

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

March 2005  
Number 428

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

### 2004 — a year in review for Pickaway UFO sightings

By PETE HARTINGER

This past year had continued ufo sightings worldwide. The United States again had many of these. Some are listed on Peter Davenport's Web site, [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com).

On March 24, I gave a talk to the Pickaway County Bar Association. As part of my talk I gave a statement that a lawyer friend of mine from Cleveland gave me in regards to the UFO phenomenon.

"The weight of evidence is now so strong that there is something unexplained going on that the burden of proof has switched to the skeptics to prove that there is nothing to it."

After the meeting, perhaps because of the evidence I presented, one of the lawyers told me of his personal ufo sighting of years ago.

There is another statement made by former Admiral of the British Fleet, Lord Hill-Norton. He stated, "There have been thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of sightings and encounters, physical results and of the latter, by people all over the world whose evidence on any other subject would be accepted without question."

The Mexican Air Force had a ufo sighting that made world wide news in May, 2004.

Several anomalies were seen near one of their aircraft and were picked up on their instruments. No natural explanation was ever given for this incident.

On July 12, 2004 there occurred one of the strangest ufo cases I have ever investigated. A local man was grilling steaks in his back yard at night when he reported a beam or cone of light shined down on him. When he looked up he stated he saw a circular shaped craft about 500 feet overhead. It was hovering over the nearby property. This sighting occurred in Circleville. He stated the sighting lasted about 30 seconds. Although no other witnesses have been found, this sighting is extraordinary, because at the time of the sighting the witness was on his cordless phone with his Mother. In speaking with her, she verified what her son was doing at the time; talking with her on the phone. She thought her son was joking with her at first but quickly realized he wasn't. When he hollered "Mom!" on the phone the beam of light shot back up into the craft and it then zoomed away. The witnesses' wife, who was in the house at the time, stated the television flickered during that time period. I was at the witnesses' house

within 40 minutes after being informed of his sighting. He seemed very sincere and of course was excited at the time. If you have a computer, go to [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com). You can read his sighting report he sent in shortly after his sighting. I told him he should submit this asap to this website. Look at his July 12 sighting report and then notice the Portsmouth, Ohio sighting of July 17, five nights later. That report describes beams of light coming down to the ground. Some 15 to 20 minutes before his sighting a strange cloud was seen north of Circleville slowly heading south. This witness described the cloud being unusual. Was this a connection? Strange clouds have been connected to some ufo sightings. I did give a written report on this sighting to the Mutual UFO Network. More follow up information is being gathered and will be given to MUFON. More food for thought. The witness from day one has always said that he is more than willing to take a lie

detector test about what he had seen.

The Roundtown UFO Society hosted its second ufo display at the Pickaway County District Library on August 21st. Another is planned for August, 2005. At these displays a county map is shown that includes local ufo sighting reports that I have collected. At last count there were 35 of them that have occurred over the years. No doubt there are many more of them that have never been reported.

There were other local ufo sighting reports that came to the society's attention during 2004. One involved two brothers who live in the western part of the county. They saw a round shaped object a few feet above some wood behind their house where they live at on Alkire Road. They described what looked like windows that they had seen on the UFO. This unknown object was seen very close to the high power tension lines that run thru that part of the county. The brothers (like

many others) say they have never forgotten about this ufo sighting, as it happened in 1997.

Another very interesting ufo sighting occurred in the summer of 1948. Yes, this was just a few months after farmer Bruce Stevenson's famous sighting. It was also a report of a saucer shaped craft. However, the main difference in this case was that there were at least six family members that saw it. They also described what looked like windows on the craft. It circled for several minutes while the family watched. This sighting of years ago occurred in the southeastern part of the county. The couple I interviewed about this sighting are highly respected and live in Circleville.

These sighting reports were given to me, because of my public awareness program about the ufo phenomenon. I could tell that they felt comfortable in talking about their experiences. I appreciate their candor. These sightings are part of our history.

