

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

August 2004
Number 421

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

DAILY PRESS, Montrose, CO - May 24, 2004

True believer: Woman keeps eyes on skies for UFO activity

Davina Ryszka became enthralled with UFOs growing up in Montana

SCOTT SCHWEBKE
SENIOR WRITER

DELTA — Davina Ryszka has watched the video dozens of times, but the images still haunt her.

Shot by a group of hunters in thick woods west of Delta early on the morning of Sept. 15, 1996, the video is indeed bizarre.

Shaky and occasionally out of focus, the footage shows in the darkened sky high above the campsite three large round stationary objects pulsating with blue, orange and white lights.

The hunters watching the orbs hovering above the Earth are clearly amazed by what they are seeing.

"Are you getting that?" one of the hunters excitedly asks another hunter, who is nervously fumbling with the video camera.

After about 20 minutes the batteries in the camera go dead and the video fades to black.

When Ryszka, first viewed the film a few months after it was shot and interviewed the hunters, a light went on.

She was certain the hunters had encountered either an alien spaceship or top-secret military aircraft because Colorado seems to be hotbed for UFO activity.

OUR NEIGHBORS

'There is a lot of stuff going on. We can't afford to turn a blind eye to it.'

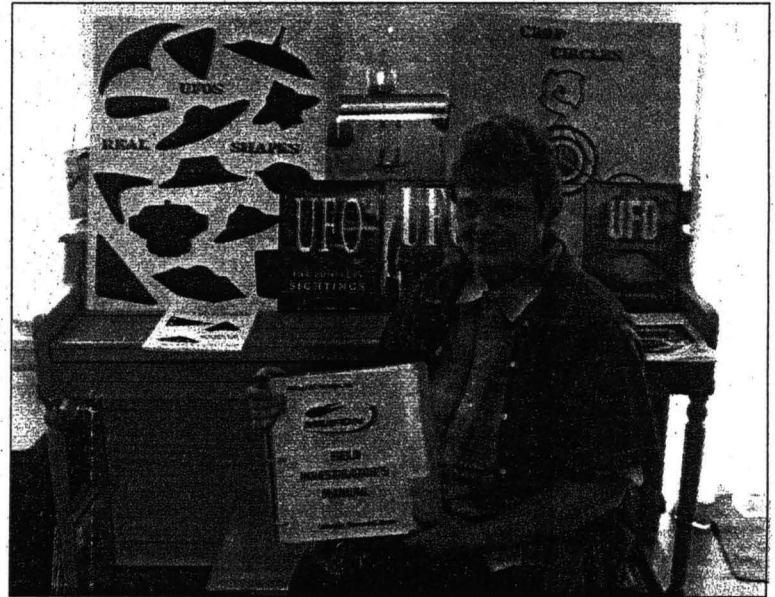
Davina Ryszka

"There is a lot of stuff going on, said Ryszka, who is the only Western Slope field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). "We can't afford to turn a blind eye to it."

Since the mid-1980s, Ryszka's eyes have been on the skies as a volunteer investigator for MUFON.

She has probed hundreds of UFO sightings, first in South Dakota and then in Colorado following her relocation to Delta in 1995.

Ryszka, who is a cafeteria worker at Delta High School, handles MUFON investigations for 14 Western Slope counties including Delta, Gunnison, Ouray and Montrose. She is responsible for interviewing witnesses, collecting evidence such as photographs and video, drawing diagrams of unidentified crafts, and filing reports with MUFON.



DAILY PRESS / ERIC DRUMMOND

Davina Ryszka, 53, has been a volunteer investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) since the mid-1980s.

MUFON is a Denver-based non-profit organization founded in 1969 and dedicated to studying and researching UFOs. The organization's consultants include experts in science, technology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, theology, engineering, astronomy, communications,

political science and photo analysis.

It seems only natural that Ryszka, 53, would gravitate toward MUFON.

She has been interested in UFOs since the late 1950s, when several unexplained

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - May 3, 2004

THE WORM Things are getting weird around here

I see: It's a bird. It's a plane. No, it's a flying saucer?

According to a Web site maintained by the National UFO Reporting Center, a Wenatchee resident spotted a red-silver object streak across the western sky while sitting on his front porch the evening of April 4. The strange object then made a 90-degree turn and headed straight up toward, well, perhaps Mars.

Five nights later, an object with a "red light on top (and a) white light on bottom ... flashing simultaneously" was seen crossing the Columbia River toward East Wenatchee, claims another resident in a report on the same Web site. The resident, who was in a car at the time, says the item in the sky got about halfway to Pangborn Memorial Airport when it "instantly" made a 90-degree turn back toward Wenatchee "where the speed and altitude varied."

"We at that point knew this was no airplane," the transfixed resident wrote in the report. "We pulled into the driveway and I stood outside for a good half hour and seen nothing further."

crafts were spotted near her home outside Bozeman, Mont.

"It got reported in the news and I became totally enthralled with the subject," she recalled.

Since then Ryszka has amassed a library consisting of hundreds of books and dozens of video and DVD's detailing UFO sightings and other strange phenomenon such as crop circles.

She keeps many of the items in an office in her home that serves as a makeshift command post for her UFO investigations.

Dozens of MUFON reports detailing UFO sightings in the area are neatly stacked on a table in the office.

A poster that Ryszka designed detailing theories of possible United States government cover-ups of UFO sightings leans against a wall.

Ryszka sometimes uses the materials during periodic meetings with eight other Western Slope MUFON members.

Ryszka gets leads on possible UFO sightings through word-of-mouth, from law enforcement agencies and ads

placed in several Delta County newspapers.

So far, no one has tried to bamboozle her. "I've never gotten a crank call," said Ryszka, who has personally witnessed only one UFO sighting.

Ryszka said she and other MUFON investigators approach each UFO incident with an open mind.

"We want to know the truth," she said. "You can't turn any which way. You have to stay objective and have a healthy amount of skepticism."

Some UFO sightings on the Western Slope can be easily explained.

That was the case in 2000 when the Montrose County Sheriff's Office was flooded with calls from residents who spotted a large object floating high over Montrose that turned out to be a massive NASA balloon.

However, for other sightings there is no logical explanation.

One of Ryszka's most prized and puzzling pieces of evidence is a videotape shot by a Ridgway family through a window at their home one night in December 1996.

county.

The sheriff notes there was nothing suspicious in the area where the rancher found his cow — no skid marks from a flying object, no crop circles, no rock shrines.

"You have an intergalactic form, and all they're going to do is take the udder?" LaRoche said. "There's got to be more to it, if they're going to travel that far."

Similar to the one shot by the Delta hunters just four months earlier, the video shows a large round object in the sky with rapidly blinking blue and green lights.

Along with the video, a woman whose husband is filming the object, telephones a neighbor. "I don't want to sound like a lunatic by calling the cops, but we have a UFO," she tells her friend.

Ryszka interviewed the family and found the sighting credible.

Another of Ryszka's favorite videos was made by Tim Edwards outside of his home in Salida at around 10 a.m. on Aug. 27, 1995.

The footage, which shows a cigar shaped object floating on the horizon, garnered statewide and national media attention.

A high-tech photo lab in Arizona analyzed Edwards's video and determined it to be authentic, said Ryszka.

Edwards eventually opened E.T.'s Landing, an alien themed restaurant in Salida, to capitalize on his extraterrestrial encounter. The restaurant has since closed. Since September 2003,

Ryszka has investigated nine UFO sightings.

One of the most recent occurred March 12 on Townsend Avenue just north of the Montrose Regional Airport. A woman reported she was driving in her car when she saw a large triangular object with three flashing lights hovering above a power pole.

"She was really quite concerned by it," said Ryszka, recalling her interview with the woman.

Ryszka believes that many of the UFO sightings on the Western Slope may be experimental military aircraft operating out of top-secret bases rumored to be in southeastern Utah.

The United States government owes its citizens an explanation for its secret aircraft program, she said.

"The American people have a right to know what is going on to clarify what is happening in our skies," she said.

Anyone who believes they may have seen something unusual in the skies can contact Ryszka at 874-8679.

Contact Scott Schwabke via e-mail at scott@montrorepress.com

Do-do-do-do. Do-do-do-do.

Got cow? Douglas County Sheriff Dan LaRoche is unmoved by talk that aliens could be responsible for mutilating a cow on April 21 near Grand Coulee and cutting out its udder as part of an extraterrestrial experiment. Two or three other cows have met the same strange end over the last 20 years in the northern part of the

Still, doubts remain. Last week, the sheriff fielded a call from a man inquiring about the incident. The man identified himself as a scientist with the National Institute for Discovery Science, which researches "aerial phenomena, animal mutilations and other related anomalous phenomena."

Full circle

One year later,
alien mystique still
hovers over Rockville



Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC FILE (2003)

Farmer Larry Balestra stands in the middle of a crop circle in his field at the corner of Suisun Valley and Rockville roads on June 29 of last year.

By Warren Lutz
DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKVILLE — Where Rockville and Suisun Valley roads meet outside Fairfield, it's just another day. Nothing paranormal about it.

Nobody is wandering around, for example, wearing an aluminum foil hat, armed with a tuning fork and chanting toward the heavens. And nobody from Fox News or CNN is following them around with beefy news cameras, beaming their images around the globe.

"Everything's back to normal," said Sally Estudillo, owner of La Barista. "But it was fun while it lasted."

It was exactly one year ago when a huge crop circle formation mysteriously appeared in a wheat field only yards away from Rockville Corners, turning this sleepy farming community into ground zero for the largest paranormal event in Solano County's history.

For a while, the discovery brought national attention and lured thousands of psychics, researchers and curiosity seekers to the area. Some took measurements and meditated over broken chaffs of wheat. Some claim they felt waves of healing energy pour through their bodies. Some sold wheat and commemorative T-shirts. A little girl sold "alien lemonade."

At the center of the circus stood Larry Balestra, owner of the wheat field. Everyone wanted an interview with the soft-spoken

Events in alien aftermath

June 28, 2003, early morning: Rockville farmer Larry Balestra walks out into his 80-acre wheat field and finds more than a dozen circles of flattened wheat, forming a symmetrical design longer than a football field. The largest circle is 140 feet across. Some believe they are the work of space aliens.

July 2: Researchers report the crop circle formation is the largest and most complex design ever reported in the United States. Crowds form, international and national media descend, and reports of UFOs seen the night of July 27 begin to surface.

July 4: A second formation is found in a wheat field a half mile south of the first formation. The somewhat sloppier design is a circle, about 15 feet in diameter, with an attached 50-foot stem. Some suspect the formation is an offshoot of the original formation, called a "grapeshot."

July 7: Pilot Lou Tobin spots a third crop circle formation while flying over Vacaville. Made in a corn field, the formation contains six circles connected by a crooked line and resembles an insect.

July 10: Three 17-year-old boys and an 18-year-old man hold a press conference and say they used boards and ropes to create the original circles. The teenagers, allegedly on probation for unrelated incidents, said they were bored

and were inspired by a TV documentary on crop circles. Media covering the press conference agree not to identify the teens.

July 11: Holes and improbabilities emerge in the teens' claim. Local law enforcement and the district attorney doubt the boys did it, and Balestra challenges them to recreate the alleged stunt. To date, they have not accepted.

Nov. 24: Research by Fairfield-based

PsiApplications finds the unique size and shape of Rockville formation is so complex it would require someone to have an extremely advanced working knowledge of Euclidean geometry to produce them. They also find "nodules" on the wheat stems that appear to have been lengthened due to microwave energy.

June 2004: Balestra begins planting black-eyed peas in his wheat field.



Gary Goldsmith/DAILY REPUBLIC FILE (2003)

The circles became Solano County's hottest attraction that summer.

farmer, who remembers feeling uncomfortable with all the attention. At least initially.

"I'm not the kind of guy who likes to be that public," Balestra said. "But it got easier. They were lining up."

Among those pulled to Rockville was Carolyn Skrzydlewski, a graphic designer at the Berkeley Psychic Institute. She remembers the intense energy she felt from the crushed stalks.

"It was a sort of unsettled feeling as I was standing there, a bit uncomfortable," Skrzydlewski recalled. "The energy changed as we sat in the center of the circle."

What was it? A year later, she still isn't sure.

"Better people than me have formed hypotheses," she said. "I'm open to it being whatever it is, or isn't. But I think it was absolutely fascinating. It was quite obviously something no person could have made."

Or could they?

Two weeks after the discovery, four teenage boys came forward to confess they had made the crop circles out of boredom. The hoax theory satisfied skeptics, but holes emerged in the boy's story. They claim they worked by moonlight, for example, although it was two nights before a new moon.

Meanwhile, a Fairfield based paranormal research firm that studied local crop circle formations found the circles were

subjected to microwave energy and were likely created by someone with extremely advanced knowledge of Euclidean geometry.

Steve Moreno, founder of the firm, PsiApplications, still doubts the teens' tale.

"If they did do it, they wouldn't be aware of any of those things, and they wouldn't be able to duplicate those effects," he said.

In the weeks after the crop circles were discovered, two other formations turned up — a small one in a nearby wheat field, and another in a corn field 15 miles away, near Vacaville's Nut Tree Airport. Proof of who or what created them remains unknown.

Despite the debate — or maybe because

of it — the Rockville formation proved fortuitous for an area that has been hard-hit by decades of dropping crop prices and the pressures of encroaching development.

Business at La Barista shop hummed along for several weeks, as city dwellers who eventually grew tired of standing in a hot wheat field ordered smoothie after smoothie.

"It lasted a lot longer than I thought," Estudillo said. "At first I thought it would last just a week, but they kept coming. . . I thought, 'This is big stuff.'"

Balestra, too, rode the wave. Business picked up at Larry's Produce, his fruit and vegetable stand down the road from the

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crop circles. And the farmer made extra cash by selling crop circle T-shirts.

Eventually, the bubble burst and the crowds went home. In the end, Balestra figures he broke even between destroyed wheat crops and modest T-shirt sales. (He has plenty of shirts left, for anyone who's interested.)

While the Rockville crop circles stand as the single largest crop circle formation in North America, they're gone now.

And if the circle-makers - whoever they are - return to Balestra's field this year, they won't find wheat. They'll find black-eyed peas.

Green leafy sprouts will soon cover the area where thousands of human beings stood last summer and felt... something. But what?

A mystery, still unsolved.

Despite a front row seat, Balestra isn't any closer to the truth.

"Everybody who has their opinion has a good argument," he said.

But if his black-eyed peas one day grow feet and walk away, we'll know.

Reach Warren Lutz at 427-6955 or
wlutz@dailyrepublic.net.

EYE, Clinton, MO - June 17, 2004

Another UFO report made from this area.....

A Clinton resident reported seeing a blinking "diamond-shaped object" in the sky shortly before midnight Friday, May 21.

This was reported to the National UFO Reporting Center and is included on the organization's home page on the Internet.

The sight lasted for around five minutes, the Clintonian reported. Other area reports, including some from around Highway 13-2, have been made to the center.

The report read as follows:

NATION UFO REPORTING CENTER

SIGHTING REPORT

Occurred: 5/21/2004 23:37
(entered as 5/21/2004 23:37).

Reported: 5/25/2004 1:25:36
PM 13:25.

Posted: 6/4/2004

Located: Clinton, MO

Shape: Diamond.

Duration: 5 min.

This report was submitted to UFOBIG.com on Saturday, May 22, 2004, at 16:49 from "Anonymous" in Clinton, MO (Henry Co.) and MIG is doing following investigation for more details plus a digital image of the UFO here's their report: I had gotten to bed around 10 PM, but woke up at 11:34 last night. I glanced at my clock to notice the time and at the corner of my eye. I saw a blinking light outside my window. I would say that it was about 3 to 4 miles away. It was in the sky blinking pretty fast. I decided to get a closer look at it thinking that it was probably some airplane, but when I took a look through my binoculars, it turned out to be some sort of diamond-shaped craft. I can't be too sure of this, but it had turned around in circles and its lights were in the middle of this blinking light. I then noticed that one of the lights got bigger and as it got bigger, the craft kept turning around.

Realizing that I was seeing an actual "UFO", I ran to get my digital camera so that I could take a photo of this. Out of my photos that I had taken, only one picture showed the craft. However, it was orange now and behind it was what seemed to be another craft. But this one was blue. I am still trying to tell myself that I did not see anything, but just in case I did, I am going to look again tonight. I will post another message if I see it or anything else like it again. Thank you.



