "something like a series of tubes with an orange halo. After seeing this we thought perhaps that it was the [International] space station."

After discussing this with some friends, the matter was forgotten until the Mexican events last week led her to "research the matter a little out of curiosity, just to know what it was we had seen. I have always been skeptical when it comes to this subject." Therefore, she got in touch with experts from Television Espanola. Following an analysis of the video, the producers of the Por la Manana morning show decided to air it in a segment devoted to the Mexican sightings. On Friday, Maria del Pilar Davila was also interviewed on the Milenio 3 program, devoted to paranormal themes and transmitted by the SER network, something that she didn't care for very much. "We've only been living a short while in the town, which is a wonderful place, and frankly, I wouldn't want to be known as 'the nutcase' or something like it, because we've never believed in these stories. Now, with what has happened, I'm filled with doubts, but I suppose there's a logical explanation for everything."

For the time, Maria del Pilar Davila has only found out what the object she filmed wasn't: "The TVE people have consulted with experts in the field and we know that it was neither a meteorological phenomenon nor the international space station as we first believed." The recording shall be returned to them on Monday, but as regards the ultimate explanation, "I'm not sure if we'll know it someday." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

May 18, 2004 — *Prensa Latina*, Havana, Cuba — HAVANA RESIDENTS CLAIM HAVING SEEN UFO — HAVANA, May 18 (PL) - In the surroundings of EXPOCUBA, a fairground located in the capital city municipality of Boyeros, several persons claimed having witnessed the presence of a UFO, according to an article appearing in the local press.

According to the *Juventud Rebelde* newspaper, residents of the site witnessed the descent of an alleged UFO (unidentified flying object) on Saturday, May 8, without this claim having been scientifically substantiated. Witnesses claim that around 10:00 a.m., a small oval-shaped vessel, silver-colored and with a metallic tail, landed in open field encircled by trees on the El Pedregal farm, located in the surrounds of EXPOCUBA, southeast of the city of Havana.

"I was tidying the shelves when a bright light came through the window. It was like a glowing ball with a tail in its lower section. I showed it to my mother quickly and ran outside to see where it would fall," said Raul Beltran, 17, who claims having been at the site until the UFO took off once more. "It lifted off rather perpendicularly and then left through the palm trees. It didn't make any noise nor issue any smoke. The only thing I'm sure of is its size: more or less the size of a pickup truck tire, or thereabouts."

"When my son showed it to me, I thought it was a kite or a parachutist, since skydivers drop over EXPOCUBA every so often! After, as it came down, I realized that it could be nothing of the sort, since it was smaller and glowed a lot. It looked like a mirror," said Odalis, Raul Beltran's mother.

Remigio Sanchez, who works as a warehouseman at a school not far from where the incident occurred, claims having seen a light in the sky almost at the same time as the other spectators. "It was a powerful glow in the sky, but it was far away, so I thought it was a flare. When I got to Odalis's house -- Raul's mom -- she told me that a device had landed nearby."

According to witnesses, and as *Juventud Rebelde* attested when it visited the site, the grass and small plants at the site where the UFO landed are somewhat burned, although it is true that the current drought at the site is causing similar things to happen at other nearby locations.

It has not been possible to scientifically confirm the presence of any UFO anywhere in the world. It is true that many people claim having seen one object or another, but strangely enough, in none of these cases is any material evidence left behind that could prove the existence of strange bodies on our planet.

According to Oscar Alvarez Pomares, a specialist in the Science Office of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment: "People want to believe that other beings exist in the universe, although I am not saying that what the protagonists of this episode saw was untrue."

According to this scientist, there is an Institute for the Search of Extraterrestrial life in the United States, although none of its specialists have been able to ascertain the presence of UFOs on Earth, despite having studied several cases in which strange vehicles have landed, according to public testimony. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

May 19, 2004 — *Proyecto ARGUS* — NEW UFO SIGHTINGS IN CABO ROJO [Puerto Rico] — A report has been received that on May 5, 2004, Mr. Aguirre, a fisherman and local resident of Cabo Rojo, a town in the southwestern corner of Puerto Rico, reported seeing "strange lights" entering and leaving the sea and the cliffs near the famous Cabo Rojo lighthouse late at night. An on-site inspection revealed that many tourists who visit the site have experienced odd sensations and certain types of "paranormal energy," as though there were something else at the location. It is well known that UFO skywatches have taken place in the area and some of them have yielded positive results.

Our survey of the site disclosed that the waters near one of the cliffs showed evidence of what could be termed remains of spiritual or witchcraft "trabajos" (artifacts). The height of another cliff gave us pause, perhaps as well as its magnetism (sic). What is worth pointing out here is that many people claim having had unusual experiences in the vicinity of the lighthouse, giving rise to the belief that this is an area of intense paranormal activity. It must be made clear that the lighthouse's beam has been confused with other surrounding lights, which makes the study of something taking place in the region even more interesting. [For more information: <http://www.reinaidorios.be.tf>] — CREDIT: Jose Martinez Echevarria, *Project Argus*

May 20, 2004 — *EL TIEMPO.COM*, Bogota, Colombia — UFO FLIES OVER UBATE [Colombia]; LOCALS CLAIM SEEING STRANGE LIGHTS CONSTANTLY — The photographs recently taken by a photographer substantiate eyewitness reports of UFOs seen over the municipality. David Lopez, in spite of his long experience as a photographer, was never able to take a shot of the Basilica Menor of Ubaté--a municipality in which he has lived for 25 years--framed by an immense rainbow. "It would make a lovely postcard," he would think.