In October we had our 2nd annual skywatch/meeting at the Sandy Barthelmas farm on Route 56. (Stevenson's ufo sighting location). We hope to make this an annual affair. Like our regular meetings, (second Thursday of the month), this skywatch is open to the public.

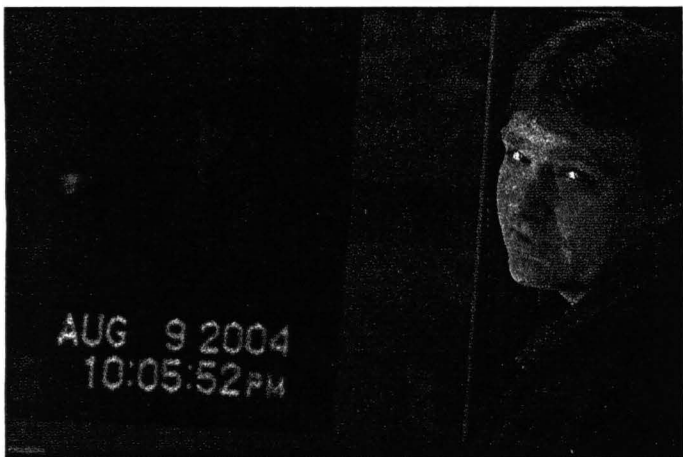
The Roundtown UFO Society had a small ufo display during this past year's Pumpkin Show. It was only for a couple of hours each day and was located on Pinckney Street. Because of the interest shown, we hope to have a bigger display and have longer hours next year.

In November a Web site was started for the society by Michael Moore. He also does the Web site for the Ashville Museum. We appreciate his effort in helping to inform the interested public. The Web address is [www.roundtownufosociety.com](http://www.roundtownufosociety.com).

If you have any questions or you would like to speak to me about this subject just phone me at 477-6252; write P.O. Box 52, Circleville, OH 43113; or e-mail me at [rufos@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rufos@columbus.rr.com).

MONITOR, Concord, NH - Feb. 3, 2005

■ ■ ■ Paul Spera is well aware of most people's attitude toward tales of extraterrestrial contact. Hollywood movies and tabloid stories about little green men don't help, he said.



Paul Spera, 36, reviews home videos yesterday that he made outside his Tilton home. The videos feature unexplained points of light that move across the sky.

DANNY GAWLOWSKI  
Monitor staff

#### TILTON

### 'I'm just looking in the sky'

Man's UFO beliefs attract plenty of earthly interest

By ALLISON STEELE  
Monitor staff

TILTON — Go ahead, call Paul Spera crazy. He's used to it. Whenever Spera talks about the lights he sees flashing and circling in the sky, most people dismiss him as a goofball. And really, Spera doesn't fault them for it. He

knows how it sounds to people who haven't seen signs of extraterrestrial life themselves. But he is sure the lights he sees aren't airplanes or satellites, and he knows there are plenty of people out there who agree with him.

"Saying you believe in it or you don't believe in it is like saying you believe in the Sears Tower," said Spera, 36, who lives in Tilton. "UFOs are real, there's no doubt about that. Now we just have to figure out what they are."

Spera, a musician and bartender who is cur-

rently unemployed, said he has been seeing UFOs for almost 20 years. Last year, he and his girlfriend started videotaping the sightings to prove it to people, and they have culled more than two hours of footage. Spera has a Web site, [www.jerrydipin.com/UFO\\_Files\\_paul\\_spera.htm](http://www.jerrydipin.com/UFO_Files_paul_spera.htm), dedicated to his observations, and he has corresponded with people from all over the world who have had similar experiences.

Last month, Spera sent a letter to the *Monitor*, telling of earthly encounters with multiple spacecrafts.

"Many people in this community have known what is happening here for years, and no matter what you do, you can't stop the truth from coming out," Spera said in the letter. "Extraterrestrial contact has been made."

Spera's letter generated tremendous interest. It was one of the most widely read items in months on the *Monitor's* Web site. Since his letter was published, Spera has heard from people who want to know more about his experiences. They often ask questions he can't answer. Why have the lights from alien craft appeared to him so many times, and why are they here? He doesn't know.