PHOTOS BY CANDICE NOVITZKE / THE CHIPPEWA HERALD

Paranormal investigators Chad Lewis and Terry Fisk gather data from a series of three crop circles in Tilden on Monday.

Crop circles in Tilden

Chippewa County farmer is skeptical

BY CANDICE NOVITZKE
THE CHIPPEWA HERALD

TILDEN — There's been many things in Francis Swoboda's field in the town of Tilden — barns, animals, and, of course crops. But on Monday, paranormal investigators Chad Lewis and Terry Fisk of Eau Claire asked if he knew there were crop circles in his field not more than a mile from his home.

Crop circles are a modern mystery and a source of controversy. They consist of flattened crops in simple circles like the ones in Tilden or in extremely elaborate patterns. They appear suddenly and to some, mysteriously.

Some people have speculated that they are made by alien spacecraft. Others have called them a hoax made by pranksters. Swoboda just calls them a little bit annoying.

It all started when May Chi-Hi graduate Adam Prince was driving by Swoboda's field and happened to see what looked like a crop circle on Saturday.

"I just looked at it I could see something up in the field," he said. "I wasn't really looking for anything. I wasn't even sure what it was, but when you go by you can kind of see something out there."

Prince decided not to investigate on his own. He searched the Internet and discovered that Lewis and Fisk were both from Eau Claire and investigated such phenomena. He e-mailed them to let them know the location.

Lewis and Fisk have investigated dozens of paranormal occurrences and are known both nationally and locally. They spent Monday afternoon investigating, measuring and ponder-



Chad Lewis examines the flattened oat plants that form crop circles on Francis Swoboda's field in Tilden Monday.

ing in Swoboda's field.

They found there was already a footpath between the oat and a nearby clover field that led to the circles. It's unknown whether the creators of the circles or someone else made the path.

The formation consists of three circles linked together by an approximately 5-foot wide path. The middle circle is 65 feet in diameter, while the two smaller ones are each roughly 54 feet in diameter.

cles. This might be a possible way for circle makers to maneuver without having yet made the circles.

Lewis said there have been six reported crop circles in the past few years in Wisconsin, but none in the Chippewa County area.

The pair took samples of oat plants from inside and outside the circles. They will be tested for various properties that could provide more insight.

"If there are any strange results, we'll take soil samples," Lewis said.

They also measured the area for radiation and for magnetic activity, which are sometimes found near unexplained phenomena.

It's believed that "hoax" crop circles are created by at least two people working like a compass. One person

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(continued from page 3 - CHIPPEWA HERALD,
Chippewa Falls, WI - July 20, 2004)

stands in desired center of a circle holding a rope to which is attached a person walking. The walker has a board on the ground to which is attached ropes.

As the walker proceeds forward, pivoting around the center person, he or she steps down on the board, lifting it by the ropes and stepping as plants are pushed down and a circle is created.

As the circle is formed, the pivoting rope is shortened and the circle works inward.

The circles in Tilden could be made with a large board and 30 feet of rope, Lewis said.

"It would be difficult to get in and out of here without being seen, but not impossible," Lewis said. "We're here with more questions than answers."

Swoboda believes that it's only kids who were trying to stage a hoax.

"I had hay to unload if they wanted work — they could have done that instead," he said with a chuckle.

"You could see where they looked like they were trying to be sneaky but they weren't," Swoboda said. "Morons — at least if they were going to do it — do it right."

Swoboda will lose as much as four acres of the oats he uses to feed his dairy herd because of the damage.

"That's what makes you so mad — usually the fields don't get this good," he said.

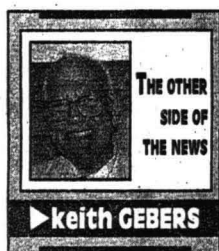
This year's oat crop was particularly good, because the growing season was long and the oat plants hadn't yet been knocked down by a storm. Now, Swoboda might have to redo the fields because the weeds are already starting to grow up where the oat plants were flattened in the crop circle formation.

But, Swoboda looks at the crop circles like any of life's little mishaps.

"There's a lot worse things that could happen," Swoboda said.

Reach Candice Novitzke at candice.novitzke@lee.net.

CITIZEN, Elk Grove, CA - June 2, 2004



UFOs, maybe not so real

Unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are still with us. Recently the Mexican government released a series of pictures and details that seemed very authentic showing UFOs making their most recent visit to our planet. We periodically carry reports like that in the media. To me, they have lost much of their fascination. Still, I have an affection for UFOs, although I don't put too much stock in their probability anymore.

But that wasn't always so!

When pilot Ken Arnold spotted "flying discs" over Washington State in 1947 the tale took the world by a storm and legends have grown ever since. I was a high school student in the Pacific Northwest at that time and a friend and myself decided to solve the mystery of "flying saucers."

Both my friend and I were teenage student pilots, so we spent hours in the rickety light planes of the era searching the skies. Then we would spend long evening hours discussing what the phenomenon really was. My pal (who later was to write a best-selling non-fiction book on the history of weapons) researched the possible biblical angle (Ezekiel said he saw such objects in the

sky), plus some ancient artistic renderings (my friend also later wrote a best-selling art reference guide). I liked the idea that they might have been something like the fabled "Foo Fighters," which were illusions or gaseous formations seen by front line military personnel in the Pacific during World War II. And I especially enjoyed toying with the idea they might have been from some third world power, or even Russia, exercising a new military secret weapon.

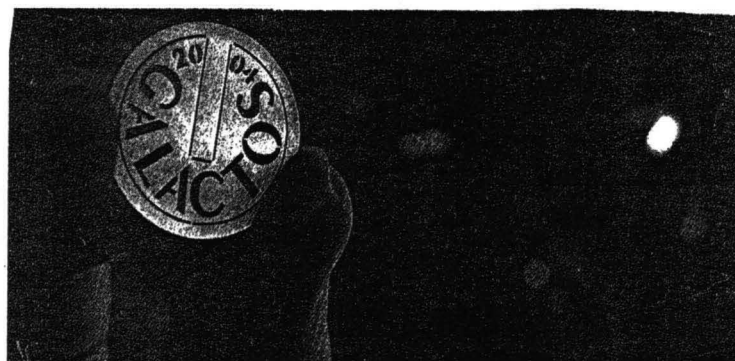
My pal and I even designed models that could possibly depict the flying discs. We designed a huge contraption with contra-rotating rotors, but when we launched it the thing soared about 50 feet skyward and dropped like a raw egg platter and splattered like one too. Then we designed a papiermache disc, modeled after a cake plate with a rolled-down leading edge. It flew like a dream and later when the toy Frisbee was released we thought we should have patented our creation.

Unfortunately my infatuation with UFOs began to decline about three years later when Donald Keyhoe's book "The Flying Saucers Are Real" was published. He claimed he had definite "logical" proof the flying saucers came from outer space.

Don Keyhoe was one of my boyhood heroes. He had been a member of the original Federal Aviation Administration, and accompanied Charles Lindbergh on a nationwide flying trip to publicize aviation. He had been a major in the Marine Corps in World War II. When I was 5 years old my mother read aloud to me every page of his non-fiction book "Flying With Lindbergh."

But there was another side to Don Keyhoe. He also was an outstanding fiction writer with a great imagination. When I was a child I read most of his pulp fiction stories about Phillip Strange, the spy with

TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL - June 11, 2004



A Bulgarian foundation on cosmic intelligence research is proposing that earthlings develop an official currency called Galactos for interplanetary trade.

Unlimited financial opportunity in UFOs

It was the late 1970s and my Uncle Roy and his friend, John Volo, were standing on the cliffs that overlook my hometown just outside of Boston, when suddenly they saw strange lights in the sky that then zipped away.

"Did you see that?" Uncle Roy said.

"I didn't see nothing," John replied.

They went back to sipping their Schlitz and returned to their lives, seemingly unaffected by their near-encounter of a weird

kind. Perhaps they filed the story under "D" for "don't ever talk about this or people will laugh their ass off at you."

That doesn't discourage about 300 people a month who file UFO sightings at www.ufocenter.com. On June 1, someone from Chicago logged on:

"I noticed an object floating in the sky. It hovered for 2 minutes. It was round and white. It stood still and then disappeared. What was that?"

And then, there are those who believe without question.

Take for example, UFO fans in Europe who have even devised an "intergalactic currency," called the Galacto, to show extraterrestrials that trade between earthlings and ETs is possible. I suspect the Galacto is worth about half as much as the Canadian dollar anyway, so perhaps we can just barter Paris Hilton and Euro Disney for the aliens' advanced aerospace technology.

But no, that's not what ETs are after.

They're coming to give us a warning, according to Mark Kimmel, who claims to have an unexplainable inner knowledge of extraterrestrials.

"They're here because they see us in trouble. Our environment is deteriorating rapidly. They have been giving us messages since 1975, that we need to take charge."

Kimmel is traveling from his home in southwest Colorado to speak at the Chicago Hyatt Regency at 7 p.m. Thursday about his second book, "Decimal." But leave your Uranus jokes at home — Kimmel is serious.

He cites various incidents and newly released government documents that allegedly reveal pieces of UFO evidence. In advance of his appearance on "WGN Morning News" on Thursday, he says he'll send me video of a National Press Club function in Washington three years ago, where many government and military officials (supposedly) talked about having direct experience with UFOs and even aliens.

But Wheaton native Jim Underdown, who heads the Center for Inquiry in Los Angeles, says no telescope has captured an image of a flying saucer and there is no physical evidence of aliens.

"Conspiracy theories, testimonials, conjecture, sci-fi ... everything but good evidence. The proponents of these ideas are cashing in. They all sell videos and books. It pays handsomely to say you have inside knowledge of aliens."

Believe me, if my relatives back home thought they could make a buck off it, they might've spread the story. But we city folks know better, right? There has to be some reason that a spaceship never lands near City Hall at high noon. —SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR LARRY POTASH CO-ANCHORS THE "WGN MORNING NEWS."

lpotash@tribune.com

a thousand faces; Dick Knight, an action hero whose optic nerve had been damaged and he was blind by day but could see perfectly at night; and Eric Trent a counter spy who covered the globe fighting totalitarian forces.

Suddenly I felt UFOs seemed a bit far out. As the years went by my feelings seemed confirmed. I covered a story where two children claimed they were abducted but when questioned they displayed an alien helmet that could be purchased at any variety store. One night a UFO tracker kept the television station I worked for on the phone most of the night as he chased mysterious lights in the sky. It turned out that several months later he was caught in another matter, using a dis-

guised voice and making threatening calls to the station.

There have been many movies and television shows about UFOs. Some I have enjoyed but most were soon forgotten. And recently a prominent magazine about UFOs went broke but has again apparently found new financing from dedicated fans.

Yes, UFOs are fun but they probably can be taken seriously only by those with abundant imagination.

Still, maybe they are based on natural phenomena like those legendary "Foo Fighters" of old. Who really knows?

Are we alone?

“

It was something I had never seen before. You wouldn't even think it existed. If it had been on the ground, it probably would have been the length of a football field. It was more the shape of a cylinder, not a saucer. Whatever it was, I don't know. But it wasn't of this world.

”

Clifford “Spike” Nail, recalling the UFO he claims to have seen in 1949



Clifford “Spike” Nail, a Martinsville locksmith, points to an area in the sky over an old barn on Chuck Lyle’s property on Little Hurricane Hill Road — where he said he saw a giant UFO when he was a young boy in 1949. PHOTO BY BETTE NUNN

A 1949 UFO sighting answered that question for one Martinsville man

BY BETTE NUNN
Hoosier Times

MORGAN COUNTY

There is one clear, blue, summer day in Clifford “Spike” Nail’s life that he will never forget. That was the day when he was walking across a field on Claude Oliphant’s farm at the top of Little Hurricane Hill and saw “something that was not from this world.”

It was 1949 and he was 11 years old. He was with his sister Janet and Oliphant, then about 50 years old. They had been mowing in Oliphant’s field when Nail looked up and saw a silvery object hovering above the treetops. It was broad daylight, about 4 or 5 p.m., Nail said. The unidentified flying object made no

noise and was not spinning. There were no flashing lights.

“It was just suspended horizontally in mid-air,” Nail said. “Even if it had lights, we wouldn’t have seen them on such a bright day. We watched for 10 minutes and then it disappeared.”

“It was something I had never seen before. You wouldn’t even think it existed. If it had been on the ground, it probably would have been the length of a football field. It was more the shape of a cylinder, not a saucer.”

“Whatever it was, I don’t know,” he continued. “But it wasn’t of this world. At this time, we (the United States) were just coming out with jets, so I know it wasn’t ours.”

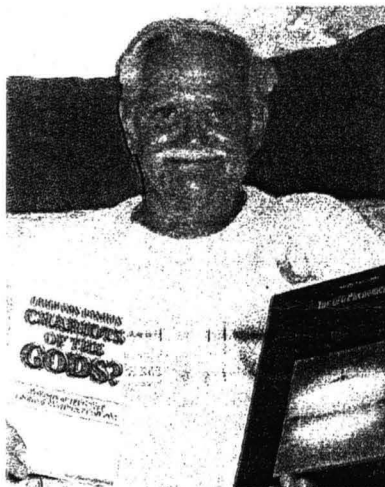
Nail said he has read a number of reports in which people described the

same type of ship out west and in Europe at about the same time.

Nail said he was not afraid of it. “It was about a mile away and around 600 feet in the air,” he said. Oliphant, now deceased, said he had never seen anything like it, Nail said.

Nail said he ran home to tell his mother. He was all excited when he entered the house, but his mother stopped him and said, “Clifford, you don’t need to tell me. Junior (Clifford’s brother) and Jim Leonard already stopped and told me what they saw.”

“They had seen it and said the same thing I did,” Nail recalled. He said his brother died about two years ago, and Leonard died some time ago.



Clifford “Spike” Nail holds two books about UFOs. One, *Chariots of the Gods*, is his favorite.

PHOTO BY BETTE NUNN

Janet (Nail) Pittman, Nail’s sister, said last week: “I do remember the incident, but I don’t know what I saw. There was something in the sky. It stayed there awhile, then it just took off. It was a long, silver object. We were just kids, but I still wonder today what we saw.”

BELIEVES HISTORY WRONG

“Back then, people were leery of even talking about such things,” Nail said. After that day in 1949, he didn’t hear any more about the UFO sighting. He was hoping something would come out before he died that would verify what he saw, “but it’s not going to happen,” he said.

He’s been fascinated with UFOs since then and has read lots of books about them. But he doesn’t like fiction too much and he hasn’t gone to any of the movies about UFOs, he said.

“Little green men just don’t get it with me,” he said.

Nail has been teased considerably about the incident. He was kidded so much before retirement by some of his fellow employees at Peerless Pump in Indianapolis that he invented tales about being taken captive.

“That was just my way of getting back at them,” he said. “But it wasn’t a plane. A plane can’t sit still. And there was no noise whatsoever.”

He believes in UFOs and feels

they come from a different planet. He thinks the U.S. government has been working with them and has had knowledge about them for some time. He also believes that history books are wrong about many things.

“I can’t believe that slaves built the pyramids,” he said. “We don’t have a machine today that can even pick up one of those big stones. I believe that at one time there was a civilization here on earth that was a lot more advanced than we are.”

He mentioned some of the facts written in books about ancient ruins, carvings in caves and on old structures that seem to tell a tale of space travel. Some of the artwork appears to resemble astronauts. Historic and Biblical art have sometimes displayed what looks to be a domed object hovering above the skyline. He said these things cannot be explained by conventional theories of history.

NAIL NOT ALONE

Nail isn’t the only believer. In the late 1980s, a Gallup poll showed that 49 percent of Americans who were aware of UFOs were convinced they existed, 30 percent thought they were a figment of the imagination and 21 percent were undecided. An earlier survey indicated that one adult in 11 — or about 13 million Americans — claimed they had actually seen a UFO.

One person who said he saw a

UFO in 1969 was then-Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter. Years later, when he became president of the United States, his science adviser wanted NASA to launch a new investigation into UFOs, but they declined.

FOOLED BY NATURE?

Yet, researchers and scientists have found that Mother Nature has fooled many people who think they have seen a UFO. They say comets, planets and meteors are easily misidentified. Sometimes

“

There was something in the sky. It stayed there awhile, then it just took off. It was a long, silver object. We were just kids, but I still wonder today what we saw.

