

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

February 2005
Number 427

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NEWS, Shelbyville, IN - Dec. 29, 2004

Mysterious object visits city on centennial

Shelbyville was incorporated as a city in 1850. A century later, local residents enthusiastically and lavishly celebrated the city's 100th birthday.

There were nightly fireworks, a history pageant, an assortment of entertainment and a parade with marching bands.

Hoosier Gov. Henry Schricker and Indy 500 driver Wilbur Shaw were just two of the famous people who came from as far away as Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

One visitor to the centennial may have traveled even further than that. He may have come from outer space.

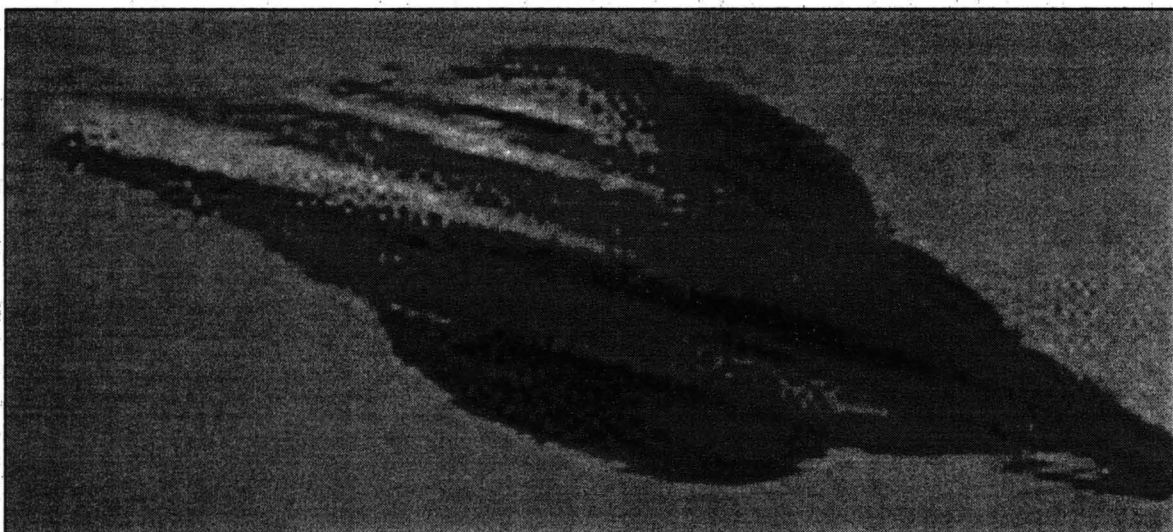
The town opened its centennial celebration on Aug. 5 and it was observed at the same time as the annual county fair. It was what happened the next evening, however, that had the entire community talking for weeks.

On the night of Aug. 6, a flying object appeared in the sky over Shelbyville, which puzzled local observers. The strange phenomenon was so clearly seen and of such long duration that it stopped traffic in town at the busy intersection of Broadway and Harrison streets.

Motorists got out of their cars, pointed up into the sky and gazed at the mysterious object in the sky. It was the first recorded unidentified flying object, or "flying saucer," to appear over the town, and the event was corroborated by hundreds of locals.

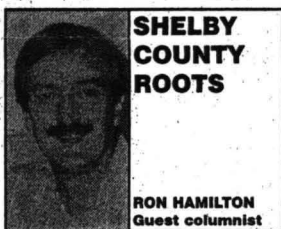
City residents Hugh Beall and his wife had just gotten off State Road 244 and were approaching Shelbyville from the southeast side on East Michigan Road when they saw the strange object.

They at first thought it was an oddly-shaped cloud and stopped their car to watch it. They later told local newspaper reporters that the object was "long shaped," and



Submitted photo

An unidentified flying object, or a "flying saucer" such as the one shown, was reported to have flown over Shelbyville during the centennial celebration in 1950. The entire episode lasted several minutes and the UFO was seen by hundreds of people.



seemed more like a shaft of bright light than a cloud or airplane vapor trail.

They also said that the object, or light, was very high in the evening sky and moved rapidly.

According to the Bealls, who watched the mysterious object for several minutes, the light seemed to surge upwards sharply and disappear. Just as it vanished, the light became "as bright as a burning fire" and even brighter lights — such as sparks — shot out in front of it.

The entire episode was no fleeting event, but lasted several minutes and was seen by hundreds of people. All of the stories and descriptions related by the eyewitness were consistent. Even members of the Shelbyville Fire Department saw the strange phenomenon, lending credence to the reports.

Inquiries immediately went out to nearby weather stations, airports, military installations and government offices. Was it a stray military jet, hot air balloon, meteorite, satellite or even an atmospheric distortion? A satisfactory explanation was not forthcoming.

A local Air Force veteran was interviewed to get his expertise. The military man, who did not see the object, told investigators that some planes frequently leave short vapor trails that disappear almost as soon as they're formed.

However, Mrs. Beall discounted the Air Force veteran's explanation, declaring that the object did not have the appearance of either smoke or vapor, but was more like a bright shaft of light.

Another eyewitness said that the object resembled a "saucer" and was followed by a phosphorescent trail. He also said the saucer appeared to shoot straight up and then disappear at great speed. This witness, like many others, refused to give his name, but he was with four other people who also claimed to have seen the object, and each corroborated the man's story.

Another eyewitness reported that the object flew at considerable height and moved so fast that he was unable to give an accurate description. He did say, however, that the object appeared to be round.

Members of the local fire department also thought it

was round. One fireman was caught in the downtown traffic and saw the mysterious object pass over the town around 7 p.m.

None of the eyewitnesses said that he or she could hear the object in flight. Several people pointed out, however, that it was also difficult to hear a jet plane flying at great height.

What was the mysterious object which decided to "buzz" Shelbyville's 100th birthday celebration that August evening in 1950?

The truth will probably never be known, but it is for certain that the visit stirred plenty of interest that kept the town "buzzing" for a long time.

Hamilton is a lifelong Shelby County resident. He is currently teaching a Community College American History course at Blue River Career Center. He is interested in genealogy and history.

Local man's UFO story intrigues cable TV channels

By REBEKAH HOFFMANN
Highland News-Leader

HIGHLAND — In the early morning hours of Jan. 5, 2000, Melvern Noll saw a large, brightly-lit object flying low in the sky.

While at first he assumed the object was a star, he quickly realized that what he was seeing was unlike anything he had ever seen before.

Nearly five years later, people still are trying to figure out what Noll reported to Highland police that night, sparking additional sightings by law enforcement officers in Lebanon, Shiloh and other parts of the metro-east.

Two weeks ago, a film crew for an ABC news documentary taped a segment with Noll at Fun Land, his miniature golf business in Highland, where he was at the time of his sighting.

Though the air date for the ABC segment has not yet been set, "Proof Positive: Evidence of the Paranormal," on the SciFi network, has notified Noll that Nov. 24 is the date it will broadcast a vignette about his sighting.

This is nothing new for Noll. The Learning Channel, Discovery Channel and National Enquirer Television have featured Noll and his UFO sighting in the years since it occurred, and History Channel plans to do a segment in the future, Noll said.

In the days immediately following the sighting, the Las Vegas-based National Institute for Discovery Science became involved. The institute is a group that investigates and attempts to explain reported sightings.

However, no explanation has ever come to light, Noll said. This despite the fact that at least

eight other people, many of them on-duty police officers, made similar reports in the pre-dawn hours that day, with at least one, a Millstadt police officer, also documenting the sighting with photos.

However, several possibilities were ruled out. Scott Air Force Base personnel denied awareness any of experimental military aircraft flying in the area, and no "blimp" was ever found to be flying in the area on that date.

Noll, now retired, recounted the sequence of events with the cameras rolling Tuesday. At the time, he still was driving for a Highland trucking company, making a regular nightly run to Bloomington. On his return between 3:30 and 4 a.m., he stopped off at Fun Land.

"I stopped there at the golf

course — it's right on the way home — to make sure the heater was working, and nothing had been messed with," he said.

Leaving the truck, he caught sight of something out of the corner of his eye and, turning to look, thought to himself, "Boy, that's an awfully bright star."

Headed back from the business to his vehicle moments later, he realized the "star" was moving, and it was then he realized he didn't have a clue as to what he was seeing.

The object looked "like a two-story house, with six windows, three on top, three on bottom," he said. As it lifted over the tree tops, he could see underneath where closely-spaced red lights formed a diamond-shaped pattern.

"It was very weird, all lit up — something so bright but with no noise," he said.

As he watched the unexplained object move slowly toward Lebanon, Noll was startled when it seemed to stop momentarily, "like they had spotted me."

He conceded, "That really put a scare in me. I didn't know if I should run or what."

On the whole, though, Noll is happy he happened to glance up to the sky that night long ago.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing," he said.

READER'S UFO VIEWS

Recent sighting may have been tests at base says reader

Editor:

It bothers me a bit, seeing this subject discussed in print. I think what we're seeing is the result of ongoing research at China Lake. If so, it's a national security issue.

I've lived in Trona since March of 2003. Three times I've seen things in the sky I cannot explain. One was a large, glowing, green object that approached from the west at 11 p.m. months ago.

I watched it from my bedroom window. I thought it had come down on Searles Dry Lake. Thought it must've been a meteorite. Went out the next day looking for it. Whatever it was it came down on the other side of the Panamint mountain range. I checked news services, found no mention of it.

The other two sightings resulted from me flying radio controlled model airplanes. When these tiny planes are fly-

ing half a mile away they're only a dot in the sky. So you've got to concentrate on the section of the sky where they're at or you'll lose sight of them. This greatly enhances long-distance vision.

Tracking my planes I once saw what looked like a pure white badminton shuttlecock at high altitude. I fixated on the thing for a full minute while my model plane crashed. The third sighting might be explained-away as a jet contrail. But whatever it was it was at the edge of space. Appeared to be entering the earth's atmosphere.

I think that with so much attention being paid to Area 51, UFO research was moved to China Lake. And that's what we're seeing in the sky.

Fred Hermon
Trona

Military usually quiet about tests

Editor:

Hmmm. Let's see, five people report seeing a "UFO."

We live in a "Military Town," (that's what China Lake is, a "Military Base"), and people report seeing a "UFO."

I wonder, were those people drunk, or do you suppose the military might have been doing some daytime testing and thought maybe nobody would notice?

You know they aren't going to tell the public what they were doing. That would be against national security. It would make more sense to do that testing in the Nevada desert, but they chose to do it here.

Wake up, people, wake up.

Robert D. Mollenauer Jr.
Ridgecrest

UFO presentation at KCC rescheduled

A UFO presentation previously scheduled for Oct. 21 at Kankakee Community College has been rescheduled for Oct. 20.

The program, featuring the "hidden history" of UFOs will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 in the KCC Auditorium.

At the event, renowned lecturer Robert Hastings will share the results of more than 35 years of research during a 90-minute slide show and lecture. It will feature a number of previously classified government documents obtained via the Freedom of Information Act.

The event is free and open to the public.

"The documents confirm beyond a reasonable doubt that UFOs do exist," said Hastings. "I am not condemning any government agency for its policy of secrecy regarding UFOs, but I believe that the American public should be given the facts."

According to Hastings, a number of the documents refer to UFOs repeatedly violating highly sensitive airspace over nuclear weapons sites, including Los Alamos

National Laboratory, a nuclear weapons designing site. Other documents concern UFOs hovering above nuclear missile launchers and bomb storage bunkers. Hastings said he also has documents which refer to unsuccessful attempts made by military jet fighters to intercept UFOs.

Hastings's interest in UFOs originated in 1967 when he was at an air traffic control tower at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

"Five UFOs were tracked on radar for several minutes, and jets were launched to intercept them," he said. According to Hastings, Air Force sources later said that as the jets closed in, the UFOs performed a vertical ascent and left the area at enormous speed—far beyond the capability of any aircraft.

Hastings has spoken at more than 500 colleges and universities.

For more information, contact Kelly Lewis, coordinator of student activities and college events, by calling (815) 802-8628 or e-mail klewis@kankakee.edu.

Strange aerial light is reported

By Roger Hillis
Coast Press Reporter

When Teresa Alexander of Seaford drove to the Rehoboth Beach area with her husband to do some Black Friday holiday shopping, "they were not alone."

Alexander said she and her spouse noticed a strange light which appeared to follow them for almost an hour Nov. 26.

The incident so unnerved Alexander that she began researching UFOs on the Internet and discovered a Web site, www.ufocenter.com, which is regularly updated with reports from throughout the country. She filed a report Dec. 9 and it was posted a few days later.

While larger states have dozens of sightings per year listed in the site's data base archive, Delaware averages between five and 10 cases per year. Alexander said she was surprised to see a Millsboro report from 1999 which was strikingly similar to hers.

The site is maintained by Seattle UFO researcher Peter Davenport. Portions of a Jan. 8 lecture by Davenport in Seattle were filmed by ABC News for possible inclusion in a television program to air during the last week of February. Davenport is also a regular guest on the (very) early morning syndicated radio program "Coast to Coast," which is broadcast throughout coastal Sussex County daily from 1 to 5 a.m., on 92.7 WGMD-FM.

To ensure that people who file reports are spared the ridicule that is common with those who acknowledge UFO sightings, Davenport deletes names and personal information when posting reports to his site. Alexander, however, said she is far from embarrassed about her experience. "I don't worry about what other people think," she said. "I know what my husband and I saw."

Strange sight

Alexander said she and her husband wanted to arrive at

(continued on page 3)

the Kmart store on Route 1 near Rehoboth prior to its 6 a.m., Black Friday opening to take advantage of the store's holiday sale. They left Seaford at about 4:30 a.m., to drop their children off at a relative's house in Millsboro, Alexander said.

"We were traveling on Route 20 toward Millsboro and I noticed this bright 'star' on the left side of the road above the woods," Alexander said. "My husband commented about how bright it was. I said, 'Yeah, it must be the north star,' but that didn't make sense because we were traveling southeast."

Alexander said the light crossed the road to the right. "It would seem to stop and then accelerate to keep up with us," she said. "It was very high in the sky, and all we could see was like a round ball of bright light."

When the car turned right on Route 113, the object appeared to make a sharp righthand turn, said Alexander, who

became scared.

After they had dropped their children off on Mitchell Road in Millsboro, the Alexanders drove down Route 24 toward Long Neck. "The light still seemed to be following us, but I was relieved that the kids weren't in the car any more," Alexander said. "I told my husband to speed up and make sure he was close to other cars because I didn't want us to be alone with that thing."

"After we had stopped at a red light, my husband started speeding down Route 24 doing about 80 mph and the light kept up with us the whole time."

Alexander said the light now appeared to be a little closer to the ground. "It was kind of florescent blue," she said. "It would dim and then brighten, and it reminded me of a lighthouse light. It would dissipate and then come back as if it had made a full circle."

When the Alexanders arrived at Kmart on Route 1, the light appeared to hover above the store. "I don't know if anyone else noticed this since

ON THE WEB

Regularly updated with reports of UFO sightings from throughout the country: www.ufocenter.com

everyone was so preoccupied with getting in line for holiday shopping," Alexander said. "But I wonder if anyone else traveling the road noticed."

When a Frankford family reported a UFO sighting in 2002, a town spokesperson cited a possible earthly explanation — a high-powered searchlight which was projected against the clouds by a former Ocean City, Md., nightclub.

Alexander said she doesn't know what her family witnessed, but she's confident that it wasn't a star, a blimp or a helicopter.

"From now on, I'm going to keep my digital camera in my car with me," she said.