However, some two weeks ago, as though a gift from above, the multihued rainbow appeared beside the church. It was Monday and the time was barely five o'clock in the afternoon.

Armed with his digital camera, placed over a heavy jacket, Lopez headed toward the town's central square and fired off three or four shots with flash without anything unusual occurring, until he ran into his friend Jaime Jaramillo, an old friend who said "I'll buy one" later on.

But the surprise came afterwards: when David opened the image files on his computer, a small white dot, first to the left of the rainbow and then appearing on the right, had manifested itself in the photos. The dot, as he opened one file and another, acquired red and violet hues.

"When I took the photo I never saw anything like that. They were simply there, on my computer screen," he said excitedly.

Lopez, who claims having seen UFOs when he worked as an air traffic controller at the El Dorado airport, isn't the only one to speak of UFOs. William Chavez, a Colombian ufological expert, who is currently studying the phenomenon that occurred in Mexico, corroborated Lopez's photos.

The fact is that there are plenty of eyewitness accounts to go around. Mrs. Dolores Cruz (pseudonym), a former nurse in the municipality, claims that a few days after Lopez took his photos she saw "something very strange."

"On the evening of May 3, after I'd finished praying the Rosary on the terrace of my house, I saw something like a balloon about to collide with the church steeple. Then it remained still, suspended in mid-air. It passed over the Telecom tower and accelerated so much that I wasn't able to see it," she said.

Another eyewitness account comes from town notary Jorge Castellanos, who also claims seeing "oval shapes" crossing the skies. Aliens? Who knows. The fact is that towering structures such as the demolished Twin Towers, the Egyptian Pyramids, the Greek Acropolis or the Eiffel Tower have always had tales of spaceships prowling in their vicinity ... and thus, Ubaté now has its own. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

May 20, 2004 — *Proyecto Orion*, Venezuela — UFO CRASHES IN VENEZUELA? — An unidentified flying object crashed last Saturday, May 15, 2004, in the vicinity of the Raul Leoni Hydroelectric Station, also known as the Guri Dam, located on the Caroni River some 100 kilometers from the mouth of the Orinoco River at Puerto Ordaz, Ciudad Bolívar (updated information).

The accident, which occurred in the early hours of last Saturday, was witnessed by workers of the dam in question and took place to the northwest of this location. Stringent security measures were taken immediately by active members of the National Guard, who proceeded to cordon off the area. The presence of U.S. personnel was also observed, a common feature in all crashes involving UFOs.

It must be noted that the Seismography Unit registered movement at the time of the unusual accident, a detail reminiscent of the Roswell, New Mexico (USA) event of 1947. With regard to an alien presence, no reports have been received at this time. Access to the crash site has been highly complicated due to torrential rains at the site during this time of year. However, accredited personnel from *Proyecto Orion* are on site,

collecting information that shall be broadened in coming hours. [For further information: <http://www.proyecto-orion.com>] — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

June 1, 2004 — *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN RIO CUARTO — ****Urgent Dispatch from Rio Cuarto**** — Yesterday (Sunday, May 30, 2004), the Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense received a phone call from a rural establishment 55 km distant from the town of Suco in southern Rio Cuarto, in which Mr. Senen Gregorat (the field's owner), explained that in late March of this year a cattle mutilation case had taken place on his property. From Gregorat's own investigations, it turns out that the alleged mutilation was the work of "pranksters" who killed the animal by introducing a wet bag into its mouth to suffocate it in order to simulate mutilations later on. For this reason, Mr. Gregorat told COR: "We're sick of these fools taking such an important matter as a joke, especially when it affects us financially. It's high time someone takes measures against them."

In a second phonecall on the same date, at 16:30 hours, Mr. Gregorat reported that he had just found a two year old "Pampa" breed cow, weighing some 280 kilograms, dead and mutilated. From Gregorat's own observations, relayed via cell phone, he said that the right eye and ear were missing, along with part of the udder and anus, and that its "leg hair" appeared to have been singed by a considerable source of heat. The animal did not show any signs of having died violently. When asked if its hooves were dirty, he replied that they were not and that he could not tell if it kicked while dying, since any marks on the ground would have been erased by the trampling of other cattle in the lot.

In his phone call, the cattleman noted that to judge from what he could see and understand, the animal would have been "hoisted and subsequently deposited on the lot's floor without any violence," since there were no signs of fractures or bruises on the animal's body, nor traces of soil on its hide.

Gregorat added that a few nights ago (Thursday), while he and other people were at a highway toll gate in Suco, they witnessed the presence of an object in the sky that looked like a very bright star, but moments later they confirmed the "the supposed star was moving from West to East until it passed right over us." — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte, *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense* (COR)

June 1, 2004 — *Mundo Misterioso* — SPAIN: UFO SIGHTING OVER BARCELONA — On Sunday, May 9, Ms. N.M. saw an unidentified flying object in the skies over Barcelona while in the company of two of her children.

N.M., a criminologist and businesswoman, was driving along the Casteldefels to Barcelona highway at around midnight when both she and her children witnessed "to the left of the road, that is, toward the interior, since the beach is on the left," an unidentified flying object of considerable size, described as a "rhomboid with one of its vertexes broken off or truncated, or rather folded in," having a shiny orange color.