Spera is well aware of most people's attitude toward tales of extraterrestrial contact. Hollywood movies and supermarket tabloid stories about little green men don't help, he said.

But like many who describe firsthand accounts of extraterrestrials, Spera does not believe his stories will be dismissed forever. He said it's just a matter of time before the rest of the world catches up with what he and others believe.

"There's thousands of books about this, thousands of people with pictures and videos and all

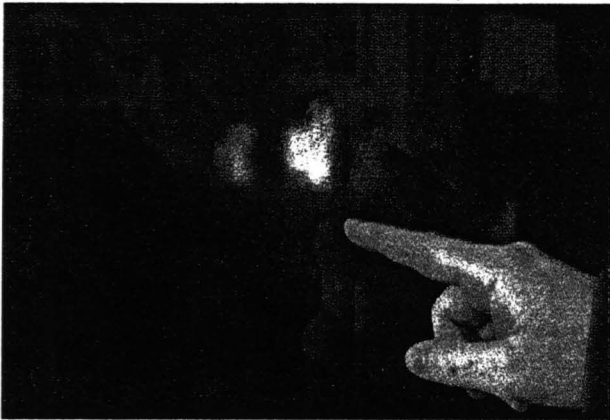
kinds of evidence," he said. "If I'm crazy, and I'm hallucinating, so is my video camera."

Spera's mother told him when he was a child about a UFO she had seen decades before. He always thought she was nuts, he said, until one night in the late 1980s when he was 18. While driving along a road he saw a triangular formation of lights blinking high above Lake Michigan in the spot where his mother had seen them long ago. The lights remained for 12 hours, he said, changing colors from green to red, and many people in the neighborhood called the police and local news outlets.

"Pretty much everybody in my family was scared except me," he said. "I was interested in finding out what it was."

Spera and his family moved to

(continued on page 2)



DANNY GAWLOWSKI / Monitor staff

aul Spera points out an unexplained pattern of light that heaped on a camcorder near his Tilton home. He thinks the lights may be from portholes lining the edge of a saucer-shaped UFO.

Pittsfield when he was 23 and opened a restaurant that he managed for several years. Shortly after moving to New Hampshire, Spera saw more unexplainable sights, most notably a red spherical light, 30 feet in diameter, that he said descended right in front of him while he was on Catamount Mountain.

When he started researching extraterrestrial sightings, he learned that North Country residents Betty and Barney Hill were among the first in the country to report contact with aliens. More research led him to sightings elsewhere in the state, and from there, he started watching the skies.

"It became more of a hobby," he said.

Spera now lives with his girlfriend, Tara Landry, and plays guitar in a blues and rock band. When he and Landry started dating about five years ago, she didn't believe his

stories. But then she had her own sighting, and now, from the backyard of their apartment, they often watch together for lights beaming from sources they can't identify.

On the videos they've made, lights can be seen darting through the sky. They circle in unpredictable patterns, flash in colors, pass behind trees and swoop around the moon and clouds. They certainly don't look like planes, but it's difficult to tell how large they are or anything else about them.

Spera wrote to the *Monitor* on a whim, not expecting the newspaper to print his letter. His distrust of the media's handling of other-worldly sightings was confirmed by the headline that appeared over his letter: "Extraterrestrials have contacted me."

Spera said he has never been personally contacted by anything. When he said in his letter that "con-

tact has been made," he meant with the planet.

"When you say contact, I think of a phone call, some direct communication," he said. "I've never talked to an alien, I've never seen an alien, I've never been on a spaceship, none of that. What I'm doing is what anyone can do: just looking in the sky."

Spera believes that more people will come around to his point of view as time goes on. But for that to happen, it will take more people coming forward as he has - accepting the certain ridicule that comes with mentioning UFOs.

"Just like anyone else, I have my own opinion, and I'm not going to force that opinion on anyone," he said. "I'm not here to make anybody believe or not believe. I don't care what people think - it makes no difference to me. It doesn't change the fact that it's the truth."