■ E-mail Roger Hillis at rhillis@gannett.com

HERALD, New York Mills, MN - Jan. 6, 2005

UFO dropped in on Mills 35 years ago

An interesting email showed up in the Herald mailbox over the weekend. The message was somewhat mysterious in that it referred to a UFO sighting around New York Mills a long time ago, and the guy that sent the short story wants to remain anonymous. The emailer grew up in New York Mills and now lives in Seattle, but does not want his name attached to the UFO account because he still has family here and doesn't want them to be labeled as "odd".

The brief description that follows is a first-hand account of a night 35 years ago and the author swears on a stack of Bibles the story is true.

In 1969, my family lived on a farm in rural Minnesota a few miles from New York Mills (population 750 at the time). My family, including my father, mother, older brother, myself, and my younger brother, was driving home on a rural dirt road to our farm house near dusk (i.e. some time around 8:30 at night in July). We were heading down the dirt road that passes by our house when we saw a strange light emanating from behind our nearest neighbors' house. The light was brilliant. As we drove nearer we asked each other, "when did our neighbor install a spot light in their yard?"

We approached our neighbors' house for about a mile and kept looking at the light, but did not understand why they had installed such a bright light in their yard. The road turns directly in front of their house. As we headed down the road, my brother, mother, and I kept our eyes focused on the light and we determined the light was

not coming from their yard, but instead was coming from a craft/UFO hovering behind their house. After traveling for 200 yards, we turned again and all of us including my father could now see the saucer shaped craft hovering about 100 feet off the ground 100 yards behind the neighbors' house. The craft was a brilliant orange, metallic color and was 30-40 feet tall and 100-150 feet wide, and it was the classical saucer shaped craft.

We then turned into our driveway and parked the car about 100 yards from the main road which left the craft hovering about 300 yards south from where we were parked. We all got out of the car and focused our attention on the craft. It continued to hover there 100 feet above the hill in the neighbor's farm field. There was absolutely no sound coming from the craft. The color was a brilliant fiery orange and it looked like there were windows on the upper half of the craft. The light from the craft appeared to have similar characteristics to heat rising from a hot road. We watched the craft from outside our house for about a minute and then went in the house because I believe our parents were worried for our safety. We went in the house and watched the craft hover above that hill for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes it descended and landed behind that hill. We could no longer see the craft, but there was a brilliant halo of light coming up from behind the hill. We watched the area for another 5 minutes and the craft ascended to about 100 feet above the hill again. It continued to hover there (300 yards south of our house) for another 15 minutes, but then flew away to the south and disappeared in the



Kevin Cederstrom
Editor

forest in a swampy area south of our farm. The encounter lasted for over 30 minutes and I still remember it vividly.

After the craft left, my parents put us to bed and went to sleep themselves. My dad slept with a loaded hunting rifle on their bed. My parents never reported the incident because they thought people would think they were nuts. There were other sightings in the area around that time and the people that made reports were labeled as "odd". My parents never even talked with the neighbors about the encounter to see if they saw the craft which landed about 100 yards in back of their house.

The witness to this sighting assures us what he saw was not swamp gas. If anyone else recalls this Close Encounter of the Mills Kind in 1969 I'd love to hear your story.

Stories of Unidentified Flying Objects have captivated man's imagination and curiosity for centuries. What if we aren't the only lifeforms in this universe capable of building space traveling rocket ships and flying saucers?

The mystery around Roswell, New Mexico has never really been cleared up and some swear the government is hiding alien bodies in pressure controlled canisters deep in the mountains.

Maybe aliens did pay a visit to New York Mills back in 1969. Maybe they were on their way to The Cities and stopped off for a bathroom break, or to grab some fresh flatbread. If stored properly flatbread keeps for light years at a time - perfect for those long family trips in space.

If that's the case I would think those same aliens (or direct descendants of that pioneering crew) would pay us another visit very soon. According to my calculations, New York Mills has to be coming up on the alien travel rotation in the next few years.

Personally, I don't think I've ever seen a U.F.O. I may have somewhere down the line and never realized it at the time. I took a couple pulls on some White Lightning once and saw some pretty funky things flying through the air... maybe those bright blinking lights were from a flying saucer.

Maybe I'm an alien, dropped on this planet millions of years ago to study the strange habits of Earthlings. Not likely. I think if aliens are smart enough to build space ships they're smart enough to send someone more qualified than me to collect data throughout the universe.

Whatever the case, I welcome a visit from creatures with translucent skin, golf ball eyes and webbed fingers.

I'll put out some flatbread.

Wilmington meeting will focus on UFOs

■ Recent incidents:

Youth's accounts are among several in area

By Kim Smith
STAFF WRITER

WILMINGTON — Four local children tell a tale of seeing a rotating disc flying across their subdivision and over a nearby cornfield before the object disappeared somewhere around Illinois 53.

The children tell their story so well that expert investigators from the Mutual UFO Network Inc. say their story could not be made up.

Investigators from the UFO network, those who report witnessing UFOs, and members of the public are invited to attend a special meeting at 1 this afternoon at the Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St.

The group will provide videotapes and hundreds of photographs taken during what the UFO network's Illinois Section director, Sam Maranto, is calling some of the most

massive area UFO sightings in recent history.

Two of the events took place on Aug. 21 and Oct. 31 of this year and were reportedly seen by hundreds of people in Frankfort, Mokena, New Lenox, Tinley Park, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Orland Hills, Matteson and possibly as far away as Hazel Crest.

The sighting reported by the children happened in Wilmington this past June and differs from the more recent events.

The more massive sightings are of a peculiar formation of three red lights — not a disc — that were seen by hundreds of witnesses.

One business owner said he was sitting outside with some friends after the Chicago Bears football game when a neighbor yelled at them to look up. They watched the three lights change formations as they went from a northwest direction to the southeast in about 20 minutes, he said. There reportedly was no sound.

He said the bright red lights turned white before disappearing. Around 45 minutes later, a single red light appeared. He was able to capture the light with his video camera.

The witness, who lives in Tinley Park, also viewed the return of the lights on Halloween night. There were three of them again, he said.

There is a video of the sightings available at the National UFO Reporting Center Web site, www.nuforc.org.

The reporting center takes the reports, and the Mutual UFO Network Inc. does the actual investigations.

Maranto said the UFO incidents are investigated by individuals certified in aviation, meteorology, physics, astronomy and other scientific fields. Eyewitness testimonies, photos and

videotapes are analyzed.

The Halloween sighting happened around 8 p.m. and was viewed by hundreds of trick-or-treaters, according to a preliminary Mutual UFO Network report. On two streets alone, nearly 50 trick-or-treaters were stopped with their eyes on the sky.

The group said the object was shaped like a triangle and was more than 5,000 feet long. At the longest dimension, it reportedly covered eight north and south blocks. Depending on how it rotated, the object reportedly was 1,500 feet to 6,500 feet off the ground and hovered about 4,000 feet above the ground.

This is not the first time there have been UFO sightings in the Joliet area. A fiery pinkish-orange flash of light reportedly was seen near Parker Road by drivers on Interstate 80 as well as a New Lenox man parked in his driveway near Cedar Road in New Lenox on Nov. 30, 1997. A rash of sightings were reported in the fall of 1988.

While there might be more sightings reported by more people, Maranto said there is no reason to panic. While he has heard the tales of possible abductions, most of the stories he has heard have had happy endings.

"I heard about a guy who had trouble getting around due to severe multiple sclerosis who was abducted and came back. He lost 30 pounds in one week and now moves like an antelope," Maranto said. "Another man in Indiana who had a hole in his heart woke up to find a V-shape cut. He went to the doctor and found he had been cured."

Maranto is looking for more people who have seen UFOs. He can be e-mailed at sammaranto@sbcglobal.net.

Reporter Kim Smith can be reached at (815) 729-6067 or via e-mail at ksmith@scn1.com.

DAILY INDEPENDENT, Ridgecrest, CA - Nov. 12, 2004

Navy says no testing was scheduled last weekend that could explain UFO sighting by many locals

BY JESSICA TAMTURK
jtamturk@ridgecrestca.com

As news of last weekend's UFO sighting spread throughout the community, once people read it in *The Daily Independent*, other eyewitnesses came forward.

Several people who saw the UFO, described it as a hovering green-orange object.

The official response from the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake is that no known testing was conducted that day.

The Daily Independent received several eyewitness accounts, including one from locals Renee Lovern, 56, and her twin daughters, 32.

Lovern said her daughters were in the parking lot of the old Albertson's on North Norma Avenue, and perceived what appeared to be a large bright orange light Saturday evening at about 10 p.m. just above neighboring apartment buildings on West Ward Avenue, close to the grocery store.

"They saw the light moving in rapid, sharp angular angles. They watched it for a while,"

said Lovern during a telephone conversation Thursday.

Lovern stated that her daughters rushed to her residence, which is located roughly three minutes away from Albertson's, and informed her of the sighting.

"I went outside and saw it hovering for about eight seconds," said Lovern, adding that although the skies were cloudy that evening she could still clearly see the phenomenon. "When I turned away after about five minutes, they (daughters) saw a bright light or something falling from the light, like a spark, towards the earth. Then, it just vanished."

When asked if the appearance had vanished or had been extinguished, Lovern was unable to relate the object's method of departure from "anything that I had ever seen."

"It just vanished in a gradual sense, and its color was so different from anything we know."

Lovern stated that the appearance had hovered at a height similar to the maximum

altitude reached by helicopters, which she often sees flying over her neighborhood of Heritage Village on emergency drops to Ridgecrest Regional Hospital or those on naval training exercises.

As to the size, Lovern just related that "it was larger than a plane and nondescript in shape."

"We've seen green-orangeish meteors over Cantil before, but those usually have a tail and burn off, but this was totally different."

The Lovern's sighting is almost identical to the one reported to the National UFO Reporting Center on Oct. 28, 2004 by a Ridgecrest man.

The NUFORC report also identified a spark emanating from the appearance, but, unlike the Lovern's account, described a black dot momentarily appearing in the UFO's top section.

NUFORC's Web site reported eight UFO sightings for Saturday evening, but none were listed for the Ridgecrest area.

NAWS China Lake Public

Affairs Officer Peggy Shoaf said in a press release Wednesday that, according to airfield personnel, there weren't any flight or testing scheduled over the Walker Pass area, along the West side of the City of Ridgecrest, and over the San Bernardino Mountains Saturday at 10:45 p.m. - by China Lake or any other service that uses the R2508 airspace.

"We regret that we couldn't shed any light upon what was seen," stated Shoaf.

UFO sightings bring investigators

by Pam Monson
Editor

The potential for life from outer space to visit Earth, for some, is a very real thing. To those who have seen mysterious lights in the sky, glowing, hovering orbs or silvery disks that dwarf any known aircraft, "unidentified flying object" is a phrase that inspires awe, trepidation and reluctance to be considered a believer.

Members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international non-profit organization dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs for the ben-

efit of mankind, held an open discussion Saturday at the Wilmington Public Library about a recent mass sighting in Tinley Park, and other unexplained phenomenon closer to home. They also hoped to find new members and field investigators as well as collect reports of local sightings.

Nearly 60 people were interested enough to attend. Some came because they saw things in the sky they couldn't explain.

Sam Maranto, MUFON state section director and field investigator for Will, Cook, Kendall, Kankakee and LaSalle counties, said the Tinley sighting is going through a rigid, rig-

orous investigation.

"There is no greater skeptic than us when we evaluate this stuff," he said.

The first event occurred Aug. 21, after 10 p.m. The Chicago air show was going on that week. Witnesses saw three points of light, arranged in an isosceles triangle. The formation changed as the craft hovered — researchers assume that the length of the sides of the triangle would change as the lower surface of the craft undulated. The craft appeared again on Oct. 31 just after 8 p.m.

Witnesses believe that air traffic was diverted during the incident, because they didn't see the flights they regularly

saw. Radar data has been requested.

"It is absolutely, positively not the usual suspects," he said. "We know that to be fact. There's no doubt about it, this is really incredible stuff."

The Tinley Park sightings are the biggest case of its kind in Maranto's experience. He has been investigating the events, and hasn't been to his regular job in two months.

As rural areas are prime for viewing odd lights in the sky, a few individuals reported strange things they saw.

Elwood, late last summer
A woman traveling south on Route 53 in the midafter-

noon said she had a feeling someone was looking at her. She looked over her shoulder and caught a momentary glimpse of a giant silver craft hovering above the houses.

Wilmington, June 20, 2004

Four youngsters between the ages of 8 and 13 saw a disk hovering over the farm field near their home. The disk appeared to be above the field east of Sunset Drive and south of the Wilmington-Wesley Township line. They watched it for about 15 minutes.

Maranto said the children's observations were very good. They pointed out things common to true sightings — that the object was disk shaped and that its motion was similar to the fluttering motion a spinning coin makes.

Unfortunately, some time had passed before he received the report about the incident, so memories may not have been as clear as they would have been.

Two days earlier, a disk was spotted over Route 53 in Elk Grove Village.

Braceville, April 24, 2004

Two women reported seeing a triangle emanating rays of color, off to the north. It split into different shapes as they watched. Neither had a camera, so one sketched her observations.

The more you know about what is common for your area, like where the air corridor is and what planes and jets look like as they pass, the better you are able to determine if you are witnessing an extraterrestrial event, explained Vic Connor, who is also a state section director and field investigator.

He has compiled a list of evidence of sightings. Connor said some of the most common indicators are other eyewitness accounts, radioactivity, photo evidence, problems with communications devices or vehicles, magnetic or electrostatic disturbances, landing traces, strange animal behavior, crop circles, human implants or abductions and sightings by astronauts, scientists or police officers.

The number of sightings processed through the national reporting center is, on average, 300 to 400 per month, and has been escalating during the last decade. But some of those reports are actually sightings of experimental air and spacecraft being developed by mankind.

According to the UFO hunters, the rest of the world is waiting for the United States to disclose the facts about UFOs. There has long been supposition, and Maranto will say proof, that the nation is in the possession of unidentified flying objects, and has been using reverse engineering technology — engineering from those finished products back toward mankind's current technological state — to develop spacecraft.

"We've had reverse engineering technology as far back as 1958," Maranto said. "We have the ability to take ET home."

Reverse engineering technology will be featured on the History Channel's Tactical to Practical on Nov. 22.

Maranto scheduled another MUFON meeting at the Wilmington Public Library on Jan. 22. He will be presenting information about ongoing sightings, including daily activity, in Wisconsin, Indiana and Arizona.

"It's incredible stuff, and frightening for some of these people," he said.

Maranto will continue to hold meetings here if there is an interest.

"Basically, we're a bunch of geeks. We just love this stuff," he said.

Still not convinced of the possibility of extraterrestrial life? Connor says scientists speculate that there is the potential for 270 million civilizations in the known galaxies. Half would be older than any on earth. Thinking of the advancements mankind has made in the last 50 to 100 years; how much more could have been accomplished in civilizations thousands of years older than ours?

UFO book list

These books top the list of recommended reading for those interested in learning more about unidentified flying objects.

The Missing Times
by Terry Hanson
Alien Agenda
by Jim Marrs

In addition, disclosure-project.com offers videos with hours of testimony by witnesses and officials.



SAM MARANTO, who investigates UFO sightings in Will County, discussed a mass sighting in Tinley Park and local UFO reports from the area, last weekend at the Wilmington Public Library.

If you see a UFO...

Ultimately, reporting a sighting with as much information as possible is the goal. To be a good witness, you have to remain calm and objective, and make sure you're safe.

Things to remember

- Photograph the object with either a video or still camera, and include a point of reference, so that researchers can project the size of the craft. Only use optical magnification as digital zoom results in pixilated pictures. Also, it may be necessary to use manual focus.