The sighting occurred precisely on the stretch of road between Gava and Viladecans and the witness contacted www.mundomisterioso.com in case other witnesses had reported seeing the same phenomenon. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

June 5, 2004 — *Agence Fax Press* — SPAIN: LUMINOUS OBJECT OVER GALICIA AND PORTUGAL — Jose Angel Docobo, director of the Ramon Maria Aller Astronomical Observatory in Santiago de Compostela, stated today that the unidentified luminous object seen Tuesday over different parts of southern Galicia was almost certainly "a cosmic rock".

According to Docobo, early signs point to the fact that the phenomenon was caused by a "bolide, a natural object," although this cannot be said with certainty. The Observatory notes that no atmospheric penetration by an object of that type had been expected, but it would not be the first time such a thing occurs unexpectedly. Jose Angel Docobo is convinced that coming hours will reveal the precise nature of the phenomenon responsible for sightings among numerous residents of southern Galicia around midnight yesterday. The Observatory is in contact with a number of experts in the field to seek a definitive explanation to the events.

The likeliest possibility, says Docobo, is that it was a natural object "with a rather even trajectory," since eyewitnesses claiming to have seen it reported [the object] was following an ascending path. In any event, the Observatory's director has not dismissed the possibility that the strange lights could be space junk or even some military experiment. The Guardia Civil received up to nine phone calls on Tuesday night from southern Galicia reporting the sighting--all of them around 12:30 a.m.. According to the accounts, the object "was as bright as an airplane," but changed intensity, and left a trail similar to that of a rocket during its ascending trajectory. Moreover, AENA (Aeropuertos Espanoles y Navegacion Aerea) reported that it has no evidence of any incidents over Galicia last night. The aviation agency reported that the Vigo Airport is closed at that time of night, but that air traffic continues over the area, involving airliners crossing the airspace in question and the possibility that private planes are also flying in the vicinity.

The strange phenomenon was also seen by numerous eyewitnesses in Portugal, especially in the north, according to that country's press. *Diario de Noticias* reports that the Firefighting and Civil Defense services received phone calls reporting a "large, intense white light with smoke."

The unidentified luminous object was seen at the same time as in Galicia, at 11:30 p.m. in Portugal and from locations throughout Portuguese territory, such as Penafiel, Vendas Novas, Evora, Algarve and Setubal. For the moment, Portuguese authorities do not know what could be the cause for the odd sighting in the skies. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

June 5, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — ENRIQUE SEPULVEDA: "As a photographer I don't believe it's a trick" — The Corporacion para la Investigacion Ovni de Chile (CIO) received the image of the hypothetical alien two weeks ago. Its director, Enrique Sepulveda, says: "we receive many, many photos. Out of that amount nearly five to ten percent deserve research, and the rest are obvious hoaxes. People like to draw attention to themselves." Although Sepulveda explained that digital images are not a good point of reference, the photo fell into the reduced percentage of images worthy of further analysis.

"As a photographer I don't believe it's a trick. I think it's an image taken by sheer chance of another element formed by the sweep (movement) of the image. Nothing more." That was this expert's conclusion. He worked 27 years for the Chilean Air Force in Aerial Photometry. "It surely shows a strange figure. An alien, I don't think so; a child, neither. We have files on strange apparitions, but never elements like such a tiny ET, because the creature would measure only 50 centimeters in height. Perhaps it could be catalogued with the Greys, who are large headed, have long extremities, and have a greyish-green color. But there is no definition in this regard, either," he added. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez & Christian Quintero.



IS THIS PROOF ALIENS LANDED ON EARTH?

by **Zecharia Sitchin**

S EVEN years ago, after languishing in deliberately imposed obscurity for almost a quarter of a century, a unique and mind-boggling artefact was finally put on public display as a result of my persistence.

At last, I thought, anyone curious enough to resolve the enigma associated with the object could see it and evaluate it first-hand. And the enigma was of truly enormous consequence: was the artefact physical proof that alien astronauts visited our planet in ancient times?

The very suggestion sounds extraordinary — but so is the item in question: a piece of sculpture, scarcely bigger than a man's hand, carved out of soft yellow-brown stone. It is said to have been found during excavations at Toprak Kale, an ancient site in south-eastern Turkey, and has been estimated to be around 3,000 years old.

Astonishingly, to modern eyes, it resembles a model of what can best be described as a cone-nosed rocket ship. There is a segmented, streamlined hull and a cluster of what appears to be five exhaust cones leading from an engine at the rear. In the centre of the ship is a solo pilot.

He sits with his arms folded and his legs bent up towards his chest, and wears a ribbed one-piece 'pressure suit' that completely hugs his body, ending in boots for his feet and gloves for his hands. Unfortunately, his head has broken off and is missing.

I had every right to be pleased when this baffling object was salvaged from its intentional concealment at a leading European museum and made available for public inspection through my personal endeavours.

But as will become clear, my victory was a partial one. There are those who seem determined to keep the sculpture's existence as little-known as possible — and to thwart any serious discussion about it by spinning dismissive and contradictory accounts of its provenance.

I am telling its story today because, fantastic though it may seem, I believe there is every reason to suppose that the object may be authentic. And if it is, the implications for human history are breathtaking.

LIKE many authors on the mysteries of antiquity, I have long been tantalised by the frequency with which ancient texts describe Earth being visited by flying vehicles.