”

Janet Pittman, Clifford Nail’s sister, who also claims to have seen the UFO

cloud formations and unusual types of lightning have also been mis-

taken for UFOs, and even the Goodyear blimp has been chased by UFO seekers.

The U.S. Air Force investigated most UFO reports from 1948 to 1969. They either gave other explanations for the sightings or said they couldn’t identify them. Movies, television shows and documentaries about aliens, space travel, visits to other planets and strange-looking beings remain popular today. One of the latest produc-

tions is “The 4,400,” a miniseries on the USA network about 4,400 people who were abducted by aliens and then returned to earth.

Nail said despite the naysayers and those who mock him, no one could ever convince him that he didn’t see a UFO. The sighting didn’t change his life — but it did change his mind about history, the universe and a whole realm of possibilities.

HERALD, Circleville, OH - July 15, 2004 CR: J. Fry Organization probes report of UFO over Circleville

By MATTHEW FORTE

The Herald

Circleville may have been visited by alien ship Monday night.

A man on South Pickaway Street was grilling outside his house at about 10 p.m.

A light shone down on him and he looked up to see a round object hovering 500 feet above him, said Pete Hartinger, director of the Roundtown UFO Society.

“We wanted to know if anyone else saw anything Monday night,” he said. “We’re interested in other people coming forward if they saw something.”

When the group gets more information, it can investigate

“We wanted to know if anyone else saw anything Monday night.”

— Pete Hartinger, director of the Roundtown UFO

sighting further.

The group meets at the library today at 6:30 p.m. It has been in existence for 15 years.

Anyone can contact Hartinger about sightings at by calling 740-477-6252, or by mail at P.O. Box 52, Circleville, Ohio.

Researcher hovers around theory of crop circles

By SHAWN WINDSOR

Knight Ridder Newspapers

HOWELL TOWNSHIP, Mich. — They came late at night, holding flashlights, their beams cutting the dark in the middle of 1,000 acres of wheat fields. They came in the afternoon under blue sky to lift their arms and pray.

One group wanted to camp. Others want to take pictures.

Crop circles may be Hollywood, but out here, at the edge of Detroit's suburbia, they represent something more ethereal, and, said Mike Esper, who discovered three crop circles on his farm last year, something more strange.

"It gets weirder by the minute," Esper said.

He discovered the three circles — 51 feet, 10 feet and 8 feet in diameter — as he drove his combine around the wheat field. Not wanting to destroy the evidence, he left a 3- to 4-foot perimeter of wheat intact around the largest circle.

He called in a crop circle researcher to take a look at them. The expert, Jeffrey Wilson, who travels the country, took measurements and studied the circles for three days recently. Wilson determined they weren't the act of



KRT/SUSAN TUSA

Mike Esper inspects a crop circle in his wheat field in Howell, Mich.

man, that they were not a hoax, that they were the result of some unexplainable natural phenomenon.

Esper promptly e-mailed the local news media.

"I'm amazed by the whole thing," he said. "I wanted to leave it so people could see it."

The flocks soon followed.

"I'm getting calls from all over the place," he said.

Though hundreds already had flocked to the circles before Wilson arrived, the evidence wasn't destroyed, he said.

He found dozens of wheat

stems with holes in the middle. He said the electricity associated with crop circles generates heat and that heat turns the moisture in the stems to steam. It expands and it blows out the holes.

Stems that are still in the ground with holes in them

aren't the result of a hoax, he said.

He estimates he has seen at least 130 crop circles since 1996. It was then, as a graduate student of physics and chemistry at Eastern Michigan University, that he got his first inclination to take them seriously.

"Throughout my career, I've always been interested in things people didn't have explanations for," he said.

Wilson, 33, trekked to his first circle in Ohio. He borrowed a Geiger counter from EMU, convinced a friend to go with him, and arrived at the scene only to find a sheriff had roped it off as though it were a crime scene. He talked his way past the yellow tape.

As he moved closer to the center, he noticed a pattern that he would find at every other circle: Radiation levels were higher in the middle.

Why?

"I don't know," he said.

But it got him theorizing. Soon, he was measuring the electric field and the electromagnetic field within the circles. He noticed the circles often appeared near transformers attached to power lines.

He also discovered a pat-

tern among eyewitnesses of the crop circles who never report seeing any light or anything else unusual.

He tried to get academia to bite, but it hasn't — yet.

He said science needs more approaches to study crop circles. It reminds him of airline pilots reporting strange patterns and colors of light shooting off the top of thunderheads in the 1980s.

Eventually, NASA sent planes up with high-speed cameras and discovered a new phenomenon — sprites and jets, which are red and blue atmospheric flashes. There is no complete explanation, but it is no longer considered a farce.

He sees circles the same way, part science, part mystery.

On one afternoon, a few more folks carefully walked through the circles on Esper's farm. They snapped photographs. They laughed and pondered, often in the same instant.

"I think it's cool," said Susan Davis, 47, a high school teacher who didn't seem to mind the possibility humans had done it. "Even if it's just art, it's beautiful. If it isn't — wow!"

Lynne Kitei, a Philadelphia native, holds a picture of the mysterious lights that many reported over Phoenix in 1997.



PETER TOBIA / Inquirer Staff Photographer

seeing the orbs on March 13, 1997, including pilots, park rangers and police. They described a triangular formation of three lights about a mile wide that traveled silently overhead. In an odd coincidence, Arizonans had already been scanning the skies for the Hale-Bopp comet, so they were primed for celestial viewing.

Kitei's photographs and videos of the lights were widely published and broadcast, kicking off a "we-are-not-alone" mantra that dazzled UFO aficionados throughout the world. Deflating delicious speculation that aliens are among us, debunkers say the lights were merely military flares.

A debate has raged since 1997, following a similar American cultural pattern that may have begun with the purported alien landing at Roswell, N.M.,



PETER TOBIA / Inquirer Staff Photographer
Lynne Kitei, who grew up here, is in town promoting her book.

more than five decades ago: An unexplained event occurs, and people divide themselves between the believers and the skeptics, with neither side able to persuade the other to budge

or bite.

The glowing amber orbs that Kitei saw in the desert night have transformed the tall, fit 56-year-old with an impressive sweep of blond hair from a pillar-of-the-community type to an outspoken UFO true believer.

Beyond being a mere witness, Kitei firmly feels that the orbs struck her "at soul-level," and instilled a sense of "enlightening connectedness" — a message that we must "wake up before we destroy our world."

Kitei endeavors to tell you — with a sweet earnestness that combines an actor's poise with the gentle manner of a children's doctor — that she did not seek this role.

"I don't need to do this," she says, straightening her black slacks as she sits on a couch in her mother-in-law's Roxborough apartment. "I have a comfort-

able life. If I could have stayed anonymous, I would have. This topic is a little out there. People are ridiculed."

While many people saw the March 13 lights, very few — perhaps, Kitei says, only she and her husband, Frank, also a doctor — witnessed the previous displays.

At first, Kitei considered it merely entertaining. The photos she took of the first lights were fodder for family talk and joshing.

But after the second sighting, Kitei says, she began to speak publicly about what she saw, still hiding her identity.

Only after the third sighting, which she shared with many others, did Kitei agree to reveal herself.

"More and more I was convinced that someone of credence should come forward," she says.

Kitei began a four-year leave

UFO bore a wake-up call to save Earth, a Phoenix doctor says.

Seeing lights, seeing the light

By Alfred Lubrano
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Everything was normal in Lynne Kitei's life until the UFOs showed up.

Born in West Oak Lane, Kitei has been an actress (that's her as Mrs. Arizona in the Coen brothers' movie *Raising Arizona*), a KYW-TV medical reporter, and a family-practice doctor specializing in adolescent medicine.

Appearance

Lynne Kitei, author of "The Phoenix Lights."

Barnes & Noble bookstore, 102 Park Ave., Willow Grove, 7 p.m. Saturday.

But three times between Feb. 6, 1995, and March 13, 1997, Kitei, now a Phoenix area

resident, says she witnessed otherworldly phenomena now famously known as the Phoenix Lights.

"It was so awesome," she says, during a visit to promote her book, *The Phoenix Lights* (Hampton Roads, \$16.95). "I felt an intelligent presence watching."

Kitei wasn't the only one. Thousands of people reported

from her medical practice to research UFOs, and to speak with people who saw the Phoenix Lights.

Many of the witnesses said that the lights had reminded them of near-death experiences they had had earlier in their lives. Kitei herself had experienced such an event while under ether during a childhood operation.

Somehow, Kitei says, the lights triggered the memories. And, she adds, witnesses felt as though they had been given a message:

"If we don't wake up, we will destroy ourselves and the Earth."

Kitei believes that a "life force" is trying to contact us, imparting a message of love.

As lovely as this sounds, debunkers say, it's just not true.

"There are mundane explanations — satellites, flares, balloons — that people don't want

to hear," says Philip Plait, an astronomer at Sonoma State University in northern California.

"It's very easy to fool yourself. Plus, people do not understand the sky and the things that happen in it."

James Oberg, a former NASA engineer and NBC News space consultant, says succinctly: "People don't like to realize they've been fooled by prosaic phenomena."

None of this fazes Kitei. "Some can't handle this information yet," she says. "And that's OK. But it is a transformative experience when you realize that we are not alone."

Contact staff writer Alfred Lubrano at 215-854-4969 or alubrano@phillynews.com.

To view Kitei's videos of the Phoenix Lights, visit www.thephoenixlights.net.



FOREIGN NEWS

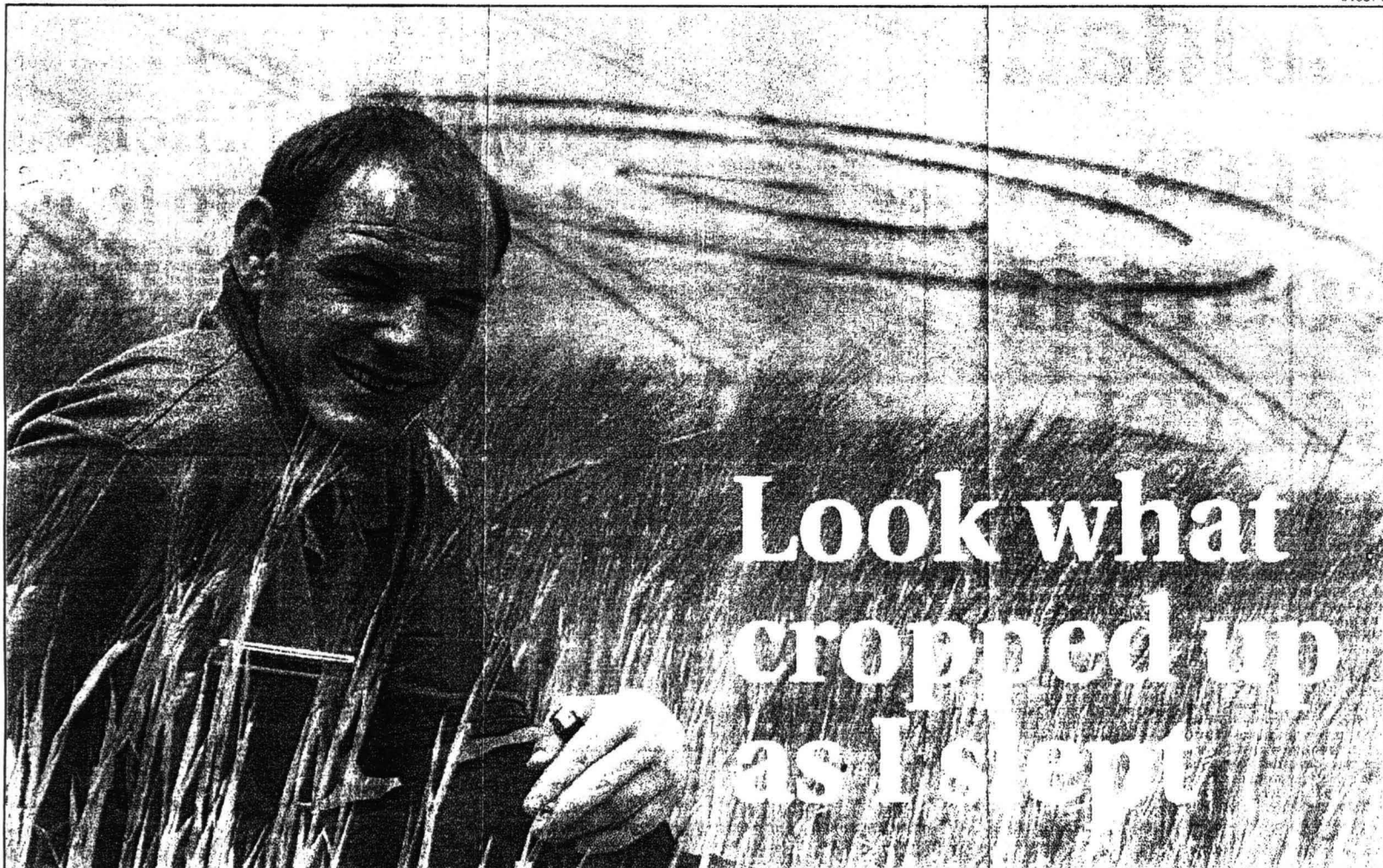
[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

ARGUS, Brighton, England - July 1, 2004

Camper is convinced aliens created mysterious circle pattern in field

PICTURE: JIM HOLDEN

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FIELD OF DREAMS: Wayne Parry was in his tent near Coldean Lane, Brighton, but did not hear any intruders and believes extra terrestrial activity could be the cause of the circles in a barley crop

by BRENDAN MONTAGUE

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE,

England - May 14, 2004

Probus Club looks up — the truth is out there

AT the meeting of Taunton Probus Club, the president introduced the speaker for the day, Alan Foster, who was to delve into the realms of the unknown and associate the meeting with UFOs and crop circles.

Alan, a writer, researcher and lecturer with this subject since 1973, also had associations with the Airline Industry and contacts within the US Navy and Airforce.

Since 1972 the image of UFOs had changed dramatically and there seemed to be a need to confirm or dispel the mysteries surrounding this strange phenomena.

Crop circles were becoming an almost acceptable part of our landscape. Oddly enough, the quality improved immensely, as sightings increased in numbers.

A report from an eye witness residing in down-town New York, observed four figures descending from a "sphere", in a seated position, which developed into an upright position as they landed. The figures appeared to have arms and legs with slightly bulbous heads.

Although aerial sightings of strange objects have decreased since the 1990s, the influence of crop circles has broadened. Members viewed amazing slides of elaborate sculptures etched upon farmland. Sketching illustrations and designs is reasonably simple — however imagine physically laying crop to resemble the design. Doing so over a large area would be very labour intensive.

It was made clear, however, that many changes and set-ups can occur with a little imagination in developing rooms.

Following a lengthy question and answer period, Arthur Grant gave the vote of thanks to Alan for a most interesting talk. The president closed the meeting at noon.

WHEN camper Wayne Parry was disturbed in the middle of the night, the last thing he expected to find was a crop circle.

As he peered out of his tent he was amazed to see a huge five-circle design just a few feet away.

Some might say the pattern was created by hoaxers but Wayne, 27, is convinced it is the work of aliens.

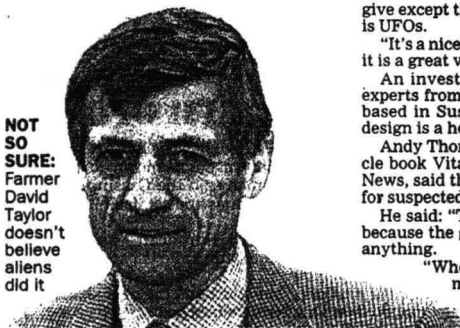
The facilities cleaner, who was taking advantage of the warm summer nights and camping in barley crops near Coldean Lane, Brighton, claimed there was no way hoaxers could have got into the field without waking him.

Wayne, of Shanklin Road, Brighton, said: "I was very shocked indeed when I woke up — I've never seen a crop circle before.

"They were not there at 10pm when I went to sleep. Where I was camping there is a metal gate and I would have heard them climb over it. There is no way they could have got past."