- Tape record a description of the event while it happens, include information about where you are standing and where in relation to stationary objects the object appears. Try to judge its distance from you, its altitude and speed.

Judge what it would take, held at arm's length, to cover the object (a marble, a quarter, a softball?)

- If you don't have a

means of recording your observations, draw pictures and write down your observations immediately after the sighting.

- Ask other witnesses to write down or record their observations — don't discuss the event amongst the witnesses before a record of the event is created.

- If some evidence of the UFO remains, restrict access to the site. Photograph the area before entering and record the position of everything. Be cautious about what you touch — you don't know what hazards may be present.

- Report the event to a UFO research origination for investigation. The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is the largest and most noted of these organizations, with investigators in all 50 states and around the world. Contact the Mutual UFO Network at www.mufon.com

UFO group says sightings are up in Northern Illinois

"I heard about a guy who had trouble getting around due to severe multiple sclerosis who was abducted and came back. He lost 30 pounds in one week and now moves like an antelope," Maranto said. "Another man in Indiana who had a hole in his heart woke up to find a V-shape cut. He went to the doctor and found he had been cured."

way near Cedar Road in New Lenox on Nov. 30, 1997. A rash of sightings were reported in the fall of 1988. Although there might be more sightings reported by more people, Maranto said there is no reason to panic. He has heard the tales of possible abductions, he said, but most of the stories he has heard have had happy endings.

BEACON-NEWS, Aurora, IL - Nov. 24, 2004

■ Mutual UFO Network Illinois Section director Sam Maranto is looking for more people who have seen UFOs. He can be e-mailed at sammaranto@sbcglobal.net.

■ A video of sightings is available at the National UFO Reporting Center Web site, www.nuforc.org.

On the Net

The reporting center takes the reports, and the Mutual UFO Network does the actual investigations.

Maranto said the UFO incidents are investigated by individuals certified in aviation, meteorology, physics, astronomy and other scientific fields. Eyewitness testimonies, photos and videotapes are analyzed.

The Halloween sighting happened around 8 p.m. and was viewed by hundreds of trick-or-treaters, according to a preliminary Mutual UFO Network report. On two streets alone, nearly 50 trick-or-treaters were stopped with their eyes on the sky.

The group said the object was shaped like a triangle and was more than 5,000 feet long. At the longest dimension, it reportedly covered eight north and south blocks. Depending on how it rotated, the object reported by was 1,500 feet to 6,500 feet off the ground and hovered about 4,000 feet above the ground.

This is not the first time there have been UFO sightings in the Joliet area. A fiery pinkish-orange flash of light reportedly was seen near Parker Road by drivers on Interstate 80 as well as a New Lenox man parked in his drive-

land Park, Orland Hills, Matteson and possibly as far away as Hazel Crest.

The sighting reported by the children happened in Wilmington in June and differs from the more recent events. The more massive sightings were of a peculiar formation of three red lights - not a disc - that were seen by hundreds of witnesses.

One business owner said he was sitting outside with some friends after the Chicago Bears football game when a neighbor yelled at them to look up. They watched the three lights change formations as they went from a northwesterly direction to the southeast in about 20 minutes, he said. There reportedly was no sound while before disappearing. Around 45 minutes later, a single red light appeared. He was able to capture the light with his video camera.

The witness, who lives in Tinley Park, also viewed the return of the lights on Halloween night. There were three of them again, he said.

There is a video of the sightings available at the National UFO Report-

WILMINGTON — Four local children tell a tale of seeing a rotating disc flying across their subdivision and over a nearby cornfield before the object disappeared somewhere around Route 53.

The children tell their story so well that investigators from the Mutual UFO Network say their story could not be made up.

Investigators from the network, those who report witnessing unidentified flying objects and members of the public attended a special meeting recently at the Wilmington Public Library. The group provided videotapes and hundreds of photographs taken during what the UFO network's Illinois Section director, Sam Maranto, is calling some of the most massive area UFO sightings in recent history.

Two of the events took place Aug. 21 and Oct. 31 of this year and were reportedly seen by hundreds of people in Frankfort, Mokena, New Lenox, Tinley Park, Oak Forest, Or-

During the '70s, across Southern Illinois, residents were reporting UFOs flying or hovering with bright and colorful lights. One sighting near Spring Arbor Lake, south of Carbondale, was thought to be debris from Skylab II, according to a newspaper account. Another sighting turned out to be a research balloon. Others, seen at night and in broad daylight, weren't as easily explained. One

SOUTHERN ILLINOISIAN, Carbondale, IL - Nov. 20, 2004

UFOs: Skylab debris, research, balloons, and some that can't be explained

article in The Southern Illinoisian detailed the experience of a Du Quoin man who said he saw a UFO hovering 20 to 30 feet above the ground as he drove to work in Carbondale that morning.

The mysterious object hung "like a huge bright light with a long vapor cloud tapering behind it." Other people described images that had red and green flashing lights that

Did UFOs visit Earth 325 years ago? Try flipping a coin

The other day I again became mired in a condition I call IDD, (Internet Deficit Disorder). That's when I log on to the Internet to look something up and, an hour or so later, find myself sifting through

PETER
REXFORD



was clicking through pages of UFO and extraterrestrial information. I'm happy to say, this time, these two disparate topics had something very much in common.

completely unrelated but equally interesting Web sites.

I started out re-searching some coin-related data. Eventually, however, I

For as long as they've existed, coins, currency and stamps have acted as memorials to noted people, places and events. Ancient coins depicted mythological gods, rulers and allegorical figures representative of cultures, beliefs and traditions. By the middle ages, coin designs reflected more factual images, be they kings and queens, military victories or even landscapes.

Some 325 years ago, centuries before humans would even begin to configure designs of potentially successful flying machines, a coin was produced in France that defies explanation. On it is a scene of a pastoral countryside replete with rolling hills, trees and puffy clouds. Problem is, amid those clouds is an object that fits the conventional description of a UFO.

Struck in the 1680s, the coin is actually a "jeton." These were coin-

like pieces used as educational tools, which helped people to understand and count money in the 16th and 17th centuries. Sometimes they were also used as coin substitutes in games. Roughly the size of a quarter, countless jetons were produced featuring many designs.

On this jeton, there's no mistaking the large image that appears to hover above the landscape. Tilted slightly at an angle, the circular disc has a rim around the top and round patterns around the circumference similar to windows or lights. Protruding from the middle of its bottom is a rod or ray pointing downward. And, yes, it's flying.

Perhaps, most mysterious and/or telling are the Latin words on the coin — "OPPORTUNUS ADEST" — translated to mean, "It is here at an opportune time."

For extraterrestrial atheists, the flip side of the jeton may offer one



explanation. On the reverse is a scene of rain pouring down from the sky over a plant. Perhaps the "it" on the inscription refers to rain coming at "an opportune time." OK, but that still begs the question of what the image of a flying saucer is doing on the other side.

Some have suggested the coin's design may be a reference in the Old Testament to Ezekiel's Wheel

(Ezekiel 1:5-20). Not surprisingly, some believe that too refers to UFOs appearing in biblical times.

Last week, I attended the Florida United Numismatic show in Fort Lauderdale. While there, I talked at length with Ken Bressett, a leading authority on coins and former president of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs. He's also been one of those studying the coin, its origins and the image it bears. Deciphering the meaning of the coin has been one of his pursuits for the past 50 years.

"Is the object in the sky symbolic of needed rainfall?" asked Bressett. "Or is it a Biblical reference of visitors from beyond? After 50 years of searching, I've heard of only one other example of it, and nothing to explain the unusual design."

Bressett has finally concluded, "It's a flying object and it's unidentified," he said. "We may never

know. That's part of the lure of numismatics that makes coin collecting so intriguing."

Nicely put. Heads you win and tails . . . well, who knows?

sometimes turned amber.

A Zeigler woman described a disk-shaped object that hovered about 60 feet above her home. Its light was so bright she could not look at it for very long and her vision was affected the next day. An operating engineer at the CIPS plant near Grand Tower described a "disklike" object that glowed "with a lot of pretty high intensity lights" hovering near the plant, along the Mississippi River.

He said it pulsed and changed colors from red to white. He estimated it was around 1,500 feet above the ground, the newspaper article

said. The plant had been receiving telephone calls about the object that evening. The sighting followed by a day the latest in a series of reports of similar objects being seen in Piedmont, Mo., about 125 miles south of St. Louis. The newspaper article said the engineer received calls from 26 universities and media outlets from across the country. Army buddies he hadn't seen in 20 years, UFO experts and letters from people across the country, who said they saw the same thing. He also participated in some radio talk shows.



Britain's X-FILES

By **Robin Yapp**
Science Reporter

WHETHER you believe in UFOs or not, they are not the sort of witnesses you can easily dismiss as cranks.

An RAF lieutenant, a police superintendent and a British Airways pilot are among those whose close encounters are detailed in secret Ministry of Defence documents just released.

Britain's X-Files, as they are being referred to, have been published to comply with Freedom of Information laws which came into force on January 1.

Among thousands of sightings is the one reported by Flt Lt A M Wood and two non-commissioned officers at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland in July 1977.

They saw 'bright objects hanging over the sea' around three miles from the coast at a height of around 5,000ft.

'The objects separated,' says the report. 'Then one went west of the other. As it manoeuvred it changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs.'

Men positioned at the RAF station were able to observe the objects for an hour and 40 minutes before they disappeared. The report describes Flt Lt Wood as 'sober and reliable' and shows that the objects were also picked up by military radar.

Earlier the same year, on April 8, a Superintendent Cooper, of West Yorkshire Police, reported seeing a UFO in the form of a 'bright, silver light' while on duty in a patrol car in Laisterdyke.

'At first I thought this was a bright star,' he says. 'It was low in the sky, a long distance away. Then I thought that this light was moving.' He continued to watch it as it moved over a series of rooftops before it 'suddenly vanished'.

Brilliant white, cigar-shaped

There were no supportive sightings.

In July 1976, the captain of a British Airways Tri-Star on a return flight from Portugal told air traffic controllers of 'four objects - two round brilliant white, two cigar-shaped' 18 miles north of Faro.

Fighter jets were scrambled from Lisbon as a precaution and shortly afterwards Tri-Star crew on two other flights in the same area reported similar sightings.

Not all reports are taken seriously by MoD officials.

Sightings near Derby in 1977 were discounted because witnesses had been 'imbibing at the local hostelry'.

There is also a new perspective on one of the most widely

discussed of all UFO incidents - the sighting reported by American airmen in a foggy Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk on Boxing Day 1980.

They reported an electronic wailing which they at first feared was a crashing plane or helicopter. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt recorded what his men had seen as being 'metallic in appearance and triangular in shape' and illuminating the entire forest with a white light.

Witnesses said animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy and USAF security patrolman Larry Warren described feeling nauseous as he saw three 'aeronaut entities' 3ft tall and resembling 'kids in snowsuits'.

Such was the excitement among UFO enthusiasts that the incident became known as 'Britain's Roswell' - in reference to the famous incident in New Mexico in 1947 when a flying saucer is said to have crash-landed in the desert.

But what documents just released by Suffolk Police

reveal is that two years ago Kevin Conde, an airman at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, claimed he had faked the Rendlesham Forest incident as a practical joke on a friend.

He said he had turned a battered American police car into a spacecraft by sticking red and green lenses on it and driving around in circles in fog with a PA loudspeaker going and lights flashing.

Files on the Suffolk Police website reveal further details

'Sent troops to investigate'

of what went on that night. They show that the airbase contacted the police command desk to report: 'We have a sighting of some unusual lights in the sky, have sent some unarmed troops to investigate, we are terming it as a UFO at present.'

The following day a second report from officers at the

scene states: 'We have found a place where a craft of some sort seems to have landed.'

But UFO spotters will be disappointed to learn that it adds: 'There were three marks in the area which did not follow a set pattern. The impressions made by the marks were of no depth and could have been made by an animal.'

An MoD report sent from RAF Cosford on July 14, 1976, reported that a 66-year-old woman from Wolverhampton claimed to have seen a 'white, bar-shaped' object in the sky.

It added that she was married to a retired RAF pilot and he 'did not observe anything from his seated position'.

A man from Rotherham reported four sightings to his local radar station on August 7 and 8, 1976. But the MoD raises a metaphorical eyebrow with the comment: 'He evidently runs a UFO sightings club and has been logging UFOs for three years.'



Revealed, UFO sightings kept secret for decades by Ministry of Defence

TRUTH IS OUT THERE: A light in the sky above Alderton captured at 2am on video by pub landlord Peter Saxon. He was amazed by the sighting and said it moved too quickly to have been a helicopter

Were bright lights over village a UFO?

By GRANT SHERLOCK

grant.sherlock@eveningstar.co.uk

SIGHTINGS of unexplained lights in the night sky above Alderton have got the village buzzing with talk of strange crafts and UFOs.

Residents have been left puzzled by stories of brightly lit flying objects illuminating the sky.

At least two residents say they spotted what they have described as an object capable of travelling at speeds faster than any craft they have ever seen.

Landlord Pete Saxon was so amazed at what he saw after being woken by shouting outside his pub, the Swan Inn in The Street, at 2am, that he ran to get his video camera and caught the object on tape.

"I walked out the back and came up at the back end of the car park. There was what I



WONDERING: Landlord Pete Saxon outside the Swan Inn in Alderton.

thought was a helicopter," Mr Saxon said.

"I watched it because it stood

X-file is opened by residents

out as it was quite bright. What happened next is unbelievable. It shot to the left at an alarming rate.

"It was really erratic movement. I couldn't understand anybody actually being inside it. It was some sort of structure but the movement wasn't what a helicopter would do."

The incident will evoke memories of an alleged sighting of a UFO in nearby Rendlesham forest in 1980.

On that occasion, an American airman spotted bright lights at 4am on December 26, sparking a heated debate which still carries on today between the cynics and those who believe alien spacecraft could exist.

In the latest incident at Alderton, Rick Thompson, 27, had been woken by his six-month-old baby when he looked out of a window in his Mill Hoo

home and saw a bright light. Mr Thompson said: "It was too bright to be a helicopter and too big a light and it was quiet."

"I didn't hear any noise. I suppose it was stationary for a couple of minutes, then it started doing things it shouldn't do."

"It was up then down, forward then back, left then right. It was frightening really."

Mr Saxon, 52, said the video images he captured have become the most talked-about subject in his pub.

"It was really, really unusual," he said.

"Along the bottom of it was a long strip with a bright light on the end."

"It was as big as a low jumbo. What made it a bit weird was that there was no noise. You could see the dome top and you could see the bottom was flat. It was luminous blue around the outside."

Swan Inn regular Brian Foster, a former coastguard from Bawdsey with experience of spotting lights at night, has seen the video and said: "The speed is so extraordinary that it's got to be something. We haven't got the technology to move at that pace."

"The movement was totally erratic, so it couldn't be one of the sea marks."

Although the villagers are adamant it was not a helicopter, Suffolk police said their aircraft was in the Melton area, from 12.40am on October 26, the night of the sightings.

A spokesman said: "If viewed from that distance it might have appeared to be strange lights in the sky over the Melton area."

■ Did you see the bright lights near Alderton? Telephone The Evening Star news desk on 01473 324788.

Can you help to explain UFO sightings?

I AM a retired West Midlands police officer who became interested in researching the UFO subject after being contacted by police officers who witnessed a gigantic domed-shaped object seen hovering over trees in a Birmingham suburb in January 1995.

Over the course of some years, together with my partner, Dawn Holloway, I was able to establish that many other people had witnessed strange phenomenon during that evening.

I decided to write my own book after discovering how prolific UFO activity had been, especially during the great waves of 1965/1977/1979, when all manner of strange things were seen over the UK.