## UFO buff's library 'landing' excites fans

CR: R. Homan  
Talk to include 'explosive' details

By ALLISON PRIES  
STAFF WRITER

WALDWICK - He claims he is not a conspiracy theorist or anti-government.

But Bob VanDerClock has a lot to say when it comes to UFOs. And plenty of people want to listen.

The 58-year-old Waldwick postmaster has been researching unidentified flying objects for 12 years. He has given almost 50 lectures on the topic and has written several research papers. Tonight at 6:30, he will speak at the Waldwick Library.

More than a week before his appearance, 75 people - the maximum allowed - had pre-registered to attend.

He has "somewhat of a following," said Patty Boyd, director of the Waldwick Library.

There are at least 25 regulars who would attend almost anything VanDerClock offers, she said. That's quite a group for a small-town library where the average program draws a total of 40.

Ruth Anne Rodriguez, a 58-year-old Mahwah resident, is one such fan. She met VanDerClock about 10 years ago at a Waldwick Library lecture.

"I was so intrigued with the extent of his information," Rodriguez said of meeting the postmaster.

She and other enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating "explosive" information VanDerClock has said

he has uncovered.

"It's going to be really fascinating," she said. "So much so, he usually tells me. This time he's not telling me."

The public library doesn't always hit the mark with its presentations.

Visits from authors, for example, don't draw a crowd. "You would think they would," Boyd said. "Especially in the library, which attracts people who like to read."

But VanDerClock always packs them in.

"They believe that I have a lot of things to say and I'm not going up there to spin a lot of yarns," said the former Bergen County resident, who now lives in Monroe, N.Y. "We've joined in the search for the truth."

For VanDerClock, UFO research is a hobby. He has also spent countless hours preparing "mini-papers" on topics including the roots of rock-and-roll, Marilyn Monroe, and the 25th anniversary of the moon landing. As a kid he was "addicted" to the American space program.

He said he served as an Army intelligence agent in the Vietnam War, then came home to New Jersey and joined the Postal Service. He has a wife and two school-age children.

It was a television special that stoked his interest in UFOs. "I started digging into this, with no preconceived notions," he said.



DANIELLE P. RICHARDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UFO researcher Bob VanDerClock, who will speak tonight, has focused his studies on an alleged July 1947 crash of a spacecraft in Roswell, N.M., that UFO enthusiasts say was covered up by the federal government.

VanDerClock has focused his research on an alleged July 1947 crash of a spacecraft in Roswell, N.M., that UFO enthusiasts claim has been covered up by the federal government.

"If I was an adult in the late '40s I would have seen the only choice

[the government] had was what they did," he said. "They had this thing fall in their laps and didn't know what to do with it."

With the Cold War in full swing, "everybody was afraid of everything," he said. "At the time they probably did the right thing."

But now, he says, as a seeker of truth, it's time the real story comes out.

"Some 50 years after, I don't know if they have to keep doing this," VanDerClock said.

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## UFO lecturer speaks at Whitman

Since the age of 16, he has been investigating UFO incidents, he says.

By ANDY PORTER  
of the Union-Bulletin

The question of unidentified flying objects came in for a landing Tuesday night at Whitman College.

Robert Hastings, a self-described "independent UFO researcher," spoke to a crowd of about 100 people about what he said is an ongoing government cover-up of the phenomena.

Hastings, a tall, fair-haired man wearing a blue suit, said he became involved in UFO research in 1967 when, as a 16-year old "Air Force brat," he inadvertently witnessed air traffic controllers at an air base trying to track a group of UFOs seen hovering over nuclear missile silos.



HASTINGS

UFOs, but classifies them as

"This experience made a very deep impression on me," Hastings told his audience, and led to his career investigating UFO sightings and their significance.

Hastings told the Whitman audience that he lacked his regular array of slides, which he said "gave up the ghost" at a previous stop. But he still presented a parade of images of declassified government documents related to UFO sightings which he said were only a portion of thousands of pages of documents uncovered by researchers.