The Sumerians, whose civilisation blossomed in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) some 6,000 years ago, left behind seals and tablets depicting flying objects that bear a startling resemblance to multi-stage rockets. They also wrote of the gods visiting and leaving Earth like migrating birds.

Similarly, the Egyptians wrote hymns to a 'celestial boat' or 'heavenly barge' on which the gods came down to Earth, sailing through the sky much as ordinary men plied the waters of the Nile.

In the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, the Prophet Ezekiel describes seeing a sky-borne 'whirlwind' that has many of the characteristics associated with what we now call UFOs — it spins

in the sky, glows with fire, then comes to rest on the Earth on wheeled legs.

The Prophet Elijah not only sees such a divine chariot but is actually taken aloft in one after crossing the River Jordan. The episode is witnessed by his disciple, Elisha.

Then there is the story of Jacob's Dream, in which he sees a ladder descend from the heavens and mysterious beings walk up and down it. If anyone described such an experience today, most people would instantly classify it as an encounter — real or imagined — with a UFO and its occupants.

Of course, it's possible to interpret all these stories in a purely symbolic way. But I am not alone in suspecting that these ancient myths and religious traditions carry a kernel of real, physical truth.

Could it be that the gods of the ancient world were actually visitors from another planet? Could this even be the explanation for the Bible's mysterious references to a lost race of Nephilim — or 'fallen ones' — who are said to have descended from the sky and ruled over the Earth before the Flood?

Since many respected scientists

accept that alien life inevitably exists, the hypothesis is by no means as outrageous as it might seem — and I've spent much of my career looking for archaeological evidence to support it.

That's why I was so intrigued when I first heard rumours of what I've come to call 'the headless spaceman'. A correspondent from Turkey wrote to tell me about it, and I also saw a drawing showing its alleged appearance.

But details were hard to come by. All I knew was that it had apparently been dug up near Lake Van — Turkey's largest lake, lying close to the border with Iran — and was now in the hands of the country's museum service.

In 1990, I toured Turkey's archaeological sites and museums at the invitation of the country's government, and seized the opportunity to make further inquiries.

I was told that the place most likely to hold such a sculpture was the Istanbul Archaeological Museum — but nothing resembling it was on display there, and the staff claimed to know nothing about it.

Years passed, then all of a sudden I was sent a tiny Press cutting,

based on an article in an old Turkish magazine, carrying the headline: 'An ancient space module?'

Brief as the article was, it carried a photograph of the enigmatic object — proving, at least, that it actually existed — and stated that it was thought to date back to 1,000 years BC. Its size was given as 22cm long, 7.5cm wide and 8cm high, and it was laconically described as resembling 'a space vehicle for one'.

T HE article said the sculpture had been found during excavations at the site of the ancient city of Tushpa, capital of the kingdom of Urartu, which in the first millennium BC was a large and powerful state, rivaling Assyria to the south.

Local traditions insist that the Urartu people were directly descended from the survivors aboard Noah's Ark when it came to rest on Mount Ararat, whose twin peaks rise majestically nearby.

This is deeply intriguing, because ancient Sumerian texts about Noah's Flood — the basis of the

Genesis account we know today — contain specific references to 'gods' in strange flying objects.

They describe these beings circling the Earth as the Great Deluge pours down. The craft are even said to have landed on Mount Ararat, their occupants enticed by the smell of roasting meat when Noah made a burnt sacrifice.