Recently I managed to track down Bob Tibbitts who was responsible for many early investigations into UFO sightings that had taken place in the Coventry area during the 1970s, which included reports of domed shaped objects seen in the Meriden area in the 1940s, and of another occasion when a meteorite landed on a city street.

On one occasion I spoke to a retired police chief inspector who was one of three police officers who sighted three mysterious 'stars' in an L shape moving across the early morning sky in 1971 - something he has never found an answer to.

I'm hoping that readers may be prepared to contact me should they want to bring any UFO reports to my attention, taking into consideration that I may be able to supply them with other sightings made during that particular period. I can be contacted at 31, Red Lion Street, Alvechurch, B48 7LG Worcestershire.

John Hanson and Dawn Holloway.

Local grandmother's role as a UFO investigator and witness to sightings



Is there anybody out there?: Margaret Fry with her new book.

zzMA221103JUN 2004

Experience the eternal phenomena

by JUSTINE BAILEY

ON a hot, sunny, summer's day in Kent back in 1955 something extraordinary happened to Margaret Fry which resulted in her embarking on an unusual, yet intriguing hobby. Margaret was just going about her everyday life when she experienced her first sighting of what she believes was a UFO.

Listening to her tell the tale of how the spinning object stopped her in her tracks and hovered 18ft above her head, as she was on the way to the doctor's surgery with her young son, makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end.

Her story is chilling, yet believable, and stirs up a curiosity which has you begging to hear more.

Children were playing in the street when it occurred, and since becoming a UFO investigator and finding out a lot more about the subject, Margaret has spent much time in recent years trying to prove she was not alone in witnessing what she did that day.

Fortunately for her own sanity, if nothing else, a number of other witnesses have come forward.

Margaret's story is astonishing, as are the many others she has learnt of worldwide through her investigations.

Having so many unexplained sightings to tell of, she decided to compile a book entitled *Who Are They?* which questions what they are all about.

The book, released on Friday, queries what these alien beings are, where they come from and whether or not the UFO phenomena latches on to certain families for generations.

It provokes some hard-thinking about alien abductions and paranormal events. It is billed as being about Margaret's personal involvement in abduction cases and "not rehearsed third or fourth-hand inaccurate stories, which frequently go round the world by internet and which most books on UFOs are based on".

Margaret, who lives in Abergele, is a member of several UFO organisations. She is the founder member of Contact International UK, founded by the late popular author of several UFO books, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, and she set up a Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists with Gary Rowe of Rhyl in 1993.

"Our aim is to liaise with as many UFO Groups and Associations as is practical in the UK, thereby helping the general Ufology movement to have more say and be recognised," she said of the

Welsh Federation.

"It is not generally known that most of the counties in Britain have local UFO groups or organisations.

"We collaborate with the producers of the more sensible TV programmes being made now, and the public generally acknowledge the UFO phenomena exists."

Margaret recognises, however, there will always be people ready to ridicule and said, for this reason, spotting a UFO can be an isolating experience.

"I wasn't scared when it happened to me for the first time, I just felt absolute wonder," she said. "I felt as though my feet were in two worlds. But I did feel isolated because people don't believe you."

But once she got in touch with others who had shared similar experiences, it quickly became apparent to Margaret she was not alone and in fact sightings are quite commonplace.

She backs this up by revealing to date she has experienced more than 50 sightings, one of which was in Pentre Mawr Park in Abergele.

"It was about three years ago and I was going to my friends," she said. "There was a helicopter hovering above the ground and about 10ft above that was a UFO. It was much smaller than the helicopter. The helicopter was about 54ft long and the UFO was about three quarters the size of it. It was white and cigar-shaped."

"It went over the park, then off in the direction of Colwyn Bay."

As unbelievable as some of her stories may seem, it is difficult not to believe Margaret. She is a loving grandmother of nine, not some obsessive eccentric with nothing better to do than go searching for strange-looking flying objects.

"Being a UFO investigator takes up quite a bit of my time, but it does not take over my life," she said.

In fact, Margaret has little time these days to be spotting any UFOs herself as she is too busy writing about them.

As well as this book, Margaret has written several others she is hoping will also get published in the future. She is in the process of writing one at the moment solely about Welsh UFO reports, so watch this space!

Who Are They? went on sale on Friday. To buy a copy write to PO Box 197, Rhyl, North Wales, LL18 1AA. Each copy costs £14 plus £2.50 for postage and packing charges. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

IRISH DAILY STAR, Dublin, Ireland - Oct. 23, 2004

WAS THIS THE FIRST COUPLE TO BE ABDUCTED BY ALIENS?

LAST Sunday, after a battle against lung cancer, Eunice Elizabeth Barrett Hill died peacefully in her sleep at her home.

While any death is sad, the passing of the 85-year-old child welfare worker known to friends as Betty, might have gone unnoticed outside her hometown of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA, had it not been for an extraordinary experience one night more than four decades earlier.

Betty and husband Barney Hill unwittingly began a new chapter in UFO history when they told of an amazing close encounter in 1961.

The couple were driving through the picturesque White Mountains late on September 19 of that year, when they spotted a "bright star" in the night sky.

It quickly became apparent the object was keeping pace with their car, as if tracking their progress.

Increasingly nervous, the Hills kept the object under observation as they approached a point known as Indian Head, until Barney slammed on the brakes, juddered the car to a screeching halt and grabbed his binoculars for a closer look.

According to Barney, then a 39-year-old postal worker, he saw a

"flat, pancake-like craft with portholes around its mid-section". And behind each porthole were "shadowy, human-like figures, who could be seen moving about".

Sound

As the terrified couple fled Indian Head, the "craft" hovered directly over their car and, as Betty later recalled, the last thing they remembered was a sound similar to a tuning fork, before she suddenly became drowsy.

Two hours later they found themselves near Ashland, New Hampshire, with only fragmentary memories of the journey and no recollection of the time lost (or perhaps erased) from their memories.

Betty's dress was torn, the strap on Barney's binoculars was broken and their watches had stopped.

A bizarre night which led to fame

Following their extraordinary encounter, the Hills suffered regular, distressing and chillingly realistic nightmares, invariably involving strange craft in which they were subjected to unusual medical tests by strange-looking humanoid.

Major Paul W Henderson of Pease Air Force Base later revealed the object was tracked on military radar scopes on the fateful date.

And there was still their perplexing period of missing time. The alien abduction mystery, pre-

viously unheard of in UFO research, had started to unfold.

The Hills underwent rigorous hypnotherapy with Boston psychologist and neurologist Dr Benjamin Simon where they recalled undergoing experiments at the hands of the aliens who had "cat-like" eyes and wide foreheads.

Story

When details of the encounter were leaked to a Boston newspaper, their story subsequently generated countless column inches.

Finding themselves in demand, the couple spent the years until Barney's death in 1969 travelling all over the US, giving lectures on their experience to packed audiences of UFO watchers.

The UFO Incident — a made for television film starring Estelle Getty as Betty and James Earl Jones as Barney — followed in 1975, and even in her 70s, Betty remained a regular fixture on the lecture circuit at UFO conferences.

And so, the death of Betty Hill, ends an era in the controversial annals of alien abduction research.

FAME: The UFO Incident, with Estelle Getty and James Earl Jones



Force isn't with you

Police files shed light on mystery

EXCLUSIVE by MARK BULSTRODE, crime reporter

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SECRET police files released for the first time have today cast fresh doubt on theories of a UFO landing in Rendlesham Forest.

For more than 20 years, the supposed sighting of an alien space craft in the woodland has been one of the world's most talked-about extra terrestrial encounters.

Bright lights were seen shooting out of the forest at about 4am on December 26, 1980, by American airmen based at RAF Woodbridge.

Strange indentations were found embedded in the ground, burn marks on trees and higher than normal levels of radiation recorded in the area at the time.

But each piece of evidence has been disputed at every turn over the years, while allegations of a cosmic cover-up still abound in some circles.

Scepticism about the whole scenario has been given further credence by documents released by the police today.

It has been published under the Freedom of Information Act, which is due to come into force in January. The papers reveal police on duty that morning took a burglary at Otley Post Office more seriously than the incident in Rendlesham Forest.

Writing on November 23, 1983, the then chief constable of Suffolk police, Roy Kitson, poured scorn on the whole suggestion of an alien landing.

He said: "A note on the (police) log indicated Air Traffic Control at West Drayton were contacted and there was no known knowledge of aircraft in that area to coincide with the time of the sighting."

"The only lights visible to the officers visiting the incident were from Orford lighthouse.

American airmen's close encounter was big news

IT was a truly sensational story – and it had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

A group of American airmen were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which borders RAF Woodbridge.

According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of

light, at about 4am on December 26, 1980.

The airmen tried to move the object, but it veered away from them as if it was under intelligent control.

The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees and radiation traces recorded.

It was only in 1983 that details of the supposed sighting leaked out – and it prompted a front page story in the News of the World.

Dated October 2, 1983, the issue carried the screaming headline, "UFO lands in Suffolk – and that's official". It included evidence from American airmen, including Lt Col Halt.

Books have since been published on the subject and Home Office records released, but the story is still as blurred and open to dispute as ever.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the tale, the one undeniable thing about it is it will forever be embedded in Suffolk folklore.

"A further report was received at 10.30am on December 26, 1980, from a staff member at RAF Bentwaters indicating a place had been found where a craft of some sort could have landed.

"An officer attended and the area involved did bear three marks of an indeterminate pattern. The officer attending thought they could have been made by an animal."

And another police document, from 1999, stated: "Reports of the incident seem to have taken on a life of their own to the extent that the 'sighting' details and corroborative evidence have been embellished.

"This contrasts sharply with the views of the local police who attended at the time and did not perceive this occurrence as being anything unusual considering the festive significance of the date and expected high spirits."

Police suggested the nearby Orford lighthouse or RAF Bentwaters could have caused the "blinding explosion of light" said to have been in evidence at the time. It is also claimed marks on trees are likely to have been caused by an axe.

■ Do you believe there was a UFO in Rendlesham Forest? Write to Your Letters, Evening Star, 30 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AN or you can e-mail eveningstarletters@eveningstar.co.uk.



CONVINCED: Above, Brenda Butler and Dot Street at the scene. Right, Brenda today and a headline at the time



There was a cover-up – witness

A UFO fanatic today insisted an extra-terrestrial encounter did take place in Rendlesham Forest 24 years ago.

Brenda Butler, who has co-written a book about alien landings in the woodland, believes the truth has been covered up.

And she maintains she has witnessed at first hand strange goings on

in the remote area of Suffolk countryside.

She said: "We go down there two or three times a week and we're still seeing things. We've seen craft down there since 1980 and we've seen big balls of light whizzing out of the forest."

"From what we've seen over the past 24 years, and all the witnesses that

have come forward, I believe something did happen that night."

She pointed to witness statements made by Lt Col Charles Halt, of the US Airforce.

To this day he stands by a statement he made at the time in which he recounted a tale of a "strange glowing object" in the forest.

Mrs Butler dismissed

explanations the light could have been caused by Orford lighthouse.

She said: "I can't understand the thing about the Orford lighthouse because if you go down to the forest you can't see it."

"Everybody who goes down there laughs about it. I think there's definitely been a cover-up. There's too many eyewitnesses

to say it didn't happen." She added she is not surprised at today's revelation the police did not take the "discovery" seriously.

But she suggested they may not have got to the bottom of the incident because they were side-tracked by dealing with a post office robbery in Otley around the same time.

John Lennon's alien encounter

John Lennon once had an encounter with aliens, according to psychic Uri Geller. The legendary Beatle, who was murdered in 1980, told Uri he was visited by extra-terrestrials when he was in bed with wife Yoko Ono in 1975. Lennon insisted he wasn't on drugs and definitely saw the 'aliens'.

Lennon also claimed the beings had given him a metal, egg-like object before they left, which he gave to Geller, saying: "It's too weird. It's my ticket to another planet. I don't want to go there."

24 hours news services

24 HOURS, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Dec. 7, 2004 CR: G. Duplantier



MYSTERIOUS WEST

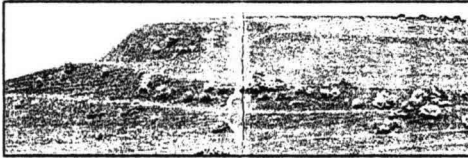
Geoff Ward explores the alternative universe

The Thing that made people watch the skies

FORTY years ago on Christmas Eve, the Warminster UFO scare began - and Wiltshire remains a hotspot for sightings.

On December 24, 1964, Warminster people started hearing a loud, high-pitched whine from the sky and, no, it wasn't Santa arriving - it heralded years of UFO encounters in the area.

Not only were the typical circular or oval "flying saucers" reported, but also cigar-shaped objects and fireballs, and



Warminster's new-found fame went global.

Cley Hill and Cradle Hill became the places to go and wait for UFOs. Satellites were

regularly observed from here, and UFO-spotters claimed they saw alien craft. Their reports went on at least until 1977.

Today, the hills are still used

as vantage points from which to "watch the skies" - the words which concluded the 1951 cult sci-fi movie *The Thing From Another World* which rode the crest of the first wave of the UFO phenomenon in the USA.

The Warminster scare was investigated by a local journalist, Arthur Shuttlewood, who dubbed the noise and sightings "The Thing" - a phrase which then passed into popular parlance - and recorded 5,000 incidents. He

wrote a book, *The Warminster Mystery* and, in a follow-up, *Warnings From Flying Friends*, he asserted that the objects were "not of this Earth".

Why Wiltshire? Perhaps it's something to do with the fact that, of all English counties, it has the highest average contour, with large high plateaux and few deep valleys - Warminster itself is 400ft above sea level, and Cley Hill 800ft - or that a military training area on Salisbury Plain is nearby.

Mystery: UFO spotters visited Cley Hill

Help me unravel riddle of UFO spy probes

A MAN who says he has had a series of close encounters with extra-terrestrial beings believes that they are implanting monitoring devices in people's bodies.

James Bazil, 25, of Withywood, Bristol, who has set up the Foundation for the Research of Extraordinary Trauma and Support for Abductees and Witnesses (FRETSAW), is calling for serious studies of the implant phenomenon to be made in the United Kingdom.

He cites the work of Dr Roger Leir in California who has performed a number of operations to remove objects, said to be of unknown origin, apparently implanted in people who say they have been abducted by aliens.

Dr Leir's books *Alien Implants* and *The Aliens And The Scalpel* have made him something of a celebrity in the USA.

Some of the objects he has retrieved are metallic, with electromagnetic properties, and others non-metallic, although analysis of them has so far proved inconclusive.

James told me: "Implants were once thought to be mere myth by sceptics when people said they lost them or they disappeared. Leir had a brain-storm - what if we put them in the subject's own blood? And it worked. Thus the objects could be kept for analysis, and so now we know implants are real, not imaginary!"

Happens only in America

"People say it happens only in America. We need to compare one culture to another to see if the phenomenon remains consistent or not. If the implants really are in people (as they have found in America) then we should in theory find them elsewhere.

"The UK is lacking in research on this subject compared to the US and other countries, which is part of the

reason why we believe it's an 'American thing'.

"It's one heck of a mystery in need of resolve! I am saying let's put this to the test - let's do here what Dr Leir did in the States."

James said he planned to set up a project dedicated to seeing the research carried out, and that he would appreciate any offers of practical, theoretical, or funding help.

"Hopefully, an amazing scientific discovery will not be hampered by lack of interest and funds," he added.

As a ufologist, James has embarked on a "close encounter analysis" course which will provide him with a professional diploma with research, therapy and counselling with abductees.

"It is hopefully a qualification that will bring in the first agreed-upon methodology for our research," he said.