The documents, Hastings claimed, prove "our government not only accepts the existence of

a threat to national security."

However, Hastings said he was "not a missionary and I'm not seeking to convert skeptics" but simply presenting facts that he and others have uncovered to let people make up their own minds about the issue.

One veteran skeptic of the UFO scene, San Diego author Robert Sheaffer, said that from what he has read and heard of Hastings, the material presented Tuesday was not new or convincing.

"From what I've read, it really sounds like the same thing (UFO researcher Stanton) Friedman has been doing since the 1970s," Sheaffer said.

Sheaffer said UFO proponents have failed to meet the standard that "extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof."

"They really don't have

anything solid or tangible, no physical evidence of extraterrestrial craft and no clear videos" or photos of UFOs, he said.

How many in the Whitman audience were convinced or remained skeptical by Tuesday's talk was unclear, but Hastings said he wasn't interested in trying to win over converts, but simply trying to get information out.

At the close of his talk, one audience member asked Hastings, "why should we care if the government has hidden the existence of those people?"

"It's up to you to decide," he said. "I'm just fascinated with the fact the universe is majestic, and if somebody is interested in us, it's great."

Andy Porter can be reached at [aporter@ubnet.com](mailto:aporter@ubnet.com) or by calling 525-3300, ext. 282.

UNION-BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - Nov. 17, 2004

### ON THE NET

A selection of Web sites, both pro and con, with information about UFOs and links to many sources.

- [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com) — The Mutual UFO Network
- [www.fufor.com](http://www.fufor.com) — Fund for UFO Research Inc.
- [www.cufos.org](http://www.cufos.org) — Center for UFO Research
- [www.debunker.com](http://www.debunker.com) — Web page of UFO skeptic Robert Shaeffer
- [www.webfellow.com/ufos](http://www.webfellow.com/ufos) — Internet UFO Skeptics home page
- [www.csicop.org](http://www.csicop.org) — Committee for Scientific Claims of Investigation of the Paranormal



# Journalism hovers just out of reach

UFO program on ABC fuels debate in a fun way, but "reporting" may be too strong a word

By Joanne Ostrow  
Denver Post TV Critic

**T**hey hover, dart and sometimes float. They shine bright lights; they look like pie plates. Sometimes they're triangular or cigar-shaped. They can be stunningly fast and amazingly silent. Are they alien spacecraft? That might be going too far. But they are unidentified objects that fly. Cue the spooky music, roll the

vintage newsreels, and haul out the illustrations of flying saucers circa 1950.

Tonight, Peter Jennings goes in search of signs of intelligent life in the universe. It's an exploration better left to Lily Tomlin.

Seeing is believing, but it's still difficult to make out: Is this a network news investigative special report? Or is it a trick of the eye? Is it journalism? That might be going too far. But it is a primetime February sweeps puzzler.

Call it Jennings' Believe It or Not:

"Peter Jennings Reporting: UFOs — Seeing Is Believing," at 7 p.m. on KMGH-Channel 7, takes up the infotaining question of UFOs and offers fun, frivolous and occasionally fascinating fodder for debate.

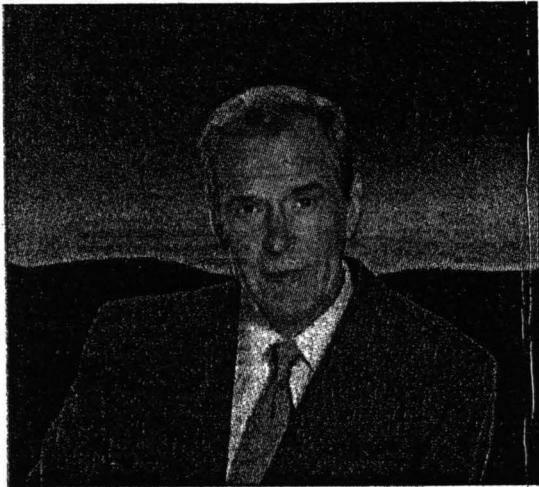
There were thousands of sightings in 1952, most alarmingly focused on Washington, D.C., Jennings tells us. In July of that year, hysterical Americans clogged the Pentagon communications system with reports of sightings. The CIA set out to discredit the phenomenon. Project Blue Book was intend-

ed to quash the subject. And then came "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "War of the Worlds."