The circle is hidden from the A27 by trees and consists of two concentric circles with three smaller filled circles apparently

NOT SO SURE: Farmer David Taylor doesn't believe aliens did it



Truth may (or may not) be out there

REPORTS of crop circles date back to the 1880s when amateur scientist John Rand Capron wrote about some mysterious formations in a cornfield near Guildford, Surrey.

There was an upsurge of interest in the 1980s with an ever-increasing number of finds. About 10,000 cases have been reported globally, of which 90 per cent were in the South of England.

Crop circles were originally thought to be final proof of the existence of artistic aliens with time on their hands.

orbiting the outside. Wayne, who works at Asda in Hollingbury, Brighton, said extra-terrestrials could have had a hand in making them because there were no trails leading to the creation.

He said: "The circles are too perfectly formed for someone to have done this."

"They only had a space of a couple of hours to do it. There's no explanation I can give except the usual explanation that this is UFOs."

"It's a nice design, quite psychedelic, and it is a great view from my tent."

An investigation is to be launched by experts from Southern Circular Research, based in Sussex, to find out if the latest design is a hoax.

Andy Thomas, 39, author of the crop circle book *Vital Signs* and editor of *Swirled News*, said the field had become a hot spot for suspected UFO visits.

He said: "This is a very interesting case because the guy was there but didn't hear anything."

"When we have conducted hand-made demonstrations it does make a lot of noise with people crunching in the field."

But the mystery was apparently solved in 1991 when pensioners Doug Bower and Dave Chorley claimed they had made the circles using garden rollers, string and planks of wood.

The confession has since been questioned — with circles appearing in Africa and Australia while these two Brits were at home in Wiltshire.

Conspiracy theorists suggest the story was an MoD plot, in conjunction with the CIA, to prevent public panic at the thought of UFOs buzzing barley fields.

The truth, as they say, is out there.

We've had surveillance experiments before where a crop circle has appeared near equipment caravans without us hearing a thing.

"This field has seen formations for the past 15 years. Nobody knows where these have come from."

"It's a mystery and I could not possibly say what is going on here."

David Taylor, 52, the tenant farmer who owns the crop, said he had lost hundreds of pounds because of the damage but he thought it was more likely to be the work of hoaxers than aliens.

He said: "I've no idea where this circle has come from but to blame it on aliens may be a little far-fetched."

The first crop circle to appear in Sussex this year was created in the centre of a field of oilseed rape.

The 260ft wide shape with spiral arms sprang up at Tegdown Hill, near Patcham, Brighton.

There was a spate of sightings last year, including a strange pattern found in an oilseed rape field on Newmarket Hill, near Woodingdean, in May.

brendan.montague@theargus.co.uk

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Todmorden, England - July 23, 2004

Ufologist's appeal: did you see anything?

UFOLOGIST and investigator of the paranormal for more than 40 years, Mr Steve Balon, is appealing to anyone who may have rung a radio station with an unusual sighting this week to get in touch with him.

Mr Balon said he had been

told someone called "Dennis" had rung Greater Manchester Radio's Alan Beswick Show around 10.35 am on Monday morning, July 19, saying they were at that moment watching a cigar-shaped tubular object in the sky.

Mr Balon said he had

checked there were no reports of planes or objects which should have been in that airspace at that time and wants anyone who may have seen something unusual to contact him. He can be reached by telephone on (01942) 683141.

UFO video could be key in enthusiast's career

Military sighting lends credibility to man who's revered and jeered

By LAURENCE ILIFF
Mexico Bureau

MEXICO CITY — Jaime Maussan has spent the last decade collecting possible evidence of alien visits to Earth and maintains he has had personal contact with other "entities."

He presents UFO photos, videos and testimony on two Internet sites, at conferences in Mexico and the United States, on the radio and on his new prime-time television show.

Entertainer, journalist and believer, Mr. Maussan is the guru of a subculture of UFO and space-travel devotees in Mexico, where there are a surprising number of reported sightings.

Like their astronomer ancestors, Mexicans embrace the notion of life in outer space and are generally less cynical about the UFO phenomenon than Americans.

"In no other place in the world is there such a commitment to producing evidence" of UFOs as in Mexico, he said.

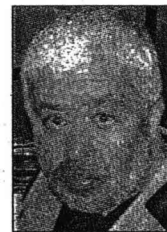
And now Mr. Maussan says he has secured the most definitive proof yet of extraterrestrial visitors, and from an unlikely source: Mexico's super-secretive military.

The air force tape shows 11 luminous flying objects that military experts can't explain. So they sought out Mr. Maussan and cooperated with his investigation.

With the video has come a new dose of respect, Mr. Maussan said. That could counter attacks on

Mr. Maussan's credibility by Mexican scientists and even UFO buffs in other countries. While he is a darling among some in the UFO field, he is also considered one of the worst hucksters by scientists and skeptics, believers and nonbelievers, many of whom have their own Web sites.

UFO Watchdog, which is much more interested in debunking UFO theories than searching for proof of extraterrestrial life, is one. A Chile-based Web site, "La Nave de los Locos" or "Ship of the Crazy," likewise is dedicated to debunking UFO stories and the people who make money off them.



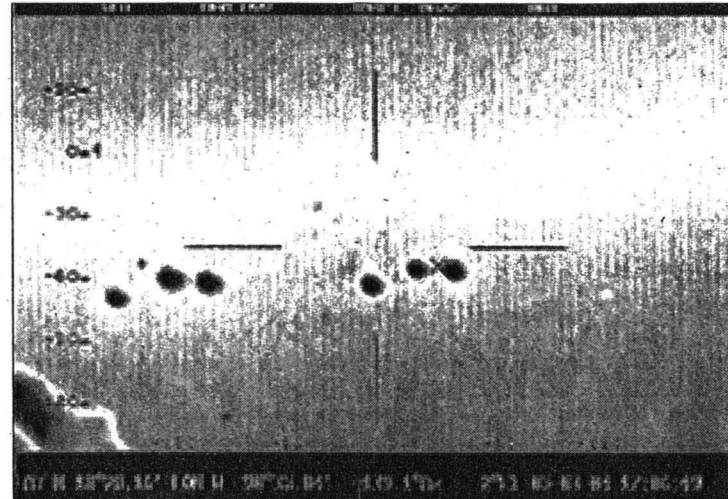
Jaime Maussan

Both sites suggest that Mr. Maussan accepts any and all UFO stories and repeats them with little or no skepticism to make money. The Web site UFO Watchdog has placed Mr. Maussan in its "UFO Hall of Shame," alleging that the longtime journalist is a "promoter and supporter of various UFO hoaxes."

Before and after

Mr. Maussan, 51, acknowledges that there are bogus UFO stories, but he said his new military-filmed video is bulletproof.

"This is a watershed," he said of the video, which was broadcast



Jaime Maussan Productions

The Mexican air force taped 11 luminous flying objects that experts can't explain, so Jaime Maussan was consulted.

worldwide in May and was the top story on Mexico's nightly news. In the history of UFOs, "there is a before, and there is an after," Mr. Maussan said in the dramatic tone that has made him a mainstream entertainer and global UFO "expert."

The video also may be a watershed in Mr. Maussan's career.

He used it on the June 13 debut episode of his two-hour weekly TV show, *Great Mysteries of the Third Millennium*, which is broadcast live from his own studio.

On the show, air force pilots described their surprise at coming across luminous objects while looking for drug traffickers in the lower Gulf of Mexico on March 5.

Some of the objects showed up on radar, the pilots said, meaning they had mass. Others showed up on an infrared camera, meaning they emitted heat. During the incident, the pilots expressed surprise

and even concern that they were being surrounded.

At one point, one soldier says with nervous laughter, "We are not alone."

National Defense Minister Ricardo Clemente Vega García said the video was given to Mr. Maussan largely because the defense ministry was unaware of anyone else who actively studied the subject in Mexico.

"There are more copies for those scientists who want to see it, only we don't know them," Mr. Vega said. He added that the military had no opinion on what the shiny objects might be and had never used words like "UFO" or "flying saucer" to describe them.

Since President Vicente Fox became the first politician from an opposition party to hold that office in seven decades, the notoriously closed military has been somewhat more open.

Mr. Maussan, who dresses casually and exudes sincerity, said he is a skeptical journalist who simply presents the evidence.

He cites his credentials as the former host of the investigative news show *60 Minutos*, which is unrelated to the popular U.S. TV news magazine *60 Minutes*, and a long list of awards and achievements.

'A matter of time'

Mr. Maussan is also a believer who said he has had contact with "entities." The experience, he said, was shared by half a dozen people and came in the early years of his UFO investigations.

"For me, it was something very important. It convinced me that this phenomenon is real and that it's just a matter of time. The most natural logic indicates that this universe must be full of intelligent life forms, and it's very likely that they are more intelligent than us and can reach our planet," he said.

Mr. Maussan said he did not want to go into the details of his personal experiences because that would make him, rather than his journalistic work, the focus of attention.

"We are talking about the most important story in history," he said. "When you accept that intelligent entities of unknown origin exist in our world, it changes everything."

While Mr. Maussan said he is not rich, his unique home in a wooded area of Mexico City features underground bedrooms, connecting tunnels and ongoing construction.

An above-ground nook is

carved from a single tree and resembles a pointy spaceship. But there are few other UFO knickknacks, and his two young children don't seem particularly interested in the topic. Mr. Maussan said his wife used to be a skeptic, too.

To be sure, scientists from Mexico and elsewhere are loudly skeptical of this latest video. The usual explanations — weather phenomena, offshore oil rigs, highway lights — have been suggested.

UFO believers are unmoved and remain elated about the rare military openness.

'This was an offense'

An admitted workaholic, Mr. Maussan holds twice-a-week conferences around Mexico at \$20 per attendee, and he had his first in-person sessions in the United States on June 25 and 26, in Los Angeles.

He is a regular guest on U.S. Spanish-language programs such as the talk show *Cristina*. His own TV show can be seen by U.S. viewers via streamed Internet.

"Many people ask me why the video was given to me," Mr. Maussan said from his downtown Mexico City office, which is sprinkled with a few UFO knickknacks. "Because of 13 years of presenting this type of evidence. For the scientists, this was an offense. But for the people, this was absolutely natural."

"The scientists," he added, "would have explained it away and guarded it in a drawer so that no one could see it."

E-mail liliff@dallasnews.com

Boyne Valley UFO claims are denied

DROGHEDA
LEADER
Exclusive

By Noelle Jennings

THE Irish Aviation Authority has denied claims that an Aer Lingus 737-400 was damaged when it encountered an unidentified flying object (UFO) while flying over Slane.

UFO and Paranormal Research Ireland (UPRI) sensationally claim that a triangular shaped unidentified flying object (UFO) circled two planes and caused damage to one of them.

According to Carl Nally, a founding member of the group, it is by far the biggest incident to be reported in Ireland. "The close proximity and the fact it was in controlled air space makes it all the more amazing," said Mr. Nally.

Mr. Nally said he has spoken to a pilot involved in the incident who told him about his experience. "The pilot said the UFO approached in a threatening manner and the wake turbulence was sufficient to damage the plane," said Mr. Nally.

According to Mr. Nally, on January 4th, an Aer Lingus 737-400 approached the east coast with 135 people on board. It was being followed in for landing by a British Midlands Airbus 330 travelling six miles behind.

As the planes approached the Slane area, the crew of the Midlands Airbus reportedly spotted a triangular shaped UFO take off upwards from a field with

■ Group claims Aer Lingus plane was damaged by a "triangle-shaped UFO" over Slane area



■ An Aer Lingus Boeing 737-400 series like the one which the UPRI say was damaged by an unidentified flying object over the Slane area of the Boyne Valley.

very bright strobe light flashes.

Mr. Nally claims the triangular UFO began to circle the Aer Lingus 737 and the crew experienced a power drain on their aircraft. From behind, the crew of the British Midlands Airbus could see a purplish glow surrounding the aircraft.

The UFO then flew on front of the Aer Lingus 737 at the same altitude and according to Mr. Nally, the captain was forced to change course or "request a vector" to avoid colliding with it. Wake turbulence from the UFO caused the plane to be violently shaken and the outside temperature rose to 164 degrees centigrade.

According to Mr. Nally, when the plane landed, the crew could not raise the speed brakes on the leading edge of the wings, more than quarter the distance up. Mr. Nally said that when the aircraft was examined, it was found that the wings were badly damaged as if dented by a hammer.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) denies that the incident occurred. Lillian Cassin, spokesperson for the IAA said,

"This story hasn't got an ounce of credibility. There is no way that air traffic control would give a vector around an unknown object, I was an air traffic controller for ten years and I have seen nothing remotely like it." She added, "If the aircraft was damaged the way they say it was a report would have been filed. I checked with the airlines and there was no incident requiring attention."

The UPRI claims that on the same day another plane encountered the triangular phenomenon.

At 10.30pm an Airbus 330-200 with 213 on board was approaching the east coast and similar to the first encounter, the crew observed a flashing strobe light.

According to Mr. Nally, the crew was advised by air traffic control to change course to avoid the UFO, which was about 360 feet long. "The UFO circled the plane in an aggressive manner for 8-10 minutes causing the plane to shake violently," he said.

Again the IAA deny the incident occurred.

Ms. Cassin said that there are "well understood schemes" in place for reporting incidents and that nothing had been reported through these schemes.

According to Mr. Nally, the pilots involved are still shaken by the incidents. He said, "They are still badly shaken up. It's understandable. We can talk about it but they've been there and experienced it for real."

Mr. Nally said that the Slane/Navan area has become an area where UFOs are a regular occurrence over the past three to four years.

"Pilots are well aware of the activity in the area and they talk about it among themselves," he said.

UPRI has written to the Minister for Transport, Seamus Brennan asking him to investigate the incidents. According to Mr. Nally, Minister Brennan passed on their letter to Junior Minister Jim McDaid.

However, they have heard nothing back since. Mr. Nally said he has written to Minister Brennan again demanding that something be done.

NORTHERN ECHO, England - May 27, 2004

**LAST
NIGHT'S
TV**



BY STEVE PRATT

EMAIL: steve.pratt@nne.co.uk

It's a pig of a job for Jimmy

**Jimmy's Farm (BBC2)
The British UFO Files (five)**

WHEN would-be pig farmer Jimmy Docherty said that the farmhouse "needs a bit of work", he was understating the case. It was derelict. Other drawbacks of the 90-acre farm in Ipswich included no running water or electricity.

Essex boy Jimmy, 28, spent six years studying insects at university which doesn't seem like much of a qualification for rearing rare pigs and turning them into sausages.

Nonetheless, he reckoned that in three months the farm would be paying - with a

little help from his school friend, chef Jamie Oliver, who put money into the project.

As you can tell, Jimmy's Farm follows the tried and tested formula for reality serials. Everything that can go wrong, does go wrong. The adventure comes perilously close to failure. How else would they justify spreading the story over four weeks.

"It's going to be more work than I thought," said the personable Jimmy in another understatement. It's also going to be like a lot of other series in which people embark on new lives or businesses for which they are ill-equipped and prepared.

Jimmy's Farm is entertaining enough, with an out-of-control fire providing a spectacular finale to the first episode, but we've seen it all before.

A man from the Ministry of Defence kept popping up in The British UFO Files, presumably to lend an air of authenticity to all the speculation and conjecture within the British X-Files.

It was all based on government files and eyewitness accounts of unexplained events in the skies over Britain in the last 60 years. I can't say I was any more convinced about flying saucers by the end than I was at the start. I'm with the wonderfully-titled Flying Saucer Working Party that concluded it could all be explained by mistaken identification -

or someone having one too many at the pub and seeing aliens landing on the way home.

Difficult to dismiss were eyewitness accounts by air force pilots like Michael Swinney. On a training flight in 1952 he was "rather horrified" to see three circular white objects framed in the front windscreen of his plane. His pupil David Crofts, a Royal Navy lieutenant, verified the sighting and, on the ground, flight control plotted the course of three mysterious objects on the radar.

"I have to admit that I was somewhat scared by what I was witnessing," said Swinney, displaying the same mastery of understatement as pig farmer Jimmy.

Many similar incidents were recorded and logged at UFO HQ - Room 801 at the old Metropolitan Hotel in London. One of the most alarming involved an American air force commander in 1980. Security men chased a UFO through the woods. There were stories of a strange smell and a red light that looked like a winking eye until it exploded and broke into small objects before disappearing.