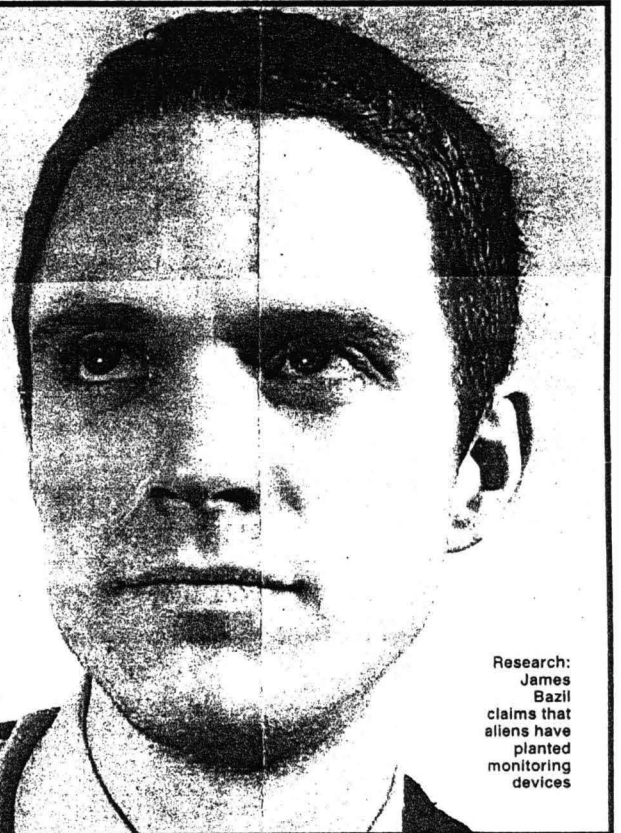
"If we're all doing things differently, or asking different

questions, and so on, sadly much of what is collected over the years is difficult to analyse properly, and even useless. All proper science and research needs consistency of approach."

James, who says he has had 13 close encounters, passed a lie detector test on a TV show last month when questioned about his UFO claims.

FROM the age of four he complained of seeing little men or goblins, and once he saw a "lizard with humanoid form" in his bedroom. And he continued to have similar experiences throughout his childhood and teenage years.

■ James would like anyone with UFO experiences to contact him at FRETSAW via free_concern@yahoo.co.uk or <http://groups.msn.com/fretsawtwins>



Research: James Bazil claims that aliens have planted monitoring devices

Close encounter culture

THE strange history of "alien abduction" began in 1966 with publication of John G Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey*, about the 1961 encounter in New Hampshire of Betty and Barney Hill.

The couple said they had been taken aboard a spacecraft and subjected to detailed anatomical examinations by alien beings.

The book was a best-seller, not least because a highly esteemed Boston psychiatrist used the then new technique of regressive hypnosis to uncover the Hills' buried memories.

A theory was advanced that the couple had suffered a hallucination triggered by unconscious guilt about their inter-racial marriage.

Subsequent similar cases often turned out to be waking dreams, hypnosis-

induced fantasies, or merely hoaxes. Since then, alien implants have become a controversial issue in UFO circles.

It can be traced back to the 1967 case of Betty Andreasson, of Massachusetts, who said she had been abducted and that a tiny spiked ball had been inserted in her nose. Other cases like this followed in subsequent years.

Since 1994, alleged implants have been surgically removed from people's bodies but they have been quite dissimilar in character.

Of course, a small foreign object, such as a splinter, can enter someone's body unnoticed, during a fall, for

example.

Is all this just part of an evolving UFO mythology, or is something really going on out there?



Conference in Truro hears the story of a mother whose son was abducted by aliens

The search goes on for the paranormal

England - Nov. 1, 2004

PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE

Cannock Chase is now a hotspot for seeing UFOs

CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton,

VIDEO and photographic images of UFOs over Cannock Chase during the summer have been shown to experts at a world conference in Japan. They were released by the Staffordshire UFO Group.

The footage shows a number of incidents over the Cannock Chase area during August 7 and 8 this year. Some show strange hovering orange balls of light over Heath Hayes, Milford and Shenstone.

Graham Allen, chairman of Staffordshire UFO Group, said there had been a flurry of UFO activity in August and September over the Cannock Chase area which experts term a "flap."

The footage has just been shown to UFO experts at the world confer in Japan.

Mr Allen claimed there had not been such activity since a spate of sightings in Mexico City during the millennium.

There had been numerous sightings of UFOs throughout August and September over Cannock Chase. As well as the orange balls of light seen over the Chase a triangular shaped UFO was seen hovering over cottages at Pottal Pool, near Penkridge.

Mr Allen said: "Cannock Chase is now one of the world's most prominent UFO hotspots and has been brought to the attention of world experts."

"The footage was captured by members of the public on August 7 and 8."

"It was taken in Heath Hayes, Milford, Shenstone and Perton. It has been studied by experts who have been left baffled by what appears on the film."



Graham Allen with the Cannock Chase UFO hotspot video



UFO speakers Matthew Hurley and David Phillips (left) with CUFORG chairman Dave Gillham and member Geoff Herbert. Picture by Geoff Hicliens

By Rachel Foster

FOR 12 years, Ann Andrews denied the possibility that her son, Jason, had been abducted by aliens.

One of four speakers at the eighth annual Cornwall Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Research Group conference at Truro College on Saturday, Mrs Andrews gave a presentation to 90 people also passionate about the paranormal.

She has recorded her family's experiences in a book, "Abducted - The True Story of an Alien Abduction in Rural England". She said: "Throughout his childhood, there would be times he would be missing for hours. We would check all the doors and windows and they would be locked."

"One time he was sound asleep in a locked shed, another on the kitchen worktop. It was horrendous, we didn't know how to handle it."

Mrs Andrews explained that abduction is often hereditary, and that she too believes that she has been abducted, as was her father.

"The thing with starkids, as they are known, is that often either one parent or both parents are abductees."

"Jason is a very spiritual and intelligent person. It is a known fact that a lot of people who have been abducted, their memories have been blocked. He has very clear memories. His story never changed."

"He would call them little people, with big eyes who come through the floor or through the walls, then they would take him to a 'hospital place'. He always had this terror of hospitals."

The Cornwall UFO Research Group started life in 1995 when Dave Gillham and his wife spotted UFO's floating in the sky outside

his house in Truro.

"I went out the back of my house and saw two lights floating across the top of the trees, but with no sound," he said.

"They were very low. If it had been a helicopter, there would have been a lot of noise."

"I went outside and up a nearby hill, and by the time I got there, there was nothing there, but then all of a sudden, about five helicopters and a plane flew over."

"The next day I called RAF Culdrose and got through to the control tower, but they knew nothing."

"I found other people had been seeing these strange lights. At the first meeting there were four or five people, and then that built up to about 10."

The conference also included talks from David Phillips of Torbay Investigators of the Paranormal and Matt Hurley with his lecture on UFOs in historical artwork.

Writer, artist and photographer Lucy Pringle spoke about crop circles and their effect on hormone levels and brain activity in people and animals.

She said: "I love people, and this brings me into contact with hundreds and hundreds of people."

"There have been lots of questions, intelligent questions and it has been a very positive response."

Geoff Herbert was one of the Cornwall UFO Research Group's first members. He said: "I saw an advert in the West Briton placed by Dave just after his sighting, asking anyone who had seen anything to come along to his house."

"We discovered that there's an awful lot of people who have said a lot of things, but nobody can get a satisfactory response from any authority."

"If a university took the time to answer these questions, then perhaps we wouldn't be here."

We love... UFOs

IT'S no longer the preserve of computer geeks. We all love UFOs after a childhood watching them on our TV and movie screens.

They are an enigma, a mystery, they glow in pretty colours and they whiz around like no other aircraft anyone has ever seen before to far-flung galaxies.

Somewhere you know is convinced they've seen one and had their own close encounter.

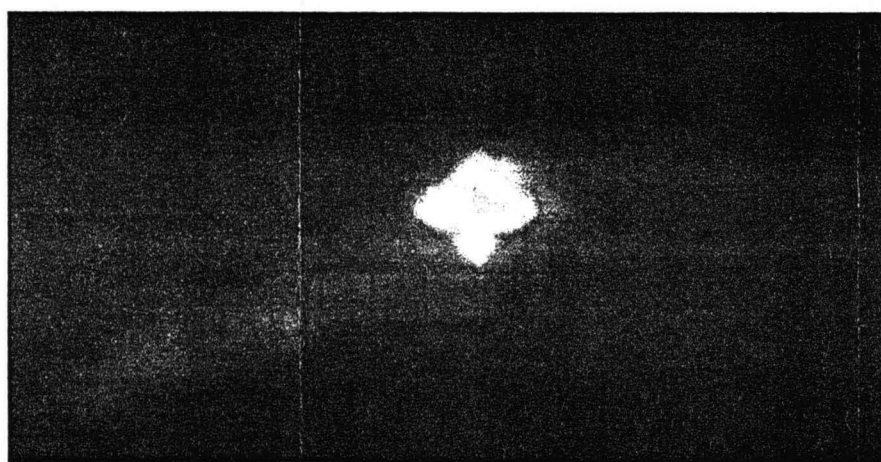
They will tell you that while driving home one night, they saw a strange, unexplained craft overhead, flying low like a helicopter. It had red and green lights but this one was triangular in shape, with no front beam and no noise.

"Oh really," you say, "Were there little green men waving out of the window? Did they beam you up and experiment on you then throw you back down again?"

Trouble is nobody is ever convinced by such tales. They are instantly consigned to the loony ideas bin.

Remember around a century ago the thought of man flying to the moon in a space rocket and walking on its surface was pretty far-fetched? Some hardened sceptics still don't believe it now.

Even though we love UFOs and even if we see them with our own



eyes, we discount the experience as being a trick of the light, having tired eyes after working too hard and our families put it down to an over-active imagination.

The Ministry of Defence certainly doesn't believe us. It will tell us we didn't see it.

Conspiracy theorists quickly jump on the bandwagon, keen to dig up the Roswell Incident about an alleged crash and recovery of

an extraterrestrial vehicle and its alien occupants near Roswell in the USA in July 1947.

Coming in all shapes and sizes, it seems UFOs visit our world briefly before taking off to some much more exciting outer-space destination.

Maybe we secretly wish they really would beam us up and take us with them.

We can't wait for the UFOs to

land, to see the aliens open up their doors and glide out or slowly step down a ladder onto our Earth, like in the classic movie *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

We want our own little ET to waddle around the house, to be our friend, make us laugh and get up to those crazy alien antics that only he can get away with.

We would just love to show an alien around our planet, sit them

down to watch an episode of *The Simpsons*, preferably one with the aliens in to make them feel at home, and share a beer to chat about our different worlds.

Unless of course they turned out to be those nasty over-sized brain monsters in *Mars Attacks* when Tom Jones helped protect us, or the ones that scattered thousands of pods around the country transforming us into clones as we sleep.

Search for the truth

WINSTON CHURCHILL once said, "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

This could easily apply to anyone who has seen a UFO.

Sightings have not just been reported by people living in rural outbacks across the globe but by Nasa engineers, astronomers and scientists too.

Sceptics would rather give sightings of UFOs a nice comfortable explanation, such as there was a weather balloon in the area, Venus was particularly bright or put it down to secret testing of new aircraft by the Ministry of Defence.

Even though we love UFOs we still can't admit, either to ourselves or to other people, that they ARE out there.

like in the movie classic, *Invasion of the Bodysnatchers*.

But while we are all quick to discount them, in the back of our minds we simply can't rule out UFOs or the possibility of life on other planets.

When probes are launched into outer space as the scientists get all excited about seeing water channels they describe as "evidence of life on Mars", we can't help but feel disappointed that the film footage of a distant planet doesn't include a bizarre array of alien lifeforms like we saw when Han Solo stepped into that bar in *Star Wars*.

New spate of strange sightings is attracting worldwide interest Chase UFOs will star at global conference

By Andy Richardson

New video and photographic evidence of UFOs on Cannock Chase is to be presented at a special world conference being held in Japan next week.

Investigator Peter Robbins will be discussing the recent glut of UFO sightings in the area and will also be presenting evidence at the famous conference which is being held in Tokyo on Saturday, October 23. Investigators say that they believe that the sightings have firmly established Cannock Chase as one of the prime UFO hotspots in the world after a spate of sightings which were reported through August and September.

People reported seeing strange orange balls of light hovering over parts of Heath Hayes and Rugeley and then shooting off at great speed.

A triangular shaped UFO was also seen over cottages at Pottal Pool, near Penkridge.

Graham Allen, chairman of Staffordshire UFO Group, said the Chase was experiencing a rare period of UFO activity, known among experts as a "flap".

Mr Allen said: "The activity we are experiencing at the moment is something of a phenomena. The world has not seen this level of UFO activity since Mexico City during the millennium."

Activity

"We have now accumulated video footage and photographs of activity which has taken place in the last two months."

Staffordshire UFO Group will be presenting video footage to the public at their meeting on Thursday, October 21 which is being held at St Leonard's Sports and Social Club in Stafford from 7.45pm start.

Mr Allen will then be presenting the evidence at Weston Hall on Tuesday, November 2 at 12pm.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Nov. 8, 2004

Academics in fear of UFO brigade

Flood of crank calls may sabotage freedom act

By BEN FENTON

ACADEMICS are becoming increasingly concerned that their work will be hampered rather than helped by the Freedom of Information Act.

Fears are growing that a flood of requests from cranks and obsessives seeking information about subjects such as UFOs and the Royal Family will prevent civil servants from dealing with normal inquiries from historians and other academics trying to pursue their studies.

The Government has made no extra money available for the introduction of the Act's full measures on Jan 1.

The Department of Constitutional Affairs has told all government departments and the National Archives, which is expected to handle the bulk of requests under the Act, that the new legislation must be "resource-neutral".

As a result, any extra staff hours required to answer information requests from the public must be found from within existing budgets and no extra money will be available.

able. Prof Richard Aldrich, of Nottingham University, told a meeting of historians and civil servants last week: "There is a real concern among historians that insufficient resources are being made available, especially to deal with requests for information that does not exist."

"Freedom of Information is open to everybody, of course, which means it is open to use or misuse by lobby groups such as those who are interested in UFOs or the Royal Household or suchlike."

Addressing Lady Ashton, the minister responsible for the introduction of the Act, he said: "I think there are real possibilities that the serious, genuine, normal people like us will be locked down by the lobby groups."

Lady Ashton was unaware of any resource issues affecting the introduction and was sure the dedicated staff responsible would be able to balance the needs of all groups.

Gill Bennett, the chief historian at the Foreign Office, told the meeting that it was her experience that people who

believed in conspiracy theories would be hard to convince.

"Unless we take them round our shelves and show them, which we obviously can't do, it is not easy to prove the non-existence of secrets," she said.

Historians pointed to the enormous interest in the 1901 Census which, when made available online at the National Archives in 2002, caused the website to crash.

Civil servants have interpreted the Act to say that they should be "purpose blind" when considering requests to see secret files.

Sources at the National Archives in Kew privately confirm that there is a concern about staffing levels and government departments share their worries.

One departmental records officer, who asked not to be named, said: "The fact is that nobody knows what will happen on the first working day after Jan 1 and whether we get a ripple of interest or a tidal wave. We can deal with one but not with the other."

THE OLDIE, London, England - Dec. 2004



An Orthodox Voice

A professor of alien abduction

BACK IN the 20th century, when we were all younger, I wrote here about alien abductions and mentioned dear old John Mack. He was the Harvard professor of psychiatry who investigated UFO abductees and was then himself investigated - by other Harvard professors. They charged him with discrediting science and betraying his colleagues. Instead of trying to cure the abductees of their delusions he listened to their stories. These people, he found, were average citizens, no more insane than the rest of us. Something traumatic had happened to them, obscene and frightening in many cases, but sometimes enlightening. Those who had had the experience were deeply marked by it. Their perceptions were altered, they saw the spiritual side of nature and they often developed psychic powers.