Bring on the film clips.

Today, Jennings says, if you report a UFO to the government, you will be informed that the Air Force conducted a 22-year investigation which ended in 1969 and concluded that UFOs are not a threat to national security and are of no scientific interest.

But he quotes a theoretical physi-



ABC

Animation at times helps Peter Jennings explore the UFO phenomenon tonight at 7 on ABC.

## Witnesses recount strange lights

Editor's note: Helena's always had moments of weirdness. The following story was taken from the March 23, 1881, edition of the Helena Daily Herald.

*Ghostly Visitations!*

*Strange and Mysterious Lights in the Valley.*

*Does the Murdered Man's Spirit Visit its Old Stamping Ground?*

*Investigation to be Made by the Helena Scientific Club*

For a long time past we have frequently heard that mysterious lights have been seen moving about, of their own accord apparently, over the farm and around the house and outbuildings of the late Charles Tacke, who was murdered last fall by Peter Pelkey who was hanged here in February for the crime.

For a while, no attention was given them, but so often have people who were passing the Tacke ranch in the night saw these lights and told about them on their arrival here, that night before last a party of our citizens, who have the organ of inquisitiveness developed to a little more than the ordinary, concluded to ride down to the ranch and witness for themselves the phenomena, if such there were.

One stolid German farmer, who lives close by, and who told us his story with all gravity, and whose word we would not think of doubting, for he believes all he says, is sure he saw these lights about the time the snow began to fall. They looked like the light thrown from a red glass lantern at first, but have been growing paler and lighter in color ever since. He

has seen from one to four of an evening moving about the place, some going up as high as twenty feet and moving around in different directions, and sometimes, apparently, settling on the corners of the fence; then moving around the house, bams, corrals, etc., then finally sinking down and disappearing in an instant, leaving darkness behind. He couldn't think what it was made them do so. ...

Another farmer, who lives near, says he has seen the lights ever since the nights began to close in early last fall. We should believe this man fully if we did not know he takes a good deal too much stimulus sometimes to be a good judge of such wonderful sights as he describes, and think his imagination plays him tricks. Yet he is truthful and believes what he says.

The gentlemen of Helena who went down to satisfy their curiosity are all sober-minded, reliable men. They were a little belated on account of the bad roads, and had got off the direct track a little, and arrived there about 10 o'clock.

Two of them, who we happened to see first on their return, agreed that as they turned the corner and went into the road which led by the farm, and after riding awhile along the fence, all of a sudden they saw a large, bright light moving over the open field, somewhere from ten to forty feet above the ground; that it was

cist to leave the door open: You can't dismiss the possibility that some of these UFO sightings are actually glimpses of an object created by a civilization perhaps millions of years ahead of us in technology, he suggests.

The back and forth continues. Military pilots say they saw something, mainstream scientists categorically reject the notion. Eyewitnesses offer stories, scientists demand physical evidence.

It's come to this: The ABC News anchor interviews syndicated radio attention-getter Art Bell on the subject of "UFOlogy."

Jennings stops short of alien autopsies — that's Fox territory. And he offers scientists to deflate the stories of alien vehicles. But the footage, the eyewitnesses and the woo-woo sci-fi music serve to leave the questions hanging.

"The X-Files" has nothing on this two-hour tease.

"I see something but I don't know what the heck it is," reported a southern Illinois police officer in radio tapes from the night in question. You heard it! Actual radio reports from an actual policeman stating that he didn't know what he was seeing.

You won't know for sure what you're seeing, either, thanks to creative graphics.

"Animations of UFO sightings

by Illinois eyewitnesses are based on descriptions from the eyewitnesses who have reviewed and approved the finished animation," a network release notes. "This will be indicated at the beginning of the broadcast, and each animation included