The MoD seemed to have mislaid the memorandum about the incident, blaming "not conspiracy, but bureaucracy". The fact remains that either a UFO landed or the top-ranking commander of a nuclear airbase and several of his men were hallucinating.

Open minds on subject of Unidentified Flying Objects



■ Sandra O'Sullivan



■ Louise Davis



■ Bridie Maxwell



■ Dolores King



■ Father Rushe

LAST week's sensational story "Boyne Valley UFO Claims Are Denied" about a UFO sighting over the Slane area caused quite a stir amongst many of our readers so this week we decided to take this question to the streets:

"Do you believe in aliens?"

Remarkably, we found quite a number of people were open minded about the subject.

Bridie Maxwell said, "I think nothing is impossible."

She laughed, "Well the Americans claim a lot of people have been taken up and examined by aliens and the Americans are meant to be awfully intelligent... or are they just stupid?"

"Whether the claims are made by American or not, some very intellectual people do claim they have been taken up and things have happened so nothing would surprise me," Bridie

By Keith Smith

concluded.

"Maybe, you never know," laughed Louise Davis.

"But I'm pretty skeptical. All these people who claim to have been abducted are mad and were probably kidnapped and blindfolded."

However, Louise admitted if she did see a UFO in the sky then she might believe but until then she will remain skeptical on the subject.

Dolores King said, "I don't believe in UFOs at all."

"It's not possible, I don't know why I don't believe, I just don't. Where would they come from?"

She feels people that claim to have seen UFOs are just looking for attention and for someone to listen to them.

Dolores concluded, "Maybe they do exist but I just think it's a pile of rubbish."

Fr. Paddy Rushe said, "I think they are out there!"

"I think that in this big universe there has to be more than us. I'm open to the possibility that there's life elsewhere."

With regards claims of people being abducted Fr. Rushe said, "I would be a bit skeptical about that."

Coming from a priest's point of view Fr. Rushe explained, "The one thing that always sticks in my mind as a priest is where they wrote in scriptures that Jesus was the King of the universe. They didn't just say King of the world, they said King of the universe which was a huge concept for the Jewish people 2,000 years ago."

Last but not least, Sandra O'Sullivan said, "I would be open to the possibilities because it would be pretty big-headed of us to think we were the only ones in the universe. It's a big universe out there."

Sandra would also be skeptical about abduction claims however she added, "There must be something behind all these claims and sightings. They can't all be totally untrue."

TELEGRAPH, Belfast, Ireland - June 26, 2004

'UFO' is spotted in skies

By Paul Dykes

TWO men working high up a radio mast in Co. Monaghan believe they have spied a top-secret inter-planetary craft flying toward Belfast.

Miles Johnston, of the Irish UFO Research Centre, and Dublin-based rigger Terry Malone claim the delta-winged craft traversed the sky at ultrasonic speed, taking just a few seconds to reach the horizon.

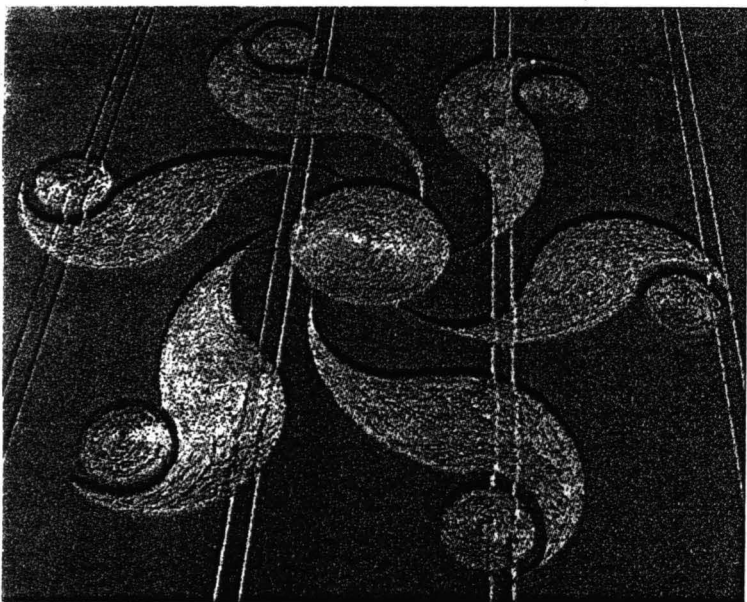
"I am convinced it was a man-made advanced space craft — we had a good long look at it in a clear blue sky," Mr Johnston said.

Mr Malone confirmed the object was "absolutely enormous".

"It was huge, high, and travelling at some speed," he said.

"I've seen B52s going over and you can hear them buzzing, but there was not a sound from this thing. And it was gone in an instant."

MID-DEVON ADVERTISER, England - June 25, 2004



Picture courtesy Steve Alexander www.temporarytemplates.co.uk

TOPPER, Nottingham, England - May 26, 2004

It could be YouUFO!

MORE people across the Notts and Derbyshire region believe alien life exists on another planet than any other region in the England!

In a new survey from The National Lottery, nearly 50 per cent of people in the region reckon aliens have already made contact with earth and one in ten believe they have seen a UFO.

A staggering one in three also believe that aliens have abducted humans, particularly in remote areas of the Derbyshire peak district.

The online survey by Tickbox.net questioned 2,222 people from across the UK for The National Lottery to mark the launch of the new Space Invaders-themed scratchcard from The National Lottery, based on the classic retro arcade favourite.

The results show a very definite belief in alien life, although the vast majority of people in the East Midlands take the view that aliens are passive creatures more interested in making friends than enemies.

Crop circle warning by farmers

FARMERS' leaders are urging pranksters not to create crop circles in north Oxfordshire fields because of the damage to their livelihoods.

The appeal came with this week's summer solstice, a time when farmers start to count the cost of the seasonal rash of strange shapes appearing in fields of wheat, barley and oats.

The Oxfordshire Crop Circle Group (OCCG) lists crop circles in Hook Norton, Middleton Cheney, Finmere and Aynho in the 1990s but none in the last five years. Officials of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) said people trespassing on

farmland and creating patterns by flattening areas of cereal did not realise the impact of their actions.

"We're appealing to anyone who may consider creating a crop circle to think twice. It is akin to trampling over someone's back garden — it's unfair and irresponsible. Crop circle makers seem to forget they are damaging someone's property and there's a financial implication," said spokeswoman Isobel Bretherton.

The NFU also wants to deter crop circle 'tourists' who park in gateways and walk through crops to get a closer view.

"The crops, which have been

closely nurtured, cannot be harvested easily when they've been knocked flat," said Miss Bretherton.

"People who walk in the crop circle trample it further into the ground and then it really does become impossible to harvest."

The NFU believes the majority of crop circles are manmade although there has been fierce debate over whether they are caused by unusual weather conditions, supernatural forces or even UFOs.

"One local farmer said: 'I saw one very close to the A34. The crop was all laid in the same way and it was edge perfect.

You would think if it was people, drivers would have seen them doing it."

● In late July 1996 a 72ft diameter circle was seen from the sky in a wheat field close to the A40.

In August 1997 a formation of three circles, one large and two small, was detected by a pilot in a crop between Banbury and Middleton Cheney. Another was photographed near Finmere Airfield during the same week.

The last crop circle recorded by the OCCG was in a Hook Norton field in July 1998.

ALIEN NATION

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - July 6, 2004

Speaker is UFO author

NORFOLK UFO Society is hosting an evening at Bergh Apton Village Hall.

It will feature a talk by the author of UFO book *Awakening*, Mary Rodwell, who is also vice-president of the Star Kids Project and Principal of the Australian Close Encounter Resource Network. Also speaking on August 8 will be Mary's first "abduction client", Ellis Taylor.

Tickets (£6, or £5 concessions) can be ordered from John Sayer, 48 Woodland View, Stratton Strawless, Norwich, NR10 5LT, or by calling (01603) 755331.

By ESTHER MCCARTHY

HUNDREDS of ETs are phoning home from Ireland, according to a new book on alien and ghostly phenomena.

People from all over Ireland have been reporting sightings of unidentified flying objects in recent years.

And some sky-watchers have even set up sophisticated telescopes in a bid to discover more about the mysterious sightings.

A new book called *Paranormal Ireland* (Maverick House Press) aims to document many of the unanswered questions about ghosts, ghouls and alien life in Ireland. Many of the people interviewed are convinced there is more to life as we know it.

Among them is Roscommon-based Eamonn Ansbro, a self-taught astronomer who has built his own observatory in Kingsland, Co Roscommon which, among other things, he uses to trace and record the activity of what he calls "Anomalous Observational Phenomena" which enter the earth's atmosphere. He has 11 special high-powered cameras which point to all areas of the open sky.

Mysterious

Ansbro chose Roscommon, because his own research and experience shows that UFO activity is common over the region.

"This happens to be an active area. There have been frequent sightings here for many years," he told the book's author, journalist Dara deFaoite.

One of the most notorious occurred in 1997, when a mysterious crash in Roscommon's Curlew Mountains sparked interest nationwide.

Other sightings were reported by dozens of people in the area that year.

It led to the setting up of a UFO Society by Boyle woman, Betty

New book probes Irish UFO sightings

Meyler, who had her own close encounter that year.

"I was looking out from the porch window of my house when I saw what looked like a huge red star appear out of nowhere before it simply disappeared after a couple of seconds," she said.

"It reappeared lower in the sky and repeated this vanishing act at least seven times in different positions - always moving from west to east."

A few weeks later, she witnessed another unex-



SKY-WATCHER: Betty Meyler set up UFO society

plained object, shaped like a cigar: "like the fuselage of a plane, all lit up but without the wings."

"I rang Sligo airport and confirmed with the manager that there were no aircraft in the vicinity at the time."

"I think it would be very arrogant for any human to believe that they are the only intelligent beings in the galaxy," she added.

Within months of setting up the group, she realised she was not alone in her sightings

and now over 40 people regularly meet to discuss reported sightings.

"Suddenly all sorts of people were coming out of the closet to tell of their experiences and relate their sightings of UFOs, some dating back 30 or 40 years."

Paranormal

Journalist Dara deFaoite, who spoke to dozens of people in the course of his research for the book, found several unexplained incidences of the paranormal.

Among them are a reportedly-haunted castle in Co Offaly, where residents say they frequently hear a child's voice, and reported sightings of a Loch Ness-type monster in the tiny lakes dotted around Connemara.

IRISH EXAMINER, Cork, Ireland - June 12, 2004

UFO spotters set for close encounter

by Juno McEnroe

WOMEN are from Venus and men are from Mars and many of them will be at the first Irish international conference on UFOs this weekend at NUI Galway.

Hosted by the UFO society of Ireland, international speakers met last night at a wine reception in the college's Fortrell Theatre, before indulging in encounters of their own kind.

"We are having a guy who specialises in the removal of aliens", said society director Betty Meyler, Roscommon's answer to Scully from the X-files.

The 72-year-old has lived in Ireland for 25 years, for 10 of which she worked as a hotelier on the shores of Lough Arrow in Sligo.

For €80 for the three days, attendees will be indulged in an odyssey of speakers, on space in the college's Millennium Arts building.

Dr Roger K Leir claims to have carried out 11 surgical operations on alleged alien abductees, removing implanted objects.

The American doctor is set to speak to 150 guests



UFO society director Betty Meyler with a photograph purporting to show a UFO in Co Roscommon in 1997. Astronomer Eamonn Ansbro, below, at his observatory near Boyle, Co Roscommon.



at UCG on 'Alien Implants in Humans'.

Also reflecting on the merits of star trekkers,

will be nuclear physicist Stanton T Friedman, who was the civilian investigator of the 'Roswell incident', an alleged cover-up by governments of an alien wreckage with bodies in New Mexico 57 years ago.

However, Ireland's own alien spotter, who happens to be a Green Party candidate, is also speaking at the three-day conference.

Eamonn Ansbro is the director of Kingsland Observatory in Boyle, Co Roscommon.

The scientist has conceived a unique tracking system seeking

out AOPs (UFOs) along with international scientific researchers. His presentation will be entitled "Search for Extraterrestrial Visitation".

Conference organiser Betty Meyler has wanted to run the conference for some time:

"I've seen spacecraft. The most significant was in November 1999, when I saw seven cigar-shaped objects going through the sky. They were glowing shapes and I knew they were spacecraft because they were bright red," she said.

"Everybody has their own beliefs but people are afraid because they see films about aliens eating you." Nonetheless, while Betty Meyler may not be the greatest fan of Sigourney Weaver, she excites many with her own extraterrestrial tales.

Using a crystal pendulum, she predicts spacecraft appearances, informing her monthly magazine readers about where alien crafts will appear in the neighbourhood.

"Depending on which way the pendulum turns, that lets me know where they will appear," she said.

TRANSLATIONS

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

July 5, 2004 — *El Diario de Yucatan*, Yucatan, Mexico — CURIOSITY OVER LIGHTS IN THE SKY — TICUL — The alleged lights that cross the skies over the Benito Juarez sector have been the subject of meetings and conversations among neighbors.

Some residents of Ticul believe they are Unidentified Flying Objects and increasing numbers of locals are visiting the hills.

The apparitions at midnight keep people awake to see "the lights that move and then remain still before continuing their journey." In the month of May, several residents claimed having seen UFOs over by Dzan, and some 3 or 4 years ago people ascended Santa Elena Hill for a better look. — CREDIT: David Triay Lucatero, CAFE

July 5, 2004 — *POR ESTO!*, Yucatan [<http://www.porestonet.net/index.php?ID=10367S>] — UFOS: A SUMMARY — Unidentified Flying Objects are the talk of the town in Ticul — 28 years ago, the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States (CIA) recorded the manifestation of UFOs in the skies over Merida, according to a recently declassified report by said agency.

In 1976, Robert S. Ashford, the U.S. consul in Merida, reported to the Department of State, and in turn, State apprised the CIA, of the apparition of UFOs in the sky.

Hundreds of persons visited the San Benito neighborhood on a daily basis for some 15 days, claiming to have seen UFOs. Visitors to the site are local residents who spend long hours gazing skyward and some claim having seen "a large saucer-shaped object with multicolored lights that moves across the sky at night."

The tenant farmers of the district leave their homes early in the morning to see the strange object. Given the curious nature of the event, increasing numbers of people have come to see this phenomenon, but very few have seen the flying object. Mrs. Maria Cardenas Ek and Lourdes Bojorquez claim having been witnesses to the event.

Mrs. Cardenas said that on Thursday, June 17 [2004], she was home when she noticed a shining object spinning around a tower belonging to the Federal Electric Commission. After a while it stood still in the air, and that was when the dogs began to bark.

The second time she saw it was around 1 a.m., when she saw the flying object in the skies again. Since that date, seeing this object at night has become a regular activity. The correspondent for the *POR ESTO* newspaper was on site for many hours to see if the object would manifest, but was unsuccessful. However, locals say that the UFO doesn't have a fixed schedule for its manifestations.

The fact of the matter is that expectations are on the increase among local residents on account of the strange lights in the sky, and the number of curiosity seekers is growing. — CREDIT: David Triay Lucatero, CAFE

July 5, 2004 — *Diario la Discusion*, Chillan, Chile — ALLEGED WINGED CREATURES CAUSE PANIC AMONG PEASANTS — Juan Acuna looks scared. He first runs away from the press and then argues that he's tired of telling his story to the press out of a fear that no one will believe him anyway. The fact of the matter is that around 2 a.m. on Sunday, he went to drop off his brother-in-law, and on his return home, he lived through an indescribable situation that he still cannot understand.

"I was on my way to the smallhold where I live and two animals crossed my path--a large one and a small one. One bit my leg while the other went for my face. I shielded myself with my arm to defend myself. Later I jumped into the Canal Fiscal and managed to come up in front of my brother in law's house with the clothing all ripped. They called the ambulance and I was taken to the hospital, getting there at 5:30 a.m. They treated me there, but nothing else," Acuna explained.

The resident says that the creatures were tremendously strong, and that he was in fear for his life all the time, since he still couldn't figure out what they were. "I think they may come back. I felt their claws ... look at my body. They were always going for my face. I jumped into the canal because they wouldn't go into the water. They followed me along the edge and then flew. They were dog-faced and had wings. This isn't a normal situation, I told myself. They were much stronger than me; they got on top of me," he noted.