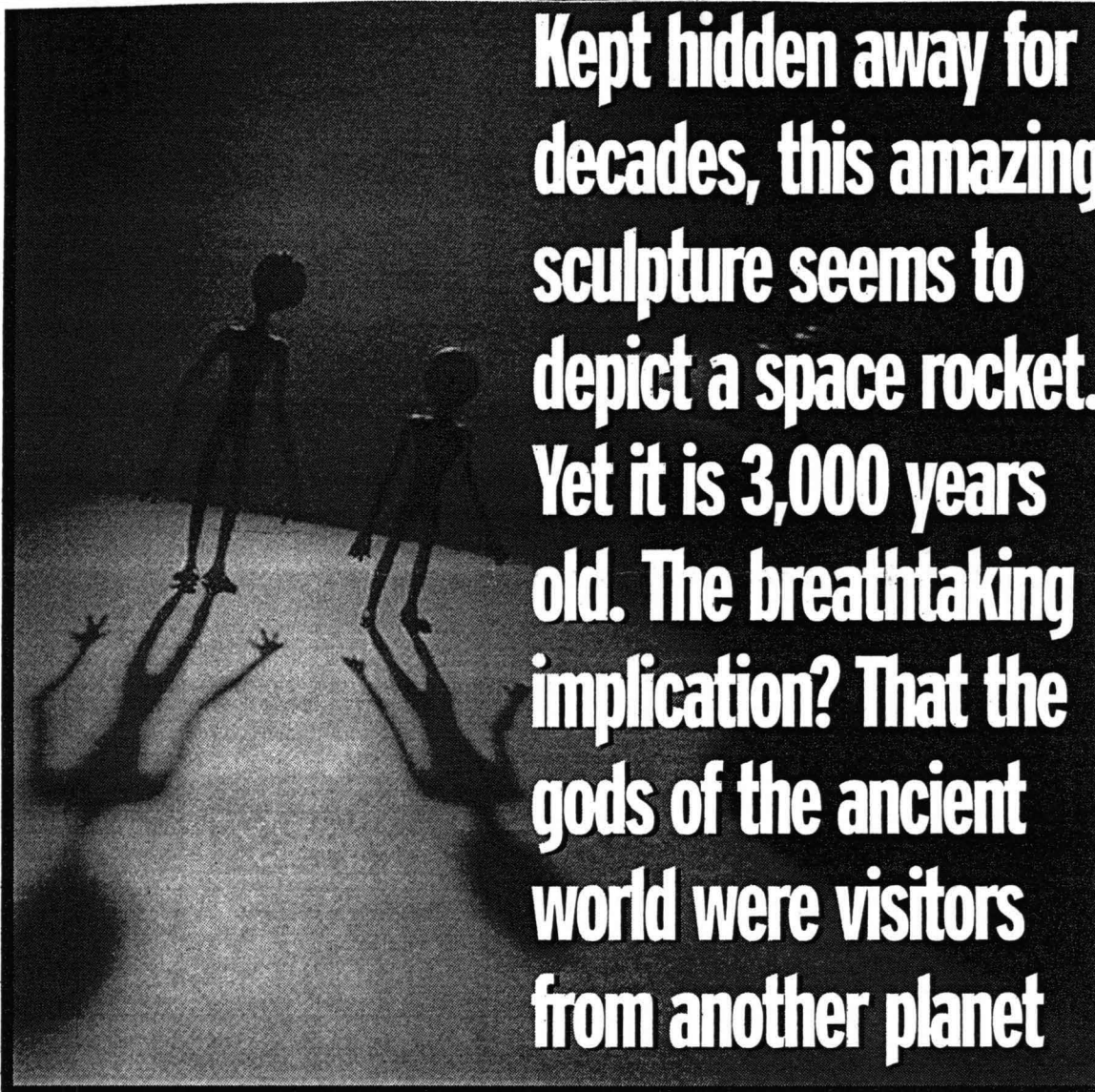
Thus, to me, finding an ancient depiction of a spaceman at a place connected to the story of the Flood is not entirely unexpected.

The most significant detail in the article was that it said the sculpture was kept in the Istanbul Museum, where staff had previously denied all knowledge of it.

I asked a German colleague who was visiting Turkey to return to the museum on my behalf and discover the truth.

Lo and behold, when he showed a copy of the article to a senior museum official, the object was brought in within five minutes. He was allowed to inspect it but not to take photos, and asked how it had come into the museum's possession.

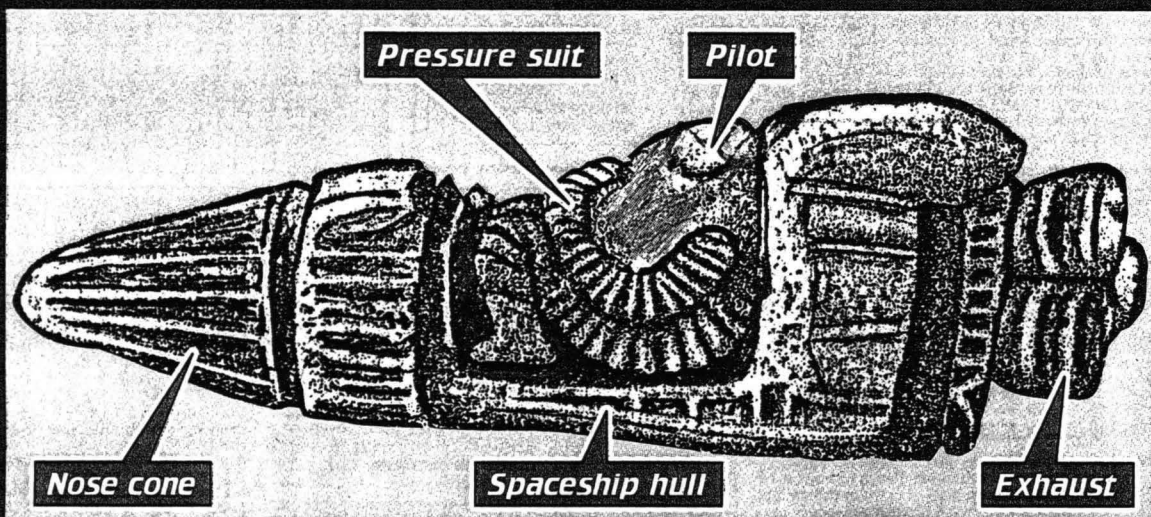
'It was confiscated a couple of years ago from a departing tourist,' the official said. 'He acquired it in



Kept hidden away for decades, this amazing sculpture seems to depict a space rocket. Yet it is 3,000 years old. The breathtaking implication? That the gods of the ancient world were visitors from another planet



Mysterious: The 'rocket ship' artefact and, below, what it may depict



Turkey and was going to take it abroad, although the export of antiquities from Turkey is illegal.

My colleague asked why it was not kept on display. 'Because it is a forgery,' came the reply.

'How can you be sure?' my colleague asked.

'Because it does not reflect the style of the era from which it supposedly comes,' said the official. 'It looks like a space capsule — but of course there were no such things at the time. Someone has allowed himself a practical joke.'

In other words, the sculpture could not be authentic because it would then authenticate something else (the existence of ancient spacecraft) in which the museum refused to believe.