The more Mack studied the abduction phenomenon, the further he was led into other heretical subjects - UFOs, monsters, apparitions, telepathy, psychic healing and crop circles. I met him for the last time this summer at the annual end-of-season crop circle conference in Glastonbury, where he was the celebrity speaker. In the bar room of the George & Pigmer, surrounded by his admirers, he put forth wit and wisdom. Unlike your average Great Man, he was mild, modest and attentive to others, and at 75 his mind was sharp and receptive. I say 'was' because he is no longer with us. After the Glastonbury meeting he went to London for another conference. Stepping onto a zebra crossing, he was blown away by a drunken driver.

One reason for Mack's journey to England was to visit Patrick Harpur. This amiable character, lying low in a Dorset village, is acknowledged by us writers on life's mysteries as our natural leader. One of his books, *Daimonic Reality*, provided Mack with the way of thinking that he needed to make sense of his data on alien abductions. Harpur's *daimones* belong to an invisible realm or dimension that parallels our physical reality and interacts with it. They range from gods and angels

to local spirits, impish tricksters and, at the dark end, the demons of hell and madness. In all ages and cultures up to our own, the effective presence of these entities has been recognised without question. In modern times we have done our best to obliterate them. Science and religion find common ground in suppressing the irrational, amoral world of spirits. Even the psychologists have surrendered. Spirits and souls are no longer talked about, and instead of expelling the demons which so obviously

Instead of trying to cure UFO abductees of their delusions, Mack listened to their stories

possess many of their patients, they prescribe mind-deadening drugs.

Mack's training in psychiatry had taught him a basic truth, that whatever you expel from your mind insists on returning, sometimes with violence. Alien abductions, he began to realise, are like crop circles and cattle mutilations, corrective intrusions from the daimonic realm.

This uprising of spirit against the dominance of materialism was regarded by John Mack as overdue and welcome. That is the general view among those who observe the process. But it is not (or not yet) the majority view. And I am not surprised. Think of all the effort that went into expelling demons, fairies, incubi and the like from our own country. An early English poem describes the campaign. Young priests (pardoners) were sent out to pray in every house and haunted spot throughout the kingdom. That got rid of tiresome spirits and there were no more alien abductions (which in those days were attributed to fairies). Women, said the poet, 'may now go safely up and down'. But, he added, they should watch out for those young pardoners who are just as bad as the incubi they have driven out.

JOHN MICHELL

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Nov. 11, 2004

UFOs caught in web of lies

TOP SECRETS REVEALED

ITV West, 7.30pm
★★★★★

THE skies above the West are a veritable Piccadilly Circus of UFO activity.

Cast your eyes heavenwards on a dark evening and it's a fair bet you'll alight upon something out of the ordinary, even if it turns out to be the death throes of some space junk from Cape Canaveral.

This evening's documentary, however, goes one step further by claiming the Ministry of Defence covered up sightings in the past.

And it's further alleged they are reluctant to investigate modern day reports unless there's evidence of a potential threat to the country.

Tonight's programme opens a new six-part run of this popular series, which makes use of newly-declassified documents from the National Archives in Kew.

We learn how, in 1962, 16-year-old schoolgirl Anne Hanson was visited in Somerset by a man after she reported a sighting to her local RAF base. She was warned not to tell anyone about her experience, and never spoke about it again - until 30 years later when government files were uncovered proving the visit actually took place. Today,

And finally...

SWITCH ON: Is he still alive? Believe it or not, some police officers are convinced Lord Lucan is hiding out somewhere 30 years after he allegedly murdered his children's nanny, Sandra Rivett. Learn all about it in *The Hunt for Lord Lucan* (Channel 4, 9pm).

SWITCH OFF: Channel five love Arnold Schwarzenegger, and they're screening two of his movies, *Last Action Hero* (8pm) and *The Terminator* (10.30pm). The one to miss is the former - "It simply seems to be standing around commenting on itself," said one critic.

Anne is deeply dissatisfied with the MoD's insistence that they don't investigate.

"It's a rubbish statement because that's wrong, completely wrong," she says.

"I mean the chap came here and definitely did investigate it and so to say that they don't, I don't believe them at all".

Strange light in the sky

More criticism comes from Nick Pope, who ran the UFO project at the MoD between 1991 and 1994.

He tells the programme: "I'd like to see all UFO sightings investigated because I don't personally like mysteries and I'm not comfortable with the idea that there could

be something flying in our airspace and yet we wouldn't know what it was."

Also featured is Tina Covell-Palmer, who filmed three strange lights in the sky above Somerset this year.

Concerned at what she'd witnessed, she wrote a letter to Whitehall.

"I had a letter back from them which was really as I thought it would be - a very blank letter: 'don't be so silly, we don't deal with things like that'."

Meanwhile, a UFO expert casts a seasoned eye over the footage and challenges the MoD's integrity and honesty over this subject.

The programme ends by asking whether the government are as baffled as the rest of us about this enduring phenomenon - or masterminding a huge cover-up.

I saw that UFO too!

"There was an aura of pale green around it"

AFTER publishing the mysterious image of what looked like a UFO flying over Lincolnshire last week we had a call from a Sloothby man who said he had sighted the blurred object.

Ex-policeman, Robin Leake told The Leader: "I was driving back from the Embassy Theatre in Skegness and going towards Welton Le Wold between 8pm and 8.30pm - it was on either Monday October 4 or Tuesday October 5.

"The object had a long trail and a definite silver bit at the end which was like a spear, there was an aura of pale green around it

By Beverley Peck
beverly.peck@jpress.co.uk

all. I thought it was a large meteor and it disappeared quite quickly, it was quite low and very dramatic".

● Another mystery object was spotted back in March near Huttoft.

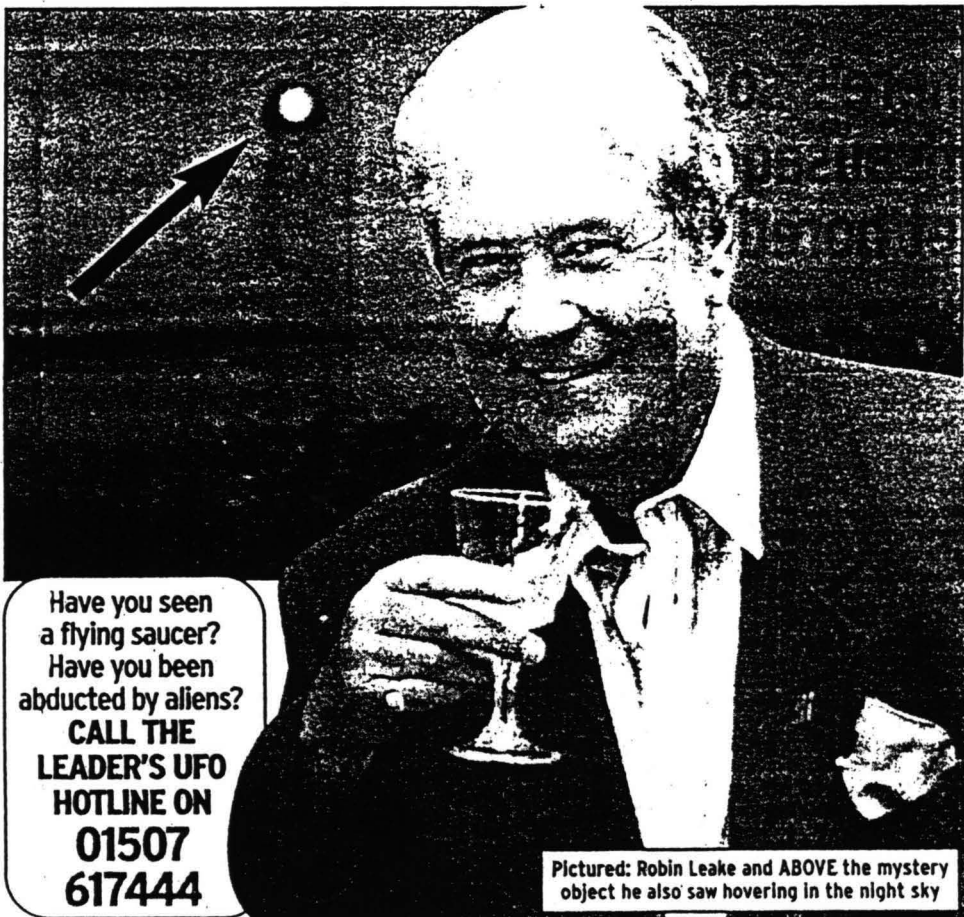
Carpenter, Stewart Hurren from Mablethorpe rang us after seeing the picture last week to say he was driving from Helsey towards Huttoft on Friday March 5 at 7pm.

He said: "I spotted a red light in the sky moving towards the coast, I stopped and watched it for a while and then saw three orange lights coming towards the red light.

"The red light became dimmer and dimmer as the orange lights got nearer, it then totally vanished. It was hovering around and its movements were erratic, it was weird.

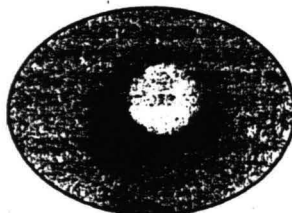
"I then heard helicopters coming towards the area".

Stewart added: "I'm open minded - I believe in UFO's, but when I told my wife about it she looked at me like I'd gone mad".



Have you seen
a flying saucer?
Have you been
abducted by aliens?
**CALL THE
LEADER'S UFO
HOTLINE ON
01507
617444**

Pictured: Robin Leake and ABOVE the mystery object he also saw hovering in the night sky



A close-up of the Mablethorpe UFO

Mission to discover how spaceships fly 'We are not alone' says space buff Len

By Becca Gliddon
becca.gliddon@archant.co.uk

AN Exmouth pensioner who believes "we are not alone" is building his own spaceship in a bid to discover how UFOs fly.

Len Worsfold, of Exeter Road, has built a crude flying saucer in his garden shed and has conducted a number of experiments in his quest for alien knowledge.

Len said the aim of his experiment was to recreate UFO flying technology.

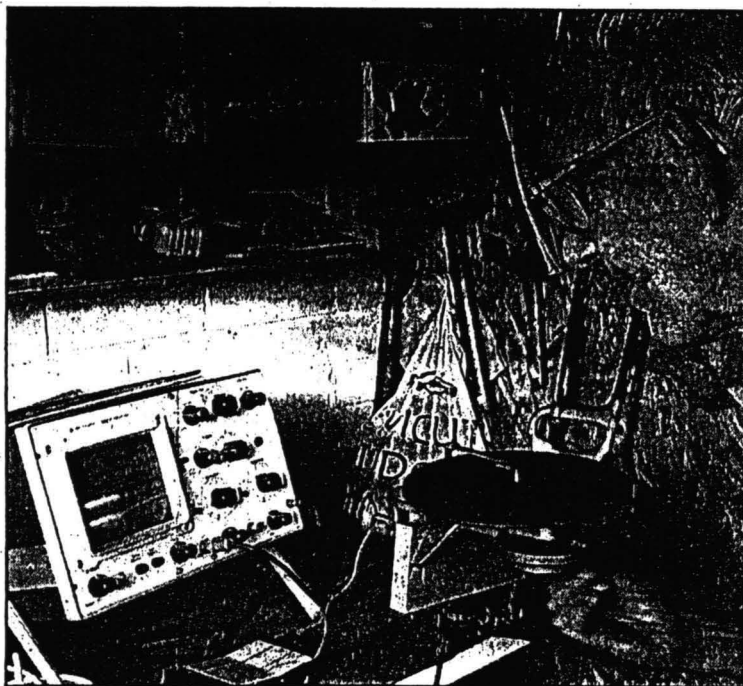
The 70-year-old pensioner has witnessed several UFO sightings and remembers seeing crop circles dating from as far back as the '50s.

Len said his electronic equipment is not sophisticated enough to take his experiments much further and hopes a keen UFO enthusiast will come forward to carry on his work.

"It needs very specific equipment," he said.

Len's home-made spaceship is a disk made from a magnetic computer mouse mat scored with graphite channels. It is attached to an electrode machine that records the pole currents that are activated when it is spun.

The retired engineer said: "The electrodes are thrown off the edge of the disk, which means there will be a



● **PROBING:** Len Worsfold carrying out his latest experiment in his quest to discover how spaceships fly. Ref. 45-04-bg-spaceship

shortage of electrodes in the middle and that should lift the whole lot off the ground. That might be how a flying saucer flies.

"I have been doing these experiments for a couple of years now. I'm just hoping somebody can pick it up and take it from there and take it to a higher level than I can."

Len became interested in UFO activity as far back as the '70s when he lived in Sussex. Twice spotting flying saucers himself, he said listening to a former colleague's account of an encounter with a UFO further convinced him that little green men do exist.

His first UFO sighting was a large circular cylinder that hovered in the sky until it slowly disappeared into a spot of light, leaving him mesmerised.

His second encounter was while organising a Scout trip.

"It kept coming and going, like on Doctor Who," he said. "We were walking along waiting for some of the other Scouts to catch up. They came up the hill; by the time they got to the top it had gone. It didn't fly off, it just disappeared."

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.]

December 31, 2004 — *Ovni Cl*, Chile — CHILE: STRANGE LIGHTS IN THE 5th REGION — ***Strange lights engaged in complex maneuvers over Chile's 5th Region startled tourists in the area*** — HORCON, December 31, 2004. -- On Saturday, December 18th at around 20:30 hrs., Alejandra Bauerle was spending time on the beach with some friends near Cau-Cau, Horcon. Upon looking at the sky and the lovely sunset with few clouds in existence, they became aware of some strange lights crossing the firmament. At first they believed they could be aircraft, but after analyzing the contrails left in their wake and the objects' irregular and sudden movements, they dismissed the possibility altogether.

"It started out like a dot (perfectly round) and became larger, first in a vertical line and then turned to the left. We thought it could be a commercial aircraft (flying low), but it was too large to be the trail of an airplane. We looked at it through binoculars and could only see the light," said the witness.

"I'm not sure if the light is the object or rather the impression that it left. In fact, no object at all could be seen, only the tremendous light that became larger and changed course," she added.

Despite the lack of certainty regarding the nature of the phenomenon, the images are being analyzed by experts in anomalous aerial phenomena.

It should be noted that Horcon Beach has been the scene for other UFO-related incidents, such as the case involving a strange luminous dome-shape photographed at sea by some fishermen in 2001. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

January ?, 2005 — *El Imparcial*, Sonora, Mexico — Vanishing Mountain: Phenomenon Attracts Scientific Scrutiny by Shaila Rosagel — Scientists qualified the phenomenon recorded at Sierra de los Cirios, near Puerto Libertad, as an optical illusion.

The strange event recorded on the Hermosillo Coast drew the attention of scientists who analyzed the photos and then camped out at the site to study the case.

Astronomy professors visited the site on Rt. 35 North of the Hermosillo Coast to observe—all night Saturday and early morning yesterday—and find an explanation of what was captured by the camera lens of an *El Imparcial* photographer.

The conclusion reached by astronomers and ophthalmologists is that it is an "optical illusion" caused by ambient temperature, the distance between the observer and the object, the angle of incidence of light and the intensity of the light itself.

"What appears in the photos is a mirage effect known as light refraction," said Julio Cesar Saucedo Morales, a professor of astronomy. The astronomer discarded any relationship between this optical illusion and the meteorite fall that occurred on November 29, 2004.