Meanwhile, the district attorney of Parral, Ricardo Encina, noted that the injuries had been evidenced, but couldn't tell what caused them. "He has, in fact, defensive injuries on his arms, shoulders and back. He's very affected by what happened. We've initiated transactions such as a visit to the site, we've spoken to the victim and he has an appointment to see a physician. Then we'll know what we're up against."

The D.A. dismissed the possibility that the wounds were caused by a human. "All I can tell is that it's not an attack by a person, since these aren't the cutting wounds we're used to seeing when a knife is involved. Nor does he show blows, as though someone had given him a beating. Nor does he have the scratches characteristic of someone who fell down by being drunk. That's not what it is, but I couldn't tell you the exact nature of the injuries," he stated. Ricardo Encina confirmed that a few days ago there were reports of hen slayings near Parral, but it wasn't possible to determine what kind of animal was involved.

Ana Maria Gajardo, the victim's spouse, is upset by her husband's situation. "I'm upset because he wasn't hospitalized long enough to run tests. We're concerned about his bruises. I'm afraid that he might get some sort of infection and we don't know what'll happen. I want him to be seen by a doctor, because this is the first case we've had like this," she argues. According to Maria Gajardo, when she was on her way to work a few hours before the event, she saw "a large bird" in the vicinity of Canal Fiscal. "This isn't a joke. They take advantage of us because we're poor. If we had money he'd be in the hospital and everything would be taken care of."

July 6, 2004 — *El Centro*, Talca, Chile — CHILE: PEASANT ATTACK WAS CAUSED BY UNKNOWN ANIMALS — SML delivered a report; citizen of Parral claims he was assaulted by two beasts looking like winged dogs — PARRAL (Esteban Leal) — Fear and incredulity will increase even more in Parral when this

news becomes known. Specialists of the Legal Medical Service (SML) concluded yesterday that what attacked peasant Juan Roberto Acuna Pereira on Sunday morning was an animal, but belonging to an unknown species. The resident claims having been attacked that fateful night by two beings resembling dogs, but winged and with demonic strength. This was the incredible result reached by the analyses performed by forensic doctors of Cauquenes upon the wounds suffered by the Parral resident on his arms, chest and legs, and which were the subject of local and national media headlines yesterday, including *EL CENTRO* newspaper.

The oral report was received last night by the district attorney in charge of the case, Ricardo Encina. The official reported that "the injuries inflicted upon the Parral resident are compatible with those caused by an animal, without specifying what type. We are trying to determine if there is involvement by some person, but if animals are involved we cannot continue our research, since that would fall to other specialists," admitting that he is faced with a very complex case.

Encina looked into the case after Acuna reached the Reina Luisa Carabineros (state police) station in a state of terror on Sunday, reporting that two "winged dogs" -- one large, one small -- had attacked him on his way home. Such was their strength that the shocked peasant had to jump into a nearby canal (Canal Fiscal) to escape from his attackers.

The description of the unknown animals coincides with the one delivered Friday by a resident of the town of Buenos Aires, who claims having seen two flying creatures taking off when he went out to investigate why his dog was howling disconsolately, coming across dozens of chickens torn to shreds.

Encina acknowledged that the tests did not include the risk of possible infections, for which reason the victim's biological processes will have to be monitored, adding that only a doctor will be able to ascertain the peasant's condition.

EL CENTRO visited the man's home last night in an effort to find out his reaction to the doctor's report, but Acuna refused, saying he was tired of so many visits by the media and interviews. He added that some journalists urged him to fly to Santiago de Chile for tests, and he refused. In spite of this, he said that the experts suggested to him the possibility that the attack had been perpetrated by a mountain lion, which he flatly rejected, insisting on the "winged dog" story.

The sense of mystery and fear has increased among Parral's citizenry and puts to rest the series of jokes that circulated on Sunday and yesterday, when the fantastic events became widely known.

A cab passenger says that he reached the local train station at 9 o'clock at night. He hailed a cab to go home and remarked to his driver that the streets were desolate. The cabbie replied that people were scared of having "The Chupacabras" appear before them, alluding to the mythical creature usually blamed for animal deaths and exsanguinations.

There were those who associated this attack with the nervousness seen in recent nights among dogs, hens and geese in Parral.

A homeowner said that she felt a commotion in her henhouse and found it odd, since at that time of night the hens were asleep. Scared, she took a flashlight to see what was going on. She thought to talk to a neighbor, but thought twice about it because she was afraid of being laughed at. The Parral resident claims having heard "The Chupacabras" flying off.

Another resident added that yesterday morning, the geese were also restless. The incident occurred near Canal Fiscal, where Acuna was attacked on Saturday night. He pointed out that he heard two shots fired, which he attributed to someone trying to scare off the alleged animal. The subject couldn't even be obviated in the courts. Court Attorney Roman Lazagy joked with D.A. Richardo Encina, saying: "If you're in charge of this investigation, I don't give you more than 7 days to apprehend the Chupacabras," causing peals of laughter in the courtroom. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

July 7, 2004 — *EL CENTRO*, Talca, Chile — MYSTERY OF THE "WINGED DOGS" INCREASES (Esteban Leal) — Affected parties acknowledge having paid no further mind to the event, but with all that has been published, they are now afraid and have decided to talk. — PARRAL, July 7 — Fourteen sheep died inexplicably last week, but this wasn't enough for two families of shepherds from Parral to make a formal report of the event, despite the fact that the animals' bodies were found torn and bloodied, but without any traces of a predator that would have feasted on them. Everything changed in the last few hours, when word spread of the attack on peasant Juan Acuna Pereira by creatures unknown to doctors, and which he described as "winged dogs."

The deaths occurred at the "Las Cabras" farm and at a smallhold located near the commune's hospital. The affected parties say they gave no special importance to the event, but in view of all that has been published, they became afraid and decided to come forward.

In the first case, 8 sheep were found exsanguinated in the rear of the Inapar corporation. The family running the premises - facing the hospital - recorded the dead animals on their camcorder to leave a document for the owner of the property and the animals, in the hopes of avoiding any misunderstandings later. *EL CENTRO* managed to obtain exclusive access to this visual record, showing the conditions in which the sheep were found.

Ever since the Acuna case became known, members of this family have chosen to leave their clothes hanging outside after nightfall instead of going out and risking a similar attack. That is the level of their fear. "They can't be dogs," they said, requesting anonymity, since "dogs will eat the sheep, not bleed it ... this is the work of a strange animal."

The affected parties said they decided not to report the incident to Carabineros (state police) because over 40 dead hens were found under similar conditions last year, and they remember that the police told them not to go out at night, since a strange dangerous species could be on the loose.

The second case corresponds to the death of 6 sheep in the Paso Hondo rural area on the way to Cauquenes, in the "Las Cabras" farm.

This newspaper visited the site, notified by a source. After asking if it was indeed true that they had found dead animals on the property, a person came to the door to confirm the report: "Yes, 6 dead sheep were found on the pasture, but it was never known what killed them. I can't explain it. All I know is that they had very little blood, because they were brought in for the dogs and their hides were removed."

Claudio Bravo, mayor of Parral, said: "I have no greater opinion that what has appeared in the media. I think calm should reign, first and foremost. These cases are isolated and infrequent. The fact is that we don't know--until the investigation is well underway--if we are facing a new species or a normal, everyday species. I would ask the community to remain calm."

But he also joked: "If the Chupacabras has done anything positive by its presence, it's that we have fewer people on the streets at night, which I think is good. I hope the Chupacabras won't attack decent folks, only the delinquents who are up to no good in Parral."

The Parralinos' interpretations of the event range from skepticism to the Bible. Nora Retamal, a secretary

to Senator Jaime Naranjo, has a view of the phenomenon that he relates to the Apocalypse: "This book tells us that different things will come to pass. We know that the forces of evil present themselves in different guises. God wants us to be ready to witness some very odd things."

Fidel Sanchez, who keeps his hand on the local society's pulse, thinks that most Parralinos believe that the attack on the farmer was the work of the Chupacabras, while adding that others believe it's just a dog. "All of these things give me goose pimples. The fact that there could be a mysterious creature wandering the night that could attack me ... all I can do is go to bed early." — CREDIT: *Grupo GEO*

July 8, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — Chile: Ufologists Strike Back At Skeptics — Response to Arturo Gomez, Astrophotographer of the Tololo Observatory — Harsh Attack by Ufologists Against Sneering Scientist (Fabian Llanca) — Cristian Riffo, of Altovalsol, says that science "doesn't have all the answers" — The Parque Forestal alien remains a mystery for ufologists — Reacting cattily, UFO aficionados tried to ratify that their endeavor is a serious one — National ufologists reacted dividedly against the categorical condemnation issued by Arturo Gomez, astrophotographer with the Tololo Observatory, who discredited the work done by UFO researchers and claimed that all alleged UFO sightings have an explanation that's closer to Earth.

The main person attacked by the scientist was Erick Martinez of the Corporacion de Investigacion de Fenomenos Aereos (CIFAE), who published the photo of the alleged alien supposedly walking across Santiago's Parque Forestal. "He is exaggerating and furthermore, he isn't the only person we can consult about these phenomena. Arturo cannot claim a monopoly of knowledge, because I don't know if his is the authorized voice," he says.

With regard to the controversial ET photo, Martinez adds that, "I never said it was a Martian. In fact, I said at first that it was possibly a child. Furthermore, I never presented any photographs—I was summoned by the media."

He makes it clear that his organization--based in San Jose de Maipo-- "has never charged for any event, regardless of the fact that there are other researchers who charge for their events. No one can accuse us of having profited off of ufology."

Cristian Riffo, director of the Centro del Espacio Altovalsol, in Valle del Elqui, adds his voice to the debate, "I'm surprised that Arturo Gomez would say such a thing. It's good to bear in mind that when we are talking about UFOs, we mean unidentified flying objects and not aliens or Martians. That the phenomenon has an extraterrestrial explanation is something that cannot be proven at this time."

Riffo notes that science "doesn't have all the answers. It's a search too]. The true scientist must be constantly in doubt and must avoid clinging to immutable laws." With regard to the multiplicity of UFO research groups, he hopes that people "are clear about which institutions are looking into this phenomenon in a serious, non-commercial manner." — CREDIT: Carlos Iurchuk

July 8, 2004 — *EL CENTRO*, Talca, Chile — WINGED CREATURE COINCIDES WITH MEXICAN IMAGE (Esteban Leal) — The "winged dogs" that attacked Juan Acuna, and the ones allegedly responsible for sheep and hen deaths, continue to spread fear in Parral.

PARRAL, July 8 — The description given by Juan Acuna Perira, who was attacked by unknown animals he likens to "winged dogs", coincides remarkably with an image published by a Mexican newspaper [in 1996 - translator's note], an image that has been circulated throughout the Internet and was neither denied nor classified as true by researchers of strange phenomena.

The peasant described the creature as an earless dog with shining eyes, and more telling yet, the bite he suffered on one of his feet clearly shows a triangular, three-fanged bite.

The deep scratches to his arms upon resisting the attack Sunday morning are proof of claws as the ones shown [in the photograph of the strange creature]. The injuries were analyzed on Monday by experts of the Forensic Medical Service of Cauquenes at the request of the Parral D.A.'s office. Physicians concluded that Acuna was indeed attacked by an animal, but one belonging to an unknown species, as reported by *EL CENTRO*.

The peasant was attacked as he walked across a pasture near Canal Fiscal, close to Calle 2. He claims that two specimens attacked him, the smallest being the fiercest, and went for his throat. He brushed this one off with both arms, leaving deep scratches in his upper body which testified to what he told Carabineros [State Police] at the Reina Luisa barracks. He added that he then fell to the ground and was bitten in an ankle. He took off as best he could and jumped into the canal's waters, followed by the flying specimens, who hovered waiting for him to come out. He tried, but the strange creatures renewed their attacks until they finally desisted and the peasant was able to ask for help.

Ever since the case became known on local and national radio and newspapers on Monday, fear and jokes have spread throughout the community, where strange events had been taking place since the previous week: the first one to become known involved the death of a dozen hens at a local commune, where a resident claimed having seen the shadows of two unknown creatures that flew away from the field until they lost themselves in the vineyards. — CREDIT: *Grupo GEO*

July 9, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — Legendary Corporal Armando Valdes: "Ufologists will be angry when I publish my book" (Diego Zuniga) — The man is preparing a bombastic book about his alleged UFO encounter on April 25, 1977. Title: "A la sombra de la verdad" (The Shadow of the Truth) — "Call me in an hour, buddy. I'm in a meeting," says Armando Valdes, perhaps foreseeing that he is going to be asked yet again about his experiences in Putre on April 25, 1977, when then-Army corporal Valdes and his seven conscripts saw two lights descend from the sky. Allegedly one of them lit up the surroundings and then made Valdes disappear for 15 minutes. Amid disputes between ufologists and skeptics over the existence of UFOS, Valdes prefers to say that he's engaged in a personal investigation to finally publish his book "A la sombra de la verdad" (The Shadow of the Truth).

- At least it's got a title...

- Yes, and it can't be changed. If they offered me a billion pesos to change it, there wouldn't be a book. When you read it you'll realize that the secret is contained therein.

- When will it be out?

- I daren't say. There have been so many setbacks with this book that I don't want to give a date. One time it seems I made the wrong move and I erased it all.

Valdes remarks that after his experience, "the Army ordered me to grant an interview to Pablo Honorato from Channel 13 and that's when they stuck me in this boat. If it hadn't been for that. I would've kept quiet."

- Have you read the things they've published about you?

- I have them in a briefcase with the newspapers and magazines I've been sent. I've laughed long and hard with some of those things.

- *You said aliens had healed your daughter, didn't you?*
 - I never said that. I was misquoted. At that time, there were many people pursuing me. My daughter had a serious illness and it was thought that the illness had to do with my case, but these are things that people make up. I can't help it.
 - *But you can deny it.*
 - It's just that I'm not always given a chance. That's why I'm venting in my book. I'm going to discuss all of these subjects in it. All I can tell you is that ufologists will be angry when I publish my book and will surely say I changed my story.
 - *Many were annoyed when you said that you weren't abducted by aliens.*
 - But there was no abduction. There was something else, but it's not what ufologists say it was. I've solved my case.
 - *Give us a hint.*
 - It's complicated and there are things that must be read to be understood. You wouldn't understand them just like that. It's like my saying: "I love you" and you asking: "why do you love me?" There is so much to be explained.
 - *In other words, your case is like love.*
 - A little, I think. Some very strange things happened in my case.

CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O. and Diego Zuniga

July 9, 2004 — CIFA, Chile — CHILE: ANOTHER MYSTERY PREDATOR ATTACK IN CURICO — The event which occurred at a Curico fruit plant is added to the aggressions at Parral in recent days — CURICO -- Parral is not alone when it comes to attacks by strange creatures resembling "winged dogs." This also happened in Curico, at least at the COPEFRUT fruit company, where a truck driver claims that he was attacked by a creature having the same characteristics as the ones that assaulted a Parral resident some days ago, along with the massive slayings of hens and sheep.

Until yesterday morning, the incident that took place last Sunday at the fruit plant, some 2 km north of Curico, was kept secret, not out of an urge for concealment, but because some had refused to believe the trucker's story. However, photographs taken at the site where the event took place filtered through, showing strange footprints that ratify the reported assault, in the opinion of many.

While the affected truck driver, whose identity has been kept confidential, is not in the area, his story has circulated with great speed.

According to the first details known, at 0400 on Sunday morning, one of the truckers working on the premises of COPEFRUT had to park somewhat far from the point of entry into the premises. At the time, the driver's vehicle was accosted and attacked by a strange creature that placed its legs on the ground and then flew off. The frightened driver attempted some sort of maneuver to reach an area where he could find more people, which was almost impossible due to his nerves. After some minutes, he managed to tell his story, although he was unable to furnish details as to what had attacked him. He only said having seen an animal that flew away, but which did not have the characteristics of a bird.

This event immediately brought to mind Juan Roberto Acuna Pereira, who was attacked at Parral by "two strange beings, like earless dogs with wings," boasting sharp teeth and claws.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The photos taken at the fruit plant show the presence of three sharp claws that drew the attention of some researchers. One of them, Fernando Nilo, who looks into this type of case, analyzed the photos yesterday, saying they were linked to a "feline-type animal walking on two legs, and able to fly." Nilo added that in recent months he has received information from two other points in the province of Curico, where strange creatures have been reported. "We have reports that strange birds were reported three times in two locations in Curico, and in some sites along the Guaiquillo river," he noted.