It was only later that my colleague started to wonder — if the object was a modern forgery, why was it confiscated? And why did the museum keep hold of it?

After he reported on his experiences in a German magazine, journalists from a rival periodical launched their own investigation.

After several exchanges, they received a letter stating that the sculpture was a forgery made of 'plaster of Paris and marble

powder', and giving an entirely new version of how it had come into the museum's hands.

It was claimed now that the object was brought to the museum in 1973 'by a dealer in antiques, who made it clear he wished to sell it. But when he realised the object was a forgery, he did not ask to get it back'.

So — no tourist and no confiscation. Rather, a dodgy antiques dealer who tried to pull a fast one but abandoned the attempt when he was rumbled.

WHEN the other German journalists visited the museum later in 1994, the same story was repeated to them. Staff could not provide any details about the antiques dealer, but confidently asserted that the object was a plaster cast of a modern toy. They could not, however, produce an example of any such toy.

These conflicting accounts — together with the museum's initial denials that the object was in its possession at all — only strengthened

my curiosity. In 1997, I revisited the museum myself and met the director, Dr Alpay Pasinli.

Pulling from my briefcase the various magazine reports and putting them on the director's desk, I knew he would not be able to escape acknowledging that the object could be important. 'Why is it not on display?' I asked.

'We do not display forgeries,' he said. So why, I asked, was it considered a fake?

Dr Pasinli gave two reasons. First, because there were no rocket ships in antiquity. Second, because no artefact could be considered authentic if it was unique and utterly without parallel — there needed to be another find of a similar object, depicting the same things, or made in a similar style, to which it could be compared.

Both arguments, it seemed to me, made huge assumptions, but I focused on the second. The truth, I argued, is that an object can be authentic even if it is unique.

A classic example is the famous Phaistos Disc that was discovered in Crete in 1908 by reputable archaeologists. It is inscribed with hieroglyphics that remain undeciphered to this day because no

similar object has ever been found — yet the disc is considered authentic beyond doubt.

After a long discussion, I was finally allowed to see the sculpture for myself. To my amazement, it turned out to be kept in a drawer in the office of the museum's deputy director, carefully stored on a tray covered with dark blue velvet.

It was an extraordinary moment. Seen at first hand, the sculpture was even more striking than its photograph. I could make out the intricate carving on the five exhaust cones, the detail on the pilot's ribbed and presumably flexible space suit. How I wished the head was still intact, so I could see the pilot's face.

The official holding the tray was nervous and wary. I was allowed, reluctantly, to turn the object over, then to hold it in my hand, and then — finally — to take a picture of it. After that, it was hurriedly put back on the velvet cloth and into the drawer.

'Well, what do you think?' Dr Pasinli asked. 'Well,' I replied, 'this is not a plaster cast.'

I explained that I had checked it carefully for casting marks — for the seam that results when the two

halves of a cast are placed together — and there was nothing to be seen. The grooves on the object were all part of the craft's design.

Nor was it made of plaster of Paris. It was a lightweight, porous stone with a natural yellow-brown hue. If it had been painted plaster, the white would have been visible where the head had broken off; instead, a uniform colouring appeared throughout.

As for it being modelled on a toy, that struck me as very unlikely. In my experience, model flying machines almost invariably have wings — and this didn't. It was an odd detail for a forger to leave out.

'So you think it is a genuine artefact?' Dr Pasinli asked.

'We both know,' I said, 'that without knowing for certain when, where and by whom an object was discovered, no one can vouch for its authenticity. It could, after all, be a fake.'

'But who would fake a flying object the likes of which none of us has seen in modern times, in reality or as toys?'

'If it isn't a fake, you have something in your possession here that is more significant than the pyramids. You should put it on display and let people judge for themselves. Tens of thousands would come to see it if they only knew it was here.'

We parted friends, with Dr Pasinli promising to think over my suggestion, but I had found it a strange meeting — and the strangest part of all was that something deemed a worthless forgery by the museum had nevertheless been kept for two decades in the deputy director's drawer on a velvet tray.

WHEN I returned to my home in New York, I airmailed to Dr Pasinli some illustrations of carvings from Latin America that showed the astronaut sculpture was not unique after all.

Indeed, the appearance of the pilot bears a striking resemblance to a figure wearing a protective suit and backpack, and wielding what seems to be a flame-thrower, that can be found on a giant stone column — dating back to before the time of the Aztecs — at Tula in central Mexico.

Finally, in October 1997, I received a letter from Dr Pasinli informing me that 'the false space rocket' was now on display in his galleries. 'I expect you should be pleased now,' he wrote. And I was — pleased and proud.

Although the museum was not yet ready to accept the sculpture's authenticity, and was exhibiting it with other 'dubious' items, the veil of secrecy had now been lifted. The public would at last be able to reach a verdict of their own — or so it seemed.

As I said earlier, my victory was to prove only a partial one. Soon afterwards, Dr Pasinli was replaced as the museum's director. The model of the headless astronaut — this extraordinary object which may hold the key to so many strange secrets — was removed from its display case.

Where is it now? Who knows. But I believe it is back in the dark drawer, on a velvet-covered tray.

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NASA directive on disaster film irks workers

By Andrew C. Revkin
The New York Times

"Urgent: HQ Direction," began a message e-mailed April 1 to dozens of scientists and officials at the Goddard Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Greenbelt, Md.