"The phenomenon is due to the air and soil being at different temperatures. These optical illusions can be seen from different directions," he stressed.

Saucedo Morales was joined at the site by Russian astronomer Anton Lipovska and his wife, as well as amateur astronomer Hector Ruiz Figueroa. — CREDIT: Shaila Rosagel

January 8, 2005 — *La Arena*, La Pampa, Argentina — On December 18, 2004 at 15:45 hrs, a rural contractor managed to photograph a strange flying object in a field near Santa Rosa.

Roberto Maggio was taking snapshots of the various machines working on tasks related to harvesting without ever being aware of the UFOs' presence. The object was not seen by other persons working in the area either.

At night, upon downloading the digital photos from his camera to the PC, he was startled to detect an object that showed a blurry outline. On top and bottom, however, the object was somehow sharper, presenting a darker central area. Maggio was also able to detect a small, blurry dot in an earlier photo which was supposedly the same object, but appearing with a better perspective in the next shot.

The witness claims not having noticed insects or any other objects which could have led to misinterpretation moving in front of his lens, prior to taking the photographs. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chavez

January 8, 2005 — *El Imparcial*, Sonora, Mexico — MEXICO: Hill Vanishes After UFO Event? — Change noted yesterday described as "strange" — Scientists startled by peculiar phenomenon involving coastal hill by Luis Gonzalez — HERMOSILLO, Sonora (PH) -- More than half of a hill located on the Hermosillo coast apparently "vanished." The event was classified by Sonoran scientists as "strange and surprising."

According to a series of images taken by *El Imparcial* which were classified as "historically significant," a hill belonging to the Sierra de Cirios range near Puerto Libertad ceased to exist in a matter of hours.

At 08:54 minutes yesterday, a reporter and photographer from this newsroom saw what they took to be a UFO as they drove along Rt. 36 North along the coastline. After this sighting, there occurred a strange phenomenon in which rocky formations changed composition (sic).

At 14:08 hours, as shown by photographs taken from the site, a considerable part of said hill disappeared. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

January 9, 2005 — *El Universal Online*, Mexico City, Mexico — UFO Seen Over the Plaza Mexico Bullring — Images showing a flying object appeared on television yesterday, taken during the tenth corrida of the 2004-2005 bullfighting season.

The images were shown on the La Jugada television show, broadcast on Televisa Channel 2 at 22:30 hours.

The object, resembling a balloon, was captured for a few minutes as it hovered in the air, then rose upward to vanish in the sky.

Bullfighters Jose Luis Angelino, from Tlaxcala, and Humberto Flores, from Jalisco, appeared in Mexico City's Plaza Monumental. They were the winners of the tenth corrida of the 2004-2005 season. Each of them cut an ear [off a bull] and were carried in arms at the end of the event. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

January 24, 2005 — *El Austral*, Valdivia, Chile — CHILE: Chupacabras Behind Avian Deaths? — ****Perfect incisions left no trace of blood**** — Two families of the commune of Victoria were shocked after finding almost all of their farm birds dead inside their henhouses — These two cases, attracted our attention: the first one occurred on a property located a few blocks away from the city's town square in the early morning hours of Sunday. It was still possible to see the feathers of the dead birds scattered throughout the site. People who were in the sector at the time of the attack stated that they had gone to bed around 04:00 hrs without hearing any strange sounds. The first dead specimens were locked in a double-gated cage that was kept shut at night to keep poultry safe from predation by mice or cats. But this "creature" opened the gates to the cage, killing 10 birds. Afterwards, the strange mammal toured the two henhouses in the area killing everything in its way, leaving feathers in its path.

The second case occurred in a house located 3 blocks from the municipal marketplace in the downtown area of Victoria. This time, the birds showed clean wounds—puncture marks in their extremities and under their wings, leaving their heads completely purple, without stains of blood on their plumage.

Luis Gonzalez, owner of the property, remarked that there was no need for guard dogs, since the rooster played that role. The rooster kept strangers from approaching the henhouse, and its aggressiveness was such that the owners considered killing it more than once. But the cock's natural violence did not keep it from being killed by the "wild animal" together with six hens.

There are other strange cases that have drawn the attention of residents of La Araucania, this time in the vicinity of Angol. One such case occurred while the city's jail was being built in 2000. A night watchman was doing his rounds when he saw a strange animal land on the hook holding the streetlight, bending it. The watchman managed to see "something" with wings measuring 1 meter, red eyes and completely covered in fur.

Oddly enough, after recording the presence of this animal, reports of strange animal deaths from areas adjacent to the construction site—on Javiera Carrera street—began to be received. This went on for a week. The trail went cold for a while until the attacks were renewed, this time in the Nahuelbuta National Park. Many larger animals were found dead there, such as horses, sheep and cows.

According to Erasmo Mera, president of IFOV (Victoria UFO Phenomena Research), "we have had five cases attributable to the Chupacabras and the incisions we found were on the wings. Other characteristics of these attacks are the absence of spilled blood. If you see one killing another, the killer shakes it, spilling blood everywhere. There were no traces of blood on the floor," he stressed.

What is strange about the events in Victoria and neighboring communities is that this animal, which allegedly attacks rural areas, is now acting in densely populated areas, namely backyards 400 meters distant from the central areas of any city, such as town squares. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

January 31, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — MEXICO: MORE UFO VIDEO — An important sighting was recorded by professional cameramen from Televisa in Mexico City on January 9, 2005, as a UFO flew over the Plaza Mexico bullring between 5:45 and 6:00 PM.

On that same day, Mexican researcher Pedro Avila Rubio obtained impressive video evidence of apparently the very same unidentified flying object at an altitude of 4000 meters over the municipality of Tlalnepantla in the state of Mexico at 3:45 PM.

The witness described it as a sphere with protuberances in its lower side—making the analogy of a pea with corrugated edges—which was precisely in the San Mateo air corridor, adding that no aircraft appeared during the recording.

The strange flying object flew slowly in a north-south direction and the sky was completely clear.

This is highly significant evidence, since it completely discards the possibility of viewer error and that a weather balloon could be mistaken for a UFO. It is my belief that Pedro Avila is the first person to have obtained video evidence of what occurred on January 9—a result of his perseverance and experience in scanning the skies.

Avila heads the "Los Ojos de la Ciudad" group, which is an organization specializing in UFO studies and well-known for the quality of its investigations. For more information please contact: losojosdelaciudad@yahoo.com.mx — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

February 3, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — UFO OVER SANTA ROSA — On February 3, 2005, the time being 21:45 hrs., a UFO was seen crossing the skies of the capital of the Argentinean Pampa.

The UFO was yellowish-brass in color, its estimated size being twice as large as a first-magnitude star and moved from NE to SE some 30 degrees over the horizon and toward the West. This object was recorded during part of its transit for approximately 3 minutes by members of the "CIUFOSLAPAMPA" group.

Subsequently, another object was detected some 35 degrees over the horizon and toward the West, following a north/south trajectory. After moving along at a constant luminosity, the object unexpectedly increased its size for some 30 seconds, as in the earlier case, before vanishing completely.

[TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: Readers will remember Santa Rosa as the site of a number of cattle mutilations in 2002 and the site of still unexplained draining of a number of swimming pools and water storage facilities that year.] — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chavez

February 8, 2005 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — At Iquique — INCREDIBLE UFO PHOTO IN NORTHERN CHILE — IQUIQUE, February 8, 2005. -- On Friday, February 4, Carlos Bruna, an official with the Controllorship of the Republic in the city of Iquique, visited the Tres Islas Beach, some 10 minutes away from this northern city, to take a break. Since he had acquired a digital camera in recent days, he began taking photos of the mountains and their contrast with the blue sky.

To his surprise, upon loading the photos into his computer, he saw that one of the images showed a lens-shaped object, expelling some sort of white energy, flying high above one of the mountains.

The AION CHILE organization received the images of the strange object from Carlos Bruna. They are still under analysis.

"The fact is that when they informed me of the case, I only expected to see the alleged evidence. I thought it could correspond to one of many explained phenomena. But I think the photo shows some interesting details," observes Rodrigo Fuenzalida, AION's director.

"When I received the material, I found that the mountains were too well outlined, and the colors had a curious clarity. However, upon listening to Carlos, the percipient, I found his account to be an honest one. I think the photo is genuine. Now the challenge consists in determining the origin of the stimulus captured by the camera's eye," he remarked.

According to AION's representative in Chile's 1st Region, Mario Pizarro, the UFO image is genuine and studies conducted on site suggest that the object had a diameter of between 3 and 4 meters. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez



LEDGER, Lakeland, FL - Nov. 13, 2004

OUR OWN LOCH NESS MONSTER?

*Woman's Sighting of Ape-Like
Green Swamp Creature Among the
Theories Studied by Cryptozoologists*

By GARY WHITE

The Ledger



When Jennifer Ward drives through the Green Swamp these days, she makes sure she has a camera in her car.

She hopes she'll get the chance to capture for others an image already seared into her memory, and she knows only a picture will persuade others that she really did see something bizarre one evening a few months ago.

"I've heard about Big Foot and stuff," Ward says. "I didn't really think it existed, but I'm convinced now."

Ward, 30, was driving on Moore Road in northern Polk County a few days after Hurricane Charley's passage through the area when she glanced to her left and saw something she says has haunted her ever since. She describes it as a creature with a human form that was covered in dark hair or fur and had whitish rings around its eyes.

Ward says the mysterious animal stood erect in a drainage ditch along the road, and she estimates its height at 8 feet. Based on her description, it might have been foraging in the ditch when she surprised it.

"It looked like it was doing something; it was focused on something," Ward says. "Whenever it saw me, it probably took on the facial expression I had on because I was dumbfounded. It just watched me as I drove by."

Asked if it might have been a bear, she replied, "No chance at all."

Ward says she didn't stop because her two daughters were sleeping in the back seat and she feared the animal might attack her Toyota 4Runner if given the chance. She went back to the scene later to search for hair or footprints, but she didn't find any conclusive evidence.

Since the fleeting observation, Ward has obsessively tried to convey to others what she saw. She has filled a drawing pad with sketches of the animal, though she says she lacks the skill to depict it precisely.

"I can't seem to get it off my mind," Ward says. "I hope to see it again some time." Ward doesn't seem surprised that others, including family members and friends, have received her story dubiously. She says her daughters make jokes about the sighting even as they tell her they believe her. Ward's husband, Richard Furnari, an amateur

archaeologist who has accumulated bones of prehistoric animals, would like more evidence to support his wife's claim.

"She swears to it," Furnari says. "I was skeptical at first, but ... I'm certain she saw something. I don't know what."

Ward found an enthusiastic ally in Scott Marlowe, an archaeologist and instructor with the Pangea Institute, an educational entity based in Winter Haven. Marlowe already knew Furnari, who donated a collection of fossils to Pangea Institute earlier this year.

Marlowe has long had an interest in cryptozoology, the study of legendary or unconfirmed species. Upon hearing of Ward's experience, he told her about a long-rumored creature known variously as the Florida swamp ape or Florida skunk ape.

Reported sightings of swamp apes have been arising for years,

and in 2000 someone anonymously mailed photos to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department purportedly of the creature taken in the Myakka River area. But Ward says those pictures and other sketches Marlowe showed her didn't match the animal she saw. Marlowe, for his part, suspects some claimed swamp ape sightings actually involved escaped or released orangutans.

Marlowe will teach a class in cryptozoology for Florida Keys Community College next year. He says he would welcome any confirmation of Ward's claim.

"At this point there's been a single sighting," Marlowe says. "I would be really interested to hear from anybody (else) who had a sighting of that. One of the things I will be doing with my class next summer is taking them out on a field study where we actually try

(continued on page 18)

to go after a cryptid (unrecognized) animal."

A few animals have made the transition from fabled to confirmed status — perhaps most notably the coelacanth, a fish thought to have been extinct for 60 million years before one was found alive in 1938. Marlowe says it's conceivable a mystery animal could live deep in the Green Swamp and might have been driven from its normal range by a hurricane.

"We haven't seen anything conclusive to substantiate this sighting, although I do believe the individual (Ward)," Marlowe says. "These things have to be approached very, very carefully."

Gary White can be reached at gary.white@theledger.com or at 863-802-7518.



RICK RUNION/Ledger photos

In these drawings, above and below, Jennifer Ward depicts a creature she says she saw in the Green Swamp area. Might it be the long-rumored creature known variously as the Florida swamp ape or Florida skunk ape?

National Geographic on track of Bigfoot

by John Sparrow

On Oct. 6, a film crew from the *National Geographic* TV followed a local hunter into the hills above Copper Creek Rd. near Mount Rainier National Park. The crew was making a wildlife film about the creatures of the northwest forest when a man said he could take them to a track left by a large, unknown, manlike animal.

"I was up on 59," said the Ashford hunter. U.S. Forest 59, or Copper Creek Road, switchbacks up a steep mountainside until it tops out at a magnificent view of Mount Rainier. "Past the overlook where it drops down and over the ridge by about a mile and half, is where I parked. I walked in from there."

A musician and recording engineer who lives in the village just outside the Nisqually entrance to the park took the film crew to the site. He is adamant about using only his professional moniker, 'Ryno.'

"It's a nickname for Ryan," said the denim-jacketed man with rock tresses and looks. "People been calling me that since I was a kid." Ryno owns a recording studio and a label named with perhaps a revealing touch, "Painful Records." He lived as a child in nearby Mineral and claims to be well acquainted with the area.

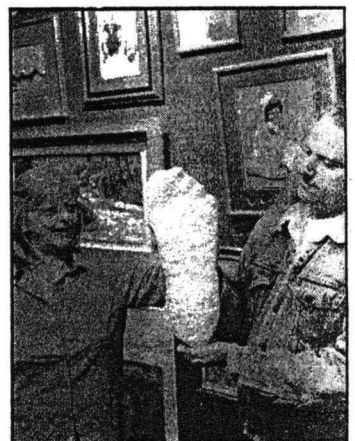
"I walked out onto this bench. Very nice and flat with a hill climbing out the other side," said Ryno at the gallery of Joan Painter in

Ashford. "The hills was pretty steep with some bare ground on it. I saw these five prints headed up the hill from some distance away."

"At first I thought it was a bear, maybe one that ran up that hill and his feet slipped a bit to make the long tracks. But when I got up closer, it was a very human-looking print, except much, much bigger."

The crew from *National Geographic* filmed Ryno making a plaster cast of one of the footprints on the day following their discovery. "On a slope like that, you have to pour the cast a certain way or it will be ruined," he said.

After word spread of the giant footprints on Copper Creek Road, other Bigfoot investigators arrived in



Ryno shows a cast of a footprint he found on Oct. 6 to art dealer Joan Painter.

Ashford. Ryno has shown the cast to several other interested parties and discussed plans to try and capture a Sasquatch on film and sound recordings. He says he plans to put the Oct. 6 cast on display at Painter's Art Gallery.

Skunk ape movie to debut in April

By Neil Pascoe

This isn't a chapter out of *Campfire Stories*, like Bigfoot, the Jersey Devil or the Abominable Snowman in which the

unexplainable continues to somehow appear and reappear in various "sightings" around the globe. While most people poo-poo such



Martin

claims, Nate Martin of Marco Island believes in one special creature of his own, the Ochopee skunk ape, located right here in Collier County.

Martin has spent the last six years of his life shooting, editing and producing his very own full-length feature film on the skunk ape.

"I guess I became interested in this about six years ago when I spent some time at a camp and festival ground owned by a guy named Dave Shealy out in Ochopee," Martin said. "He began telling me about his encounters and adventures with the skunk ape in the vicinity in and around Ochopee."