HALF IN EARNEST, HALF IN JEST

Meanwhile, *EL CENTRO* newspaper contacted the company where the trucker incident occurred and where workers have made it the subject of general conversation, "half in earnest, half in jest."

Plant manager Rodrigo Monje said that the company will not make reference to the incident, although he did confirm that he had been with the truck driver, who was "very frightened and nervous."

The executive added that the subject has been the a source of humor in the company, although they respect the driver's telling of the events, which is the only one, since there were no witnesses.

He added that company security guards made their customary rounds during the night and heard nothing out of the ordinary. — CREDIT: CIFA-CHILE

July 10, 2004 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — THREE PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE SEE UFO — "It was gigantic, shining, noiseless and with portholes" — Three executives traveling from the capital city to Cachi last Sunday claimed having seen a giant UFO "some 100 meters in diameter, silent and luminous" in the vicinity of Cachipampa near the Los Cardones National Park, a mountainous, semi-desert region some 120 km south of Salta. "It was a truly marvelous spectacle," said Susana Urdines, coordinator of the Virtual Distance Learning System of the Ministry of Education.

Urdines was traveling in the company of Federico Andolfi, a surgeon from the Vallisto Hospital and her colleague Mary Maigua. Both women were on their way to perform tasks related to their activities in the area and were being driven there by the physician, who had offered to do so. "The time was approximately 21:30, the night sky was clear when we saw the object," said Susana, who is a native of La Plata, although she has lived in the province for over a decade.

"I had always heard and read stories and accounts of UFOs seen by residents of Cachi, but never thought I'd have the good fortune to see something as beautiful as it was strange," she said. "It appeared all of a sudden and got in front of the car, although at a considerable distance. We weren't frightened, since at no time did we sense any aggression or hostility coming from it. It was enormous and flashed without making a sound, had multicolored lights and gave the appearance of being circular, with portholes all around. The vision lasted for a few minutes, but enough for us to realize that it wasn't a natural luminous phenomenon, but a device built by someone. It vanished at startling speed and lost itself behind the eastern mountains."

However, the object reappeared a few kilometers ahead, when we were driving along the Tin Tin segment, before reaching Payogasta [Editor's note: Tin Tin has been mentioned as a frequent UFO sighting spot since 2000]. It glided along as though suspended beside us and vanished into the firmament as it did before. After seeing that, I believe we have been privileged to have seen what we saw. Any trace of incredulity I may have had about UFOs in Cachi has been dispelled," said the functionary. — CREDIT: Jose Echevarria, *ARGUSPR*



BIGFOOT IS BACK!

Life's unsolved mysteries explored
at the Southern Crypto Conference

BY MARK WILLIAMS

The creepy and perplexing mysteries of the East Texas Piney Woods and the world beyond will be explored this Saturday, the 26th, at the Third Annual Southern Crypto Conference happening at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center in Conroe.

The interest in cryptozoology -- the study of the unknown -- has grown in Montgomery County right along with the conference. Three years ago, it fit into a conference room at the Holiday Inn on the edge of Conroe. And although the event has grown enough to move onto the grounds of the convention center, so many people have already purchased tickets for this year's conference, it has been moved from the Horseshoe Club to the Convention Center itself.

So much for a fear of the unknown.

At the forefront of cryptozoology research is Chester Moore, the host and founder of the Southern Crypto Conference. Moore is a wildlife columnist and radio host located in the Beaumont area. A lifelong outdoorsman, Moore has logged adventures from Canada to South America. He is an avid cryptozoological researcher and is the owner and host of www.cryptokeeper.com, which has had more than 2-million "hits" since its internet inception in April 2001. Moore is the author of three books: *In the Dark: Chasing Phantoms, Dust and Shadows, Bigfoot South and Boogers, Bears, Birds and Beasts*.

While a sighting of a Bigfoot creature is considered to be a white whale for many serious cryptozoologists, Chester Moore's interests are varied. According to Moore's website, one of the greatest mysteries in the field of cryptozoology is the presence of "black panthers" in the United States and Great Britain. There is no such species as a "black panther" -- although leopards and jaguars do produce black offspring.

America's common big cat, the cougar, may produce black offspring, but science has never acknowledged such a possibility. Another explanation could possibly be "jaguarundis": a cat species that is supposed limited only to the deep southern regions of South Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. These cats, which are believed to be able to grow up to 54 inches in length, are much bigger than most people perceive and come in dark brown and dark gray colors.

Chester Moore is conducting field research on jaguarundis and hopes to get photographs of the elusive animals some 400 miles north of their accepted range. Moore would also like to capture photographic evidence of jaguarundis and cougars in East Texas -- where they are not supposed to exist.

According to Moore, there are two types of "cryptids," or "hidden" creatures: known and unknown. Known cryptids are those that are considered extinct, like the ivory-billed woodpecker, another creature Moore pursues with a passion, or the Tasmanian tiger -- both animals that were known to exist in the world at one time or another. Unknown cryptids are creatures that could possibly exist, but no physical specimen has yet been recovered to prove their existence.

Other cryptozoologists and experts on the unknown coming to the weekend conference chase these cryptids -- while others chase answers into other worlds. Cryptozoological investigator Kriss Stephens has been on the hunt for Bigfoot with Chester Moore and consulted with MTV on its spooky-lite reality show, *Fear*, but her passion lies in trotting around the globe chasing after ghosts. Stephens, who doubles as a paranormal investigator and photographer, says that she grew up in a haunted house and "learned to make the best of a bad situation."

Stephens' most famous cryptid case, however, is very much earthbound. In September 1996, a woman near DeQuincy, LA, accidentally hit a large animal with her car. The strange, dead creature lying on the edge of the road was like nothing she had ever seen, so she drove home to get a camera to photograph it. The authorities were called, as well as the Lake Charles newspaper, which took pictures and declared the animal to be a Chupacabra.

Stephens and her partner, Malcolm Tillotson, heard about the incident, and Tillotson went out to DeQuincy, scooped up the carcass, and stored it in a Rubbermaid container. Stephens stated that the animal, which was dubbed "Fluffy," looked like a large canine, but also had characteristics of a hyena and a baboon. The creature had prominent canine teeth, pointed ears, and a "pushed-in" snout -- all similar to a Chow dog; a baboon-type build, with the front legs higher than the rear; a long tail; and extremely thick, reddish fur. The muscular animal was larger than a St. Bernard and was estimated to weigh over one hundred pounds.

Stephens and Tillotson sent the body to a nearby university for testing, but didn't hear anything for over a month. They finally went to the university to check on the status of the analysis, and were told that the carcass was that of an Irish wolfhound. "Fluffy's" remains, by this time, had been reduced to a few disarticulated bones and hair.

Stephens didn't believe it was a Chupacabra or an Irish wolfhound, which has short gray hair and is slender -- unlike the heavily furred, robust "Fluffy." She decided to go to the university and conduct her own investigation. Using teeth as a guideline, her research led her to the determination that the creature most closely resembled a Borophagus: a hyena-like dog from the Pleistocene era. She learned that there is an animal in Native American mythology called a "Shunka Warak'in," a savage hog-like creature that is theorized to be a surviving Borophagus.

Stephens and Tillotson had planned on having DNA testing done on the remains, but Tillotson lost his job and relocated to Washington State, taking "Fluffy" with him. Unfortunately, he died a month later. All of his cryptozoological belongings -- including the remains of "Fluffy" -- were supposed to have gone to Stephens, but after nearly four years, she still doesn't have them. Tillotson's widow's, who still resides in Washington, supposedly still has possession of them, and allegedly has made repeated excuses for not handing them over. Stephens has since had offers for free DNA testing, but she has no remains to be tested.

So what exactly are the true origins of "Fluffy"? So far, it's just another unsolved mystery in a world filled with them.

This year's keynote speaker is Bob Gimlin, who comes to Conroe under a cloud of crypto controversy. The surviving half of the famous duo who took filmed the famous footage of Bigfoot in 1967, Gimlin has for years stood by his account of what happened that June day so many years ago.

Although attempts to expose the footage as a hoax have never been entirely successful, another campaign has been mounted. Bob Heironimus, a retired Pepsi bottler from Yakima, WA, came forward last month to reveal that he donned a gorilla costume and appeared in the famous grainy film clip that helped fuel the Bigfoot craze and is studied by Bigfoot, Sasquatch and Yeti investigators to this very day.

Heironimus, 63, makes his full "confession," as he calls it, in a just-published book by paranormal investigator Greg Long, *The Making of Bigfoot*. Long spent four years investigating the 60-second film clip and the people behind it. He traces the shaggy Bigfoot costume to a North Carolina gorilla suit specialist, Philip Morris, who says he sold it for \$435 to an amateur documentary maker named Roger Patterson -- Bob Gimlin's partner, who died in 1972. The hoax was staged near Bluff Creek in Northern California, according to Heironimus.

However, M.K. Davis, a late addition to the Southern Crypto Conference schedule, like many who study the film clip, still believes in its validity. He is slated to make a presentation focused on what he believes to be far more reliable evidence. Davis has long been noted for his analysis of the film clip, in which he was able to bring out amazing details by recording frames of the film through a red sensitive emulsion filter. Davis' research has led him to find that nothing appears artificial on the animal or leads him to believe that the film is a hoax. He feels that the film still holds a wealth of information to be gleaned as newer techniques are developed and utilized.

So the hunt for the ever-elusive Bigfoot goes on and on -- as does the argument as to its authenticity...

Meantime: "Smokey" Crabtree, the keynote speaker for the inaugural conference, is back again, to talk about living in the Arkansas bottomlands and his family's intimate experience with the Fouke Monster. The creature apparently inhabited a swampy area near the Crabtree homestead, and ravaged the family's livestock pens from the time Smokey was just a boy; and although he admits to never actually having seen the creature, Crabtree tells of his experience tracking the creature through the bogs, which he does to this day.

The legend of the Fouke Monster, which was made into the obscure drive-in movie classic, *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, has put Fouke, AK on the map, and every year thousands of tourists flock to the marshlands for a possible peek at the creature. Crabtree has written three books on the subject: *Smokey and the Fouke Monster*, *Too Close to the Mirror* and the new *The Man Behind the Legend*.

Ken Gerhard will speak about the various sightings of "thunderbirds": pterodactyl type creatures spotted in Texas and throughout the world. Ken is an accomplished musician and has a new book out called *Monsters are Real*.

As the conference has grown, so have the exhibits; this year marks the debut of the Traveling Southern Cryptozoology Museum, including a life-size southern Bigfoot replica, built to the specifications of the famous Fouke Monster. There will be booths and displays from numerous cryptozoology authors, researchers and vendors including crypto artist Patrick Trumble; find rare books and other items, plus a silent auction is planned with cryptid plaster casts and original cryptozoology art up for bid.

The event kicks off at 11AM with an early peek at vendors items and then a lunch break; seminars start at 1PM. Advance tickets are still available through www.cryptokeeper.com; tickets will be available at the door, but will be limited. Ticket price: \$10.

Despite his ongoing search for evidence to the contrary, Chester Moore has said he does not believe in Bigfoot; belief, he maintains, is the province of religion. Rather, Moore has concluded, according to the evidence he and other researchers have collected, that people share the North American continent with a hidden species of "bi-pedal primate". He further maintains that there is an active breeding population in Texas and other southern states.

But the truth itself remains a cryptozoological mystery...

send your comments to
mark@thebulletin.com

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - June 10, 2004 CR: G. Conway

Two residents of Yukon native band report seeing Sasquatch on Alaska Highway

Two Yukon residents have reported seeing something resembling a sasquatch earlier this week. Marion Sheldon and Gus Jules, members of the Teslin Tlingit Council, were travelling along the Alaska Highway southeast of Whitehorse on an ATV, sometime after 1 a.m. on Sunday when they passed what resembled a person standing on the side of the

HITCHHIKING?

highway. Thinking it was a local from their small community who might be in need of a ride, they turned around and headed back, conservation officer Dave Bakica said. Mr. Jules said he saw what he believed to be flesh tones hidden beneath a mat of hair. "They are convinced this was something out of the ordinary," Mr. Bakica said. "I have no doubt in my mind that they believe what they saw was a Sasquatch. Whether it was or not, I do not know. Just because you can't prove something was there, does not mean it was not there." *The Canadian Press*

I saw Ogopogo twice, woman says

Vernon mom spots fabled beast swimming in Okanagan Lake

By David Wylie
Sterling News Service

VERNON — When Debbie Gelter first saw a dark shape moving silently across Okanagan Lake, she thought it was a really big beaver.

But as she watched for a few more seconds from her lakefront balcony, she said she was mesmerized to see a massive head slowly moving about 30 metres from shore.

"It didn't look like anything I've ever seen," said the Vernon resident.

"It was really cool, really strange. Now I believe in the Ogopogo."

This is the first summer that Gelter, 40, has lived in the quiet lakeside home on the west side of Okanagan Lake in the Okanagan Indian Band reserve. She said she first saw the creature in the early evening about three weeks ago while standing on the balcony with her two kids. Its head was blackish-grey — like the colour of a turned-off TV screen, she said. It was blunt shaped, slimy looking and had several bumps on the forehead, she said.

Around 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Gelter was again on the balcony when her daughter Alesha, 12, threw her brother Josh's big blue ball into the lake.

"She went out there on her air mattress to get it and this thing appeared. I was yelling at her to come back and I heard this splash, splash, splash," said Gelter. "The

first thing my son said was, 'Does he eat kids?'"

The creature's head wasn't visible above water the second time, but its five-metre body was spinning and splashing water into the air like it was playing and frolicking, Gelter said. "It looked shy and smart — but in the same breath, stupid," she added. "I was reluctant to talk, but I know what I saw."

Gelter called a local radio station to report the sighting, which has generated both interest and skepticism. Friends have listened with curiosity as she describes what she saw, but her 16-year-old daughter thinks she's crazy. "She doesn't believe me. She laughs at me," said Gelter.

Not to be discouraged, Gelter now keeps a camera within reach while she's on her balcony, and has made a routine out of scanning the lake every evening. The abundance of minnows near her property may have drawn the creature into the area, she guessed.

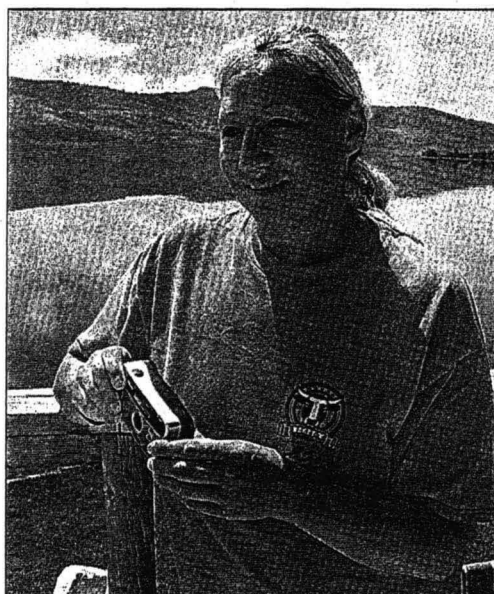
"I probably will never see it again," she said.

Gelter now joins the ranks of hundreds of people who have reported seeing Ogopogo since the mid-1800s. Arlene Gaal, a writer and researcher who has been tracking Ogopogo for 20 years, said Gelter's sighting is the first of the year. There are between 10 and 14 sightings annually, she said. "The head and neck are rarely seen, so this is a gem of a sighting. It does fit in with most of the sightings," she said.

At least six video recordings and 20 photos of the creature have been documented. From witness accounts and footage, Ogopogo is a large creature that resembles the prehistoric plesiosaur.

What do you think?

Give us your comments by phone at 604-605-2029, e-mail at provincenews@pnc.ca, or fax to 604-605-2099. Be sure to spell your first and last names and give your home town.



David Wylie — for The Province

Vernon mother Debbie Gelter now keeps her camera close by after twice spotting what she claims was Ogopogo frolicking in the water about 30 metres from her balcony.

CITIZEN, Mansfield, AR - June 9, 2004

On the "track" of our Bigfoot

It turns out there is a little more Bigfoot activity going on in and around south Sebastian County than first thought.

I detailed a couple of sightings over the past months in this space, but I said at the time that no "class A" sighting had been recorded for Sebastian County in literature involving North American research on the subject.