It was not an alert about an incoming asteroid, a problem with the space station, or a solar storm. It was a warning about a movie.

In "The Day After Tomorrow," a \$125 million disaster film that is to open on May 28, global warming from accumulating smoke-

stack and tailpipe gases sets off an instant ice age.

Few climate experts think such a prospect is likely, especially in the near future.

But the prospect that moviegoers will be alarmed enough to blame the Bush administration for inattention to climate change has stirred alarm at the space agency, scientists there say.

"No one from NASA is to do interviews or otherwise comment on anything having to do with" the film, said the April 1 message, which was sent by Goddard's top media relations officer.

"Any news media wanting to dis-

cuss science fiction vs. science fact about climate change will need to seek comment from individuals or organizations not associated with NASA."

Copies of the message, and the one from NASA headquarters to which it referred, were provided to The New York Times by a senior NASA scientist who said he resented attempts to muzzle researchers dealing with climate change.

Late last week, however, NASA appeared to relax its stand on discussing the movie.

Although she did not disavow the e-mail message, Gretchen Cook-Anderson, a spokeswoman

at NASA headquarters, said on Thursday that the agency would make scientists available to discuss issues raised by the film.

The initial efforts by NASA headquarters to limit comments on the film angered some government researchers.

"It's just another attempt to play down anything that might lead to the conclusion that something must be done" about global warming, one federal climate scientist said.

He, like half a dozen government employees interviewed on this subject, said he could speak only on condition of anonymity, because of standing orders not to talk to the news media.

In search of the elusive Bigfoot

The truth is out there.

And maybe just maybe Bigfoot is too?

This isn't the National Enquirer or the Weekly World News, and I'm not going

to ask you to believe that Elvis rode a UFO to Afghanistan where he is currently the director of entertainment for Osama bin Ladens harem.

But when it comes to Bigfoot I do ask you to at least consider the possibilities. Now before you gather up Myrtle and the kids and start heading for the hills to get away from the "boogey-man", understand one thing.

In all the literature available on Bigfoot sightings in Arkansas, Sebastian and Scott counties have never had what researchers consider a Class A sighting. Sure, there has been the occasional fireside anecdotes fueled by a close association with Mr. Budwiser, usually traded within the fellowship of a late night deer camp.

But nothing substantial. No footprints. No reports of some big, hairy gomer with red fiery eyes peaking in the bathroom window. Well, some. But those usually turn out to just be local peeping toms.

What the Mansfield-Hackett-Hartford metropolitan area needs is a good, solid Class A Bigfoot sighting to get us on the map.

Look what it did for Fouke. As far back as 1953, folks around Fouke have been seeing something or someone that defies explanation. At least seventeen witnesses at one time or another have come forth to say they had encounters what has become to be known as the "Boggy Creek Monster".

In that isolated part of Miller County, Bigfoot represents the entire tourism industry.

There is a café themed around the monster in Fouke. You can poke your head through a hole in a mural just a couple blocks over and be photographed as the monster. Caps and t-shirts are available for purchase by the tourist trade. Every

printed a picture earlier this spring that purports to be a shot of a Bigfoot and LeFlore County has had six reported incidents since 1999.

I contacted Lisa Chandler of Mena who runs the Arkansas Primate Encounter Studies (APES) and asked her if she had any sightings for our immediate area. She was too busy to look into her records, but she promised to get back to me as soon as possible.

There actually is a local who claims to have seen "something" while out scouting for possible hunting locations. He has never officially reported the incident to anyone for fear of ridicule and skepticism. He's even kind of sketchy on the exact location of his sighting for fear that someone might figure out who he is, but he swears he was sober and swears it actually happened. He gives the date as late 2001.

He was "in a wooded-area" somewhere south of Hartford near the Oklahoma border walking a cut line for electrical transmission lines on the side of a hill. He noticed some movement about 60 years ahead of him near the top of a small ridge and at first thought he had stumbled upon some mountain climbers.

"It was climbing hand-over-hand up the side of the ridge," he says. "It was probably 6-7 feet tall, weight was well over 250 pounds. Reddish-brown fur.

When I saw it, it was near the top of the ridge. When it got to the top, it kind of looked back in my direction then ambled off to the west." "Weirdest thing I ever saw," he concluded. If it went west, it might have been one of the creatures that has been reported in LeFlore County. I can understand the guys reluctance to talk to the authorities, even though he was very matter-of-fact in relating the story to me. I believe that he believes what he says he saw. And this is a guy who has spent a lot of times in the woods. When I countered it might have been a bear, he just laughed.

"I said I was sober, and it wasn't a bear," the guy said in a voice that reveals he doesn't care if anyone believes him or

"View From The Bench"

by Dennis McCaslin



couple of years, some researcher rolls into town and spends money at the local spots in an effort to hunt down the elusive beast.

Heck, they even made three really bad movies about their creature. We need us a "booger".

But all kidding aside, while our immediate demographic area hasn't been replete with reported sightings, there have been some close enough to make you wonder what we're doing wrong when it comes to welcoming our own Bigfoot into the fold.

If they're not in Scott and Sebastian County, there are right across the border in some instances.

Logan and Polk counties have reported Bigfoot activity in the past and a very credible sighting occurred near the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line between Mena and Heavener in 1997.