The setting is perfect for such a tale, as Ochopee makes up approximately one square mile on Route 41. It lies east of Everglades City and is nestled in the Big Cypress National Preserve. Neighboring areas include the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the Miccosukee Indian Reservation. South from there

is Everglades National Park. We're not talking beautiful downtown Burbank here.

As Martin puts it, "If you blink going through Ochopee, you'll probably miss it."

Martin calls his skunk ape project the Sasquatch of the South.

"It's smaller than a Bigfoot," Martin said, "but it appears like a Bigfoot—kind of like an ape-man, only with big feet. Its defining characteristic is its distinctive smell. It's terrible. It smells like 100 skunks along with the dung of a goat."

"A lot of local people over there say the reason that he smells like that is because he lives in alligator holes underground, and the sulphur deposits along with methane gas contribute to his aroma," Martin said.

According to Martin, the skunk ape's coat of four-inch long brown hair absorbs the sulphur and gas smells.

The skunk ape legend is an ancient Seminole Indian belief which Dave Shealy has carried on. Shealy is a 40-year skunk ape tracker in and around Ochopee, gathering many witnesses' interviews. Together with Martin's filming and Shealy's actual skunk ape footage, *The Ochopee Skunk Ape* movie will debut in April at the Bombay Club on Marco Island.

"The star of the movie is obviously Dave Shealy, but the co-stars are all about 75 years old and are old full-time mullet fishermen, crabbers and locals who have claimed to

have seen the skunk ape," Martin said. "It's a full-length, 90-minute documentary movie but with a twist. The twist is that it's exciting, adventurous yet comical as well."

The film, which Martin narrates, is basically Shealy's true-life story and his experiences with the skunk ape during that time.

"Basically, I just follow Dave through the swamp, filming what we see and encounter along the way," Martin said.

Adding to the suspense was a 15-second sighting of the skunk ape as it ran through Shealy's campground three weeks ago. A University of Minnesota faculty member captured the ape on film and gave Martin a still photograph of the incident.

As for Martin's venture into undertaking a feature film, he admitted to having no experience.

"Actually, I received training in music engineering," he said. "And on that note, I decided not only to write, produce and record the whole soundtrack, but I also engineered,

mixed and mastered the whole thing myself. I pretty much wrote the movie, produced it, directed it and edited it."

Martin started filming the movie about a year ago while writing the script along the way. He filmed over 30 hours of tape that was left on the cutting room floor as he honed the finished product.

With a backer providing the needed funds for full-scale production, Martin hopes to have about 1,500 prints of the film ready for commercial distribution before April.

"My first guaranteed showing is going to be at the Bombay Club at 9 on April 13 and 14," Martin said. "Then I'd like to proceed to the various film festivals such as the World Film Festival in Naples, Sundance Film Festival, and Cannes, France, with it. I want to go all the way because I really think I have something of interest that people would like to see and learn more about."

Shealy has appeared on such national television programs as *Inside Edition*, *Unsolved Mysteries*,

The Pulse with Diane Sawyer, and on the local news a number of times as well.

"I think this is a story and a film of great public interest," Martin said, "And I'd like more people to be aware of the skunk ape and just what it is."

Just remember to wear a clothespin on your nose if you happen to meet it up close.

CITIZEN, Preston, ID
Nov. 24, 2004

Bigfoot-like creature reported near Strawberry Summit

By RODNEY D. BOAM
Citizen editor

Franklin County Sheriff's Department reported they dispatched two separate deputies to the Strawberry Summit Friday, Nov. 19, at 11 p.m. to a possible "Bigfoot" sighting.

Deputies Zane Jensen and Chris Olsen were sent to the scene where negative contact was found, the dispatcher said.

The report, according to dispatchers, said a "Bigfoot" was walking in and out of traffic on HWY 36 near the summit.

At press time it was reported by law enforcement officials that someone dressed in costume was jumping out at cars.

In the early 1980s the *Malad Enterprise* reported three men reportedly saw the creature near Oxford Peak. It chased them down a mountain trail. One man broke his ankle when the horse he was riding fell on him.

They continued to their truck at the Cherry Creek Campground southwest of Downy where they made their escape.

Later a newspaper reporter returned to the area where the critter could have been. It was near an abandoned mine but there was no sign of the animal.

Sometimes called Sasquatch, the half man, half animal creature has been seen mostly in the Washington and Oregon areas dating back to the late 1800s.

EXAMINER, Blue Springs, MO - June 23, 2004

Bigfoot of the Ozarks

Our story probably falls within the folklore category, considering we here in Missouri tend to be skeptical of anything that is not tangible. We have to be shown the absolute proof of the facts, as indicated by our nickname, the Show-Me State.

It is generally believed our state's nickname came from a speech by Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver of Missouri in 1899. Speaking in Philadelphia, Vandiver said: "...frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me."

Herein lies our problem. We have no proof about the validity of this story, only hearsay, but it originates from the deep hills of the Ozarks, if that tells you anything. Many tales of lore, old wives' tales, and superstition have come from the Ozark hollers, gullies and mountain tops.

To complicate the problem, it actually took place just across the state line into Arkansas—and as you know—they are a little more "easily" convinced. But then who knows, the story may very well be true.

It all began when the good doctor wanted for murder managed to hide out and elude the law for nearly 20 years along the banks of War Eagle River, in the woods of Peter Bottoms. The hill country gets pretty remote

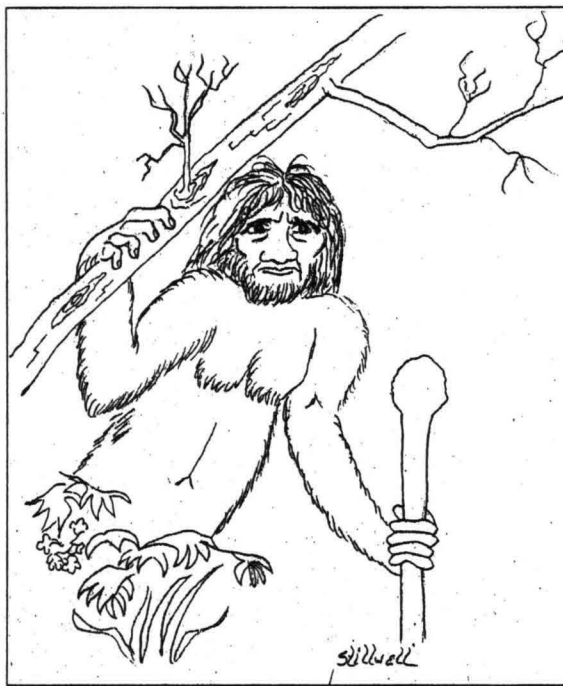
southeast of the Roaring River State Park. When the doctor was finally discovered and brought to justice, the judge branded him as a nut case, and he was sentenced to the state mental institution.

Toward the end of his life, in the early 1960s, the crazy doctor called in local reporters to warn them of a hairy, white, albino monster that lived in the cave of Peter Bottoms. His story did stir up a little interest—especially in the citizens of War Eagle—but was generally dismissed as a figment of the doctor's demented imagination.

In the spring of 1966, the story resurfaced again when two young men in their late 20s went horseback riding down the steep, rocky road that led down into Peter Bottoms. Suddenly, they were almost run off the road by a farm tractor coming full speed up the trail.

The frantic farmer stopped long enough to warn the young men to stay out, as there was a horrible monster living down there. The man on the tractor had just begun his spring plowing when he encountered the doctor's notorious albino monster.

Of course, the two horseback riders had to check this out for themselves and hurried on down the road. As they rode farther into the bottoms, their horses



became nervous and skittish and refused to go any farther. The men tied their horses and proceeded on foot. Soon, they spotted a huge white clump of fur lying in tall grass under a cedar tree, which they assumed was a dead cow. Not 10 yards in front of them, the clump of white fur stood straight up on its hind feet and started toward them.

The frightened men later described the monster as eight to 10 feet tall, with pure white hair about 3 inches long. It had a strong, offensive odor, similar to "day old coffee grounds." The creature's body and facial features were more human-like

than ape-like. It's been called, "The Bigfoot of the Ozarks."

The tale soon spread throughout the community and search parties combed the area for months. However, no sign of the monster has ever been seen, and Peter Bottoms to this day, has never again been plowed.

Reference: *Ozark Tales and Superstitions* by Phillip Steele

These weekly stories are available in paperback at the Apple Tree Children's Book Store, 104 W. Maple St. on the Independence Square.

To reach Ted W. Stillwell send e-mail to teddistillwell@yahoo.com or call him at 816-461-4195.

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THE PITCH, Kansas City, MO - Nov. 25, 2004



KC STRIP

"I'm going to remain intellectually honest to the experimental results, regardless of where it takes me."

Space Case

Attention, aliens: Please return our science-fiction writer.

The Strip wants to report an alien abduction. No, this meat patty didn't see strange lights in the sky or witness the kidnapping of a human being by space-hopping, big-eyed, bulbous-headed, anal-probe-wielding extraterrestrials.

We didn't actually see the subject of the abduction get carried off. But we're sure it happened all the same. And here's the irrefutable evidence.

Subject name: **Mac Tonnies**

Age: 29

Last known residence: Apartment just off the Plaza

Hometown: Independence, Missouri

Background: Starts writing science-fiction in elementary school. By the time he graduates from William Chrisman High School in 1994, he's completed enough short stories to fill a small book. *Illumined Black* is published by a small press a couple of years later when Tonnies is a sophomore in college. The young man's future looks bright. The book carries positive cover blurbs from established writers, such as cyberpunk pioneer **Bruce Sterling**,

and *Booklist* calls Tonnies a "surprisingly mature craftsman."

As Tonnies continues his college career, bouncing around before finishing with a bachelor's degree at Ottawa University, he continues to produce short stories but doesn't get many of them published. Tonnies takes to the emerging world of Internet writing like he was born for it.

His "Postmodern Blues" becomes one of Kansas City's best blogs, filled with well-written, intelligent takes on offbeat news items and humorous rants from a left-leaning political perspective.

Evidence of Abduction: Tonnies returns to book publishing this year not with another volume of short stories or a novel but with *After the Martian Apocalypse: Extraterrestrial Artifacts and the Case for Mars Exploration*.

The book, yet another in the cottage industry of speculative musings about the "Face on Mars," is published by Paraview Pocket Books, a 2-year-old paranormal-studies imprint of the publishing giant Simon and Schuster. Paraview started as a publish-on-demand house, a sort of Internet-based version of the vanity press model of publishing. But when Simon and Schuster turns Paraview into a more traditional publishing imprint in 2002, Tonnies is one of the beneficiaries. His book suddenly gets a major press run and a big promotional push.

It's the latest in an ever-expanding genre that speculates about signs of intelligent life on the planet Mars. Quick recap: After a 1976 Viking image showed something on the surface of the planet that had an uncanny likeness to a human face, NASA examined the formation with its orbiting Mars Global Surveyor in 1998. Up close, the formation looked merely like a slightly unusual mesa, and the Face on Mars controversy appeared to have been firmly debunked. But "researchers," who by then had invested years of their lives trying to prove the Face was an artificial structure, spent several more years staring at pixels of NASA images and claimed that the Face was still a face — and they demanded even closer inspection by scientists at NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at California Institute of Technology, whom they accused of intentionally trying to cover up evidence.

Tonnies' book on the subject is smarter than most, proposing startling histories for the Face while debunking the more outlandish notions of out-there Mars prophets such as the infamous **Richard Hoagland**. But the book's squishy nature — it's nearly impossible to nail down any outright statement of fact by Tonnies that can

be checked against a verifiable outside source — can be explained only by alien interference, this tenderloin figures.

After all, what rational Show-Me Missourian would make assumptions that a hill on Mars "might" betray signs of artifice, which in turn "could" indicate ruins of an ancient civilization, which "maybe" could have been wiped out by some kind of ancient planetary cataclysm?

All that from a few grainy spacecraft photos.

This meat patty is especially intrigued by Tonnies' explanation that much of his theorizing rested on the work of an actual astronomer, a man named **Tom Van Flandern**, and his

"exploded-planet hypothesis." According to Van Flandern, Mars is actually a former moon that orbited a much larger planet that exploded hundreds of millions of years ago, its fragments forming the asteroid belt that fills the space between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Tonnies speculates that this explosion wiped out the ancient civilization that carved the Face. He also calls Van Flandern's theory "frightening and cinematic" and "colorful," though he gently suggests that it conflicts with "prevailing interpretations."

But we figure space aliens prevented Tonnies from mentioning the small detail that Van Flandern is actually a classic crank and that his theory — which forms the backbone of Tonnies' book — is dismissed by professional astronomers.

That's one of the things we learned in a conversation with **Brian Marsden**, the prominent Harvard astronomer who arbitrates the naming of new objects in the solar system. When night-sky observers argue over who gets credit for discovering a new comet, for example, it's Marsden who makes the call. Marsden tells the Strip he knows Van Flandern well — the two were classmates at Yale in the 1960s. But when Van Flandern went to the Naval Observatory after graduation, he developed "whacky ideas," Marsden says, about gravitation and solar system evolution — ideas that other scientists don't take seriously. (Van Flandern left the Naval Observatory in 1983.) Marsden hinted that there was an odd story behind Van Flandern's turn away from mainstream science, so we called up the man himself, who today operates something he calls **Meta Research**.

Van Flandern, a pleasant 64-year-old guy, entertained this meat patty with tales about having had several losses of faith after graduating from college that led him to doubt mainstream

"I'm not claiming Mars was killed by an exploding planet."

gets hounded out of the fold.

"But you still have to go for it," he told this side of beef. "I'm going to remain intellectually honest to the experimental results, regardless of where it takes me."

We decided to ask University of Missouri-Kansas City astrophysicist and cool guy **Keith Ashman** about Van Flandern's theories. He didn't seem very impressed.

"This spinning sun idea was blown out of the water years ago. The angular momentum doesn't add up," Ashman told us over beers at **Mike's Tavern** a few weeks ago. (For a profile of the guitar-playing Brit, see **Kendrick Blackwood's** "Big Bang," December 11, 2003.) Like other astronomers, Ashman is annoyed that he has to fend off such nonscientific stuff, but we were buying the alcohol, so he put up with it. "This is the frustrating part," he said. "We really do understand how

the solar system formed. We don't need shit blowing up." And Ashman didn't think much of Van Flandern's complaints about persecution, either. "All of them have stories of being suppressed — but it's when they stopped doing science," he says.

And Ashman didn't think much of Tonnies' speculation about cover-ups at NASA and the JPL, both of which the iconoclastic Ashman has his own experience with. "The vast majority of us are anti-authoritarian, fiercely independent people who simply don't do what we're told," Ashman said. Would scientists really sit on information proving that ancient civilizations left artifacts on Mars? "All of these cats know that anyone who got that would win a Nobel, which is going for \$1.3 million at the moment," Ashman noted. "If any of them at JPL had ideas that an ancient civilization left artifacts on

Mars — first of all, they'd be down to the L.A. Times blabbing about it, and second, they'd be putting in to be the principal investigator on the next mission to Mars."

New evidence: When this chuck steak reported some of Ashman's comments to the talented young "Tonnies," we suspect it was actually his alien replacement who sent back this reply:

"I'm not claiming Mars was killed by an exploding planet. I merely present the possibility and play with it, intellectually, to see where it goes."

The Strip can only pray that eventually, whatever sick space travelers have taken away the real Tonnies will some day return him in one piece — or at least with his frontal lobe restored.

— as told to **Tony Ortega**

Tony Ortega talks about this week's Pitch with **KRBZ 96.5's Lazlo** after 4 p.m. Wednesday.

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