I was wrong and stand corrected. Turns out that way back in 1988, a visitor to Huntington apparently had an encounter with a bi-pedal primate creature.

I'll spare you most the details, because you can go to www.texasbigfoot.com and read all about it, but it suffices to say that on July 9, 1988 a guy was bank fishing at a local lake when he heard something in the woods. Upon closer inspection, "something" turned out to be a "seven foot red-dish brown fur covered creature" that displayed "intimidating behavior."

Although this incident happened in 1988, it wasn't submitted to the Texas Bigfoot Research Organization until April 17 of this year. The first article I wrote about Bigfoot didn't appear in this space until April 21. Go figure.

I'm assuming that the timing of the TBRO receiving that 1988 report and my call to Craig Woolheater, president of that organization, is what has set off this wild array of telephone calls, e-mails and other communications from all over the place about "our" Bigfoot sightings.

Three researchers and no less than five "interested" parties, some of which have stories of their own to tell, have contacted me. In fact, I have been invited on an overnight camping trip near the Scott/Polk county line in June while researchers are going to play audio "Bigfoot calls" in an effort to get a response from the elusive primates.

I'm game, but I'm going to pack some adult diapers just in case.

Another note. In reporting an incident that happened at the intersection of Highway 71 and 252 a few weeks back, I said the sighting occurred about a mile north of Mansfield.

remaining in the fence and due to the grown up nature of the site, wasn't able to get real close in my dress clothes.

The investigation continues.

The latest report of Bigfoot activity came last week from a resident of the Arko community, which is a little southwest of Huntington.

Last Christmas, this gentleman had visitors from Florida who had basically never seen or explored a mountain. His nephew took them on a hike to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain where they took pictures and video of appears to be Bigfoot tracks.

The Arko resident went back up on the mountain after the fact and took pictures of his own. I have a copy of the photo and if we can get the quality good enough for publication, it will be published at a later date. This all happened on December 26 of 2003.

Again, I have personally interviewed the person who supplied me with the photo. He has no reason to and nothing to gain from lying to me about the incident. He describes himself as a Christian man and is willing to talk about the incident within reason, although he doesn't want his name or telephone number published. If you want to talk to him, call me and I'll call him with your contact information.

This gentleman displays a certain amount of interest in the subject of Bigfoot and Bigfoot sightings and is actually the person who alerted me to the 1988 sighting being posted on the TBRO website.

I do need the husband and wife that called me about the Highway 252 incident as reported in our April 28 issue to call me back. I have misplaced their phone number and need to contact them because researchers would like to talk to them about their sighting.

In my defense, I was contacted by a serious paranormal researcher out of Benton about my sighting of what I claimed to be a kangaroo several years back. He says there have been several sightings of a "kangaroo-like creature" for

"Off the Beaten Path"

by Dennis McCaslin



It was actually about two miles north of Mansfield and a mile north of Huntington where Highway 252 turns toward Dayton to the east.

My bad.

I've actually had calls from several people who were looking at the intersection of Highway 71 and 252 in Huntington for a "three stand barbed wire fence" where none existed.

Man. I feel kind of like that radio guy in Fort Smith that supposedly hides an Easter egg for people to look for. You don't want to give out bad information when you're tracking Sasquatch or hiding eggs. People get bent.

On Thursday, I visited the area detailed in the Highway 252 incident and saw what I think is the stretched out area of the fence in question. I didn't see any strands of hair

lack of a better description in different regions throughout the country and he took a detailed report to add my sighting to a database.

So there. If I'm crazy, I'm not the only one.

I have put out a plea to anyone who has had any sort of Bigfoot sighting to contact me by calling the Waldron office and asking for my telephone number.

To facilitate a quicker response to those calls or for anyone who has a story idea on any subject (big and hairy or not) I can be contacted 24-7 at 479-561-1791.

Call me with any story ideas you might have out of the south Sebastian County area.

I'm all ears.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - July 22, 2004

Off the Beaten Path

Compiled by Trey Reid

It's raining fish

A thunderstorm in Ocean Springs, Miss., produced more than hail and heavy rain.

According to the *Biloxi Sun Herald*, recent storm clouds also spilled frozen fish.

Gulf Islands National Seashore Ranger Melissa Perez and volunteer Adam Wilson were pelted briefly with small, cold fish while on the park's pier, the newspaper said.

It was around 6 p.m. July 13 when the storm had eased briefly. The two ran out to try and locate minnow traps that had been left on the pier.

The traps were gone, but Perez and Wilson noticed something falling into the water near them, causing splashes. Then, two icy cold fish hit the deck of the pier and one hit Perez's hat.

"We went for cover," Perez said. "One was incredibly cold, and one of them actually was icy."

It all happened in a small area, roughly 20 feet in diameter.

The fish that hit the deck were about 3 inches long, and Perez said she didn't immediately recognize the species.

Todd Adams, an assistant coordinator of educational programs at J.S. Scott Marine Education Center, offered two theories. The storm could have pulled the small fish into the thundercloud where they were coated with ice until they became heavy enough to fall from the cloud, or the storm could have sucked them off a fishing boat and dropped them at the park.

On the trail of the big cats

by Victoria Young

malton@yep.co.uk

A UFO and paranormal investigator has joined the search for the truth about North Yorkshire's mysterious big cats.

Russell Kellett, 40, of Filey, has spent years compiling what he claims to be one of the country's largest databases of paranormal activity, including alien craft sightings, abductions, haunted houses and crop circles.

He is interested in cryptozoology - the study of unknown species of animals like the abominable snowman and the Loch Ness Monster and after moving to North Yorkshire three years ago has become fascinated by the "Beast of Ryedale".

During the past six months there have been dozens of reports of encounters with and sightings of large cats similar to a puma or jaguar - from places ranging as far as Selby, Acomb and Castle Howard.

"When the Dangerous Animals Act came into force in the 70s

UFO researcher joins hunt for the mysterious black panther

people who owned these animals as pets, rather than register them just let them go. One school of thought is that there are a number of big cats roaming the UK," he said.

"There has been evidence of their existence, like sheep and cattle that have been found dead with huge bite marks - if it wasn't big cats, what was it?"

Mr Kellett's interest has been particularly aroused by a recent report, which was condemned as rubbish by Ryedale area commander Inspector Neil Burnett, of the body of a big cat killed on the A169 Pickering to Whitby road being removed by police.

"I'm interested in hearing from anybody in Ryedale that may know anything about this recent story of the body of a big cat being found, or if anyone has seen one or has evidence or footage."

Mr Kellett claims to have had a brief encounter with an alien craft 14 years ago when he was fixed in a beam of light and later saw a UFO.

"I had a close encounter with a strange object. That's when my illness started and so did my quest for the truth," he said.

The paranormal investigator believes he now suffers from the debilitating disease myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) because of the experience.

He has since filmed footage of mysterious balls of light, flying triangles and strange rods in the sky.

Mr Kellett and his footage have appeared on several television programmes, including a BBC documentary, and in magazines.

He can be contacted through his online magazine www.ufoparanormal.com or by e-mailing rkellett@supanet.com or on the UFO hotline 01723 514700.

Panther 'sightings' in the county

● Nikki Winterburn and Katie Ibbotson saw a big cat outside their home in Lilac Avenue, off Hull Road, York, in April

● Pensioner John Berridge claimed to have spotted a huge black cat outside his neighbour's home, in Acomb, York, a few days' later.

● Kevan Holmes said he saw a panther-like creature between Skelton and Rawcliffe, also in April

● Ian Hardcastle said he also spotted a giant cat, near Wheldrake golf course, later that month.

● In May, Matthew Davies and Glen Bates saw a panther-like creature by the A19, just outside York

● A similar giant cat was spotted by Bob Adams, of Acomb, crossing the A1237 York outer ring road, near the A19 roundabout, in May

● Ronnie Ronaldo saw one as he drove along the A1237 towards the A64, later that month

● Days later, security guard Paul Keeling saw a beast as he patrolled the grounds of Queen Margaret's School, in Escrick, at the end of the month



USU sessions range from Bigfoot to straw biofuel

By GREG LAVINE
The Salt Lake Tribune

Possible buttock impressions from "Bigfoot" and a potential new source of biofuel were among the papers presented at last week's American Association for the Advancement of Science Pacific Division conference at Utah State University in Logan.

Bigfoot or Sasquatch - also known as the abominable snowman - is thought to be a mammoth humanlike, fur-covered primate whose legend outweighs the evidence of its existence. While hundreds of sightings have been reported over the years, there is little firm scientific proof.

Idaho State University and University of Washington researchers examined body imprints found in Washington by the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, a group that seeks conclusive proof of Bigfoot's existence. D. Jeffrey Meldrum, a biologist with Idaho State University, and Daris Swindler, an emeritus anthropology professor at the University of Washington, submitted their paper "The Skookum Imprint: Trace Evidence of Sasquatch?"

The Bigfoot research group said it found forearm, buttock, thigh, lower leg and heel imprints in 2000 in Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. The impressions, found in loamy soil, were compared to elk body imprints. According to the researchers, the hair patterns and body imprints did not match those of an elk.

The researchers indicate the impressions could have come from an 8-foot-tall hominid, but whether they belonged to Bigfoot remains a question, they said. Some impressions were of a leg tendon that points to the ability to walk on two feet.

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA
April 30, 2004

GRAND COULEE Mutilated-cow investigation ends as a mystery

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office has closed its investigation into a report of a mutilated cow found west of Grand Coulee without determining how or why the animal was killed.

A rancher reported April 21 that the cow was killed and its udder was removed in the area near Del Rio and Rex, north of Highway 174.

Sheriff Dan LaRoche said it was one of three or four cows in northern Douglas County that met the same suspicious fate in the last 20 years, leading to speculation of cult or possibly alien activity.

LaRoche said the rancher disposed of the animal's carcass before deputies could examine it.

He said there was nothing suspicious in the area where the rancher found his cow.

— K.C. Mehaffey, World staff

METRO, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Feb. 12, 2004 CR: G. Duplantier

Freak fires 'devil's work'

A Sicilian town is struggling to work out why household items from fridge-freezers to furniture keep mysteriously bursting into flame, terrifying locals and sparking theories of demonic intervention.

"I've seen things like this before," exorcist Gabriele Amorth said. "Demons occupy a house and appear in electrical goods... Let's not forget that Satan and his followers have immense powers."

NEWS, Port Arthur, TX - July 7, 2004

Moore works to prove myth is true

By Mary Meaux
The News staff writer

ORANGE -- The deep woods of East Texas may hold a secret so amazing that when the proof is finally exposed to the public, scientists worldwide will scamper over each other to get there.

Journalist, hunter, fisherman, musician and cryptozoologist Chester Moore, Jr. may be the man to prove the existence of a legendary American primate. Bigfoot, Yeti, Brush Ape, Wildman, Sasquatch and Booger are just a few other names this creature has been called.

Though tabloids, critics and hoaxers have made the legendary creature nearly comical, Moore brings a hunter and tracker's instinct to the table and mixes it with scientific proof.

Dr. Jane Goodall, world famous for her studies of chimpanzees and other primates, expressed interest and belief in a large, undiscovered primate species during a 2002 interview with National Public's Radio Talk of the Nation: Science Friday.

Conroe Police Department investigator and dermal ridging expert Jim Chilcutt initially set out to debunk the theory but instead found the dermal ridges or the ridges of a footprint of a possible creature to be of an unknown species.

The creature in question has been spotted throughout the United States in areas with at least 20 inches of rain annually.

A walk inside Moore's home is basically a tour of the great outdoors. Exotic and not so exotic animal heads are mounted on the walls. A whole room has been set aside for the Orange resident's trophies -- including Boggy.

Boggy stands, although slouched, a little more than 6-foot-tall. With elongated arms and legs and loads of

dark hair, Boggy leans slightly on a cypress tree knee. Moore designed the creature and his father, Chester Moore Sr., built it. The model is named after a semi-true movie called *The Legend of Boggy Creek*.

"I have the same interests I had as a 9-year-old," Moore said laughingly. "I'm into heavy metal music, the outdoors, horror movies, martial arts and cryptozoology."

Over the years people told Moore he'd grow up and grow out of those interests. He didn't.

Moore candidly states that he doesn't believe in "Bigfoot," but he does believe in the existence of an unknown species with primate-like attributes.

"I give it five years before it's proved," he said. "It'll be the biggest outdoors discovery. Some people will stop going camping and others will race to the woods. I'll be in the second group."

According to some official findings, the red wolf is extinct in Texas. But what's interesting is that Moore has captured photographs of the animal locally. At least one of the photographs is displayed in the same room with Boggy.

The red wolf is considered a cryptid, or animal that is supposedly extinct, endangered or non-native to a particular area. Another such creature is the jaguarondi, a feline-like animal thought to be indigenous to other parts of the state. The animal has often been mistaken for a "black panther."

So, when Moore isn't swimming with sharks, cruising the Amazon River, hunting, speaking to listeners of his radio show or writing, he'd like to find an extended period of time to prove that the American primate is real. But until then, there's always Boggy to keep him company!

Chester Moore can be reached by e-mail at cmoorehunt@gt.rr.com; he has a website about cryptozoology at www.cryptokeeper.com



Mike Vogt / IPT

Ralph Birdwell of Homedale holds what he thinks are meteorites that he recovered. Birdwell said he saw the objects fall into the Snake River in mid-April. He and a relative retrieved the objects from the river after waiting for the water level to drop enough.

Homedale angler finds special stones

▼ **COMMUNITY:** Fisherman says objects fell from space, but BSU professor says they're probably old earth stones

By Ben Fletcher
Idaho Press-Tribune

NAMPA — A Homedale man is in possession of what he believes to be a couple of objects that fell from space.

Ralph Birdwell said he was fishing from the shore of the Snake River near Homedale in April when he saw two objects splash into the water right in front of him, one after the other.

For close to two months, he waited for the water level of the specific section of the river to go down far enough so he could retrieve what he believed to be a couple of meteorites.

"They've been bugging me ever since they went in there," Birdwell said.

Last Saturday, with help from a relative, he did just that. And now he's even more convinced he's holding onto a couple of heavenly

gems.

But a Boise State University expert in such matters says the objects are probably just rocks.

After viewing a picture of the objects — coupled with the fact they do not attract a magnet — Craig Smith, a geoscience professor at BSU, said he believes the meteorites are actually old earth stones.

Birdwell remains optimistic, recounting his unusual experience.

After the objects fell into the water, he looked around but did not see anyone else. And there were no airplanes he could see or hear overhead.

The objects also entered the water in a peculiar way, Birdwell explained, accompanied by a strange swishing sound.

"When they hit the water they were really moving," he said.

The smallest stone is about the size of a golf ball. The other is about three times as big. Both are very heavy and look like they have been exposed to some serious heat, he said.

Only five meteorites are known

to have been found in Idaho, the last discovered by Alan Noe in 1982 in an unplowed field roughly three miles north of Wilder, according to information provided by the Geoscience Department at Boise State University. Noe found another, larger piece of that same meteorite in 1990, which weighed about 54 pounds, about a mile from the site of his initial find.

Birdwell has since viewed an image of that meteorite on the BSU Web site.

Grace Birdwell, his wife, said the objects her husband discovered look similar to the larger slice of the meteorite found in Wilder, which is pictured on the site.

Smith is skeptical, though.

"Meteorites come in a variety of flavors; some of them can look like normal rocks," he said. "However, most will attract a magnet, which is a good first test."

Grace said she tested the objects with a small magnet.

"These don't draw the magnet," she said. But Grace said some meteorites do not attract a magnet because they don't contain any metallic iron.



History of Idaho meteorites

The Geoscience Department at Boise State University reports that only five meteorites are known to have been found in Idaho. That's considered a small number compared to the number of finds in a state like Kansas. The difference is likely because of the fact that unusual objects are more easily noticed in the flat agricultural fields of Kansas than in Idaho's rugged mountains. Like all meteorites found outside Antarctica, the Idaho meteorites are named for towns or landmarks near the locations where they were found. The names, types and dates of the five documented Idaho finds are as follows:

1. Hayden Creek	1895
2. Oakley	1926
3. Parma Canyon	1940
4. Jerome	1954
5. Wilder	1982

Smith said these types of meteorites, labeled Martian meteorites, are very rare.

And even with those doubts, Birdwell is going to consider his find to be treasures.

"I'm going to pursue it as far as I can," he said.