There have been reported sightings in Northwest Arkansas within the past year. A newspaper in Tahlequah, Oklahoma

not. "And it wasn't a guy in a gorilla suit. I ain't saying it was a Bigfoot, but it was something like I had never seen before. For lack of a better description, it was a big, hairy guy. It look more human than animal."

So there you go. Three years ago, we had us one at least for a little while. If anyone else has seen him, or seen anything else similar in either Scott or Sebastian County, I wish they would contact me with the details. I promise to take you seriously. I promise to keep your name out of the paper if you prefer anonymity. But your neighbors have a right to know if there is something out there clanging around in the woods.

I'll fess up. I have never seen a Bigfoot, but I did see a kangaroo hop across the road one time about 30 yards in front of my car. This was along Clayton Expressway on the north side of Fort Smith.

I'm dead serious. No one believes me. But I saw what I saw. And the truth is out there. I'm sure of it.

Bigfoot revisited

A wise man once told me if you "go looking for the boogie man, you're likely to find him".

So there you go.

Last week in this space I wrote about a Sebastian County resident saying he had spotted what he thought was Bigfoot in a rural part of the county near Hartford back in 2002. I asked that anyone out there who had any type of similar sightings to give me a call.

Personally, if there was a big, hairy, smelly throwback beast wandering around in my back yard, I would appreciate the heck out of it if someone kept me informed. That's what I'm trying to do here. Keep everyone informed.

I'm also not opposed to the notoriety a legitimate Bigfoot sighting can bring an area. Pretty soon, you have created a bedroom industry that can cater to a whole herd of tourist and researchers. Call it community oriented press relations.

Having said all that, let me say this. I didn't really expect anyone to call me last week, but the phone rang, and on the other end were some perfectly sane-sounding people telling me that not only had they seen a Bigfoot, but it was within a few miles of Mansfield and the incident had occurred less than nine months ago.

So there you go.

The folks who reported the sighting are a married couple from Mansfield. Salt of the earth type of folks. The wife teaches Sunday school at a local church. Upstanding citizens, not prone to exaggeration.

Last September, when returning home from the last night of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair, the couple was traveling along Highway 71 on their way home. Just off the intersection of Highway 252 and Highway 71 about a mile north of Mansfield, at about 1 a.m., the wife saw something on the side of the road that defies explanation.

According to her, there was something alongside the road crouched down and as they passed, it got up and started walking away. She described the creature as being well over

Mansfield.

Supposedly, a group of young people had pulled off the side of the road and were chasing or going after the creature. (What they planned to do with it if they caught it is anybody's guess.)

Once again, as in the earlier incident, law enforcement was called, and they kind of blew off the whole incident as someone playing tricks or a hoax.

The couple that reported the Highway 252 incident actually went back to the site the next day and found an area of the fence near the place they had spotted the creature that was "stretched out of place, like someone had pulled apart the strands". Caught in the fence were several strands of long black hair.

They took some of the strands of hair. Eventually they showed them to an area cattleman who said they didn't belong to any type of cattle he was familiar with. While those hairs have been misplaced, the couple feels like there may still be some stuck in the fence. They are currently trying to locate the strands they had and if not, they are going to go back and see if there are any still left in the fence.

At this point, if I get the hairs I'm going to arrange to have them analyzed by someone who can tell us what is going on. I'll pay for it myself if I have to.

While my first column might have been a little tongue-in-cheek, I sincerely believe that the people who are telling me this stuff are on the level. I don't know what they did or didn't see, but I know they saw something. They don't just think they saw something. They saw something.

The folks who reported the Highway 252 incident gave me their names and are not opposed to me using their names. They did ask that I get someone to confirm what they're saying about the other incident on Highway 378 and I haven't been able to do so yet, so for now, I'm keeping their name a secret.

That's my doing, not theirs. They don't want this turning

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by Dennis McCaslin



six foot tall, four to five hundred pounds with long black hair.

She says the creature walked upright like a man, and it didn't have legs like an ape. The legs were also too long to be a bear, and she says the backside of the creature looked more like an ape. "Big, hairy and tall" is her exact words.

The husband, who was driving, also saw the creature, but not as well. He said the thing was "crouched down then kind of got up and came towards us" and was within six to ten feet of the roadway. The husband said there is a creek bed that runs under the road in the area and he felt like the thing was probably following the creek bed.

There are cattle in the area where the creature was spotted, enclosed in three strand barbed wire fences. More about that in a second.

Husband and wife say they reported the incident to a local law enforcement agency who apparently didn't take much stock in their story.

But get this. As they were leaving the police station they talked to another area resident who said just three days prior, there had been another report of an ape-like creature in a field in an area on Highway 378 about a mile south of

into a "they said she said that he said" ordeal. As soon as I make contact with the other people involved, they have said they have no problem with their name being released.

I'm not sure I believe in the existence of Bigfoot. But I can tell you how frustrating it is to tell people about something you saw and not have them believe you.

Again, I reference the kangaroo I saw near Fort Smith one time. I know what I saw. No one believes me, not even my own wife and kids. They say I'm either crazy or making it up.

Trust me. I don't have enough energy to keep up with the regular arguments that go on around here to being making up something to argue about. And I have defended my kangaroo sighting until I'm blue in the face. It wouldn't be worth it if it wasn't the truth.

The jury is still out on the crazy part.

Again, if there are anyone out there with Bigfoot stories to tell, I'm ready to listen. Call the Waldron News and they will give you my telephone number.

The truth is out there.

The rest of us want to hear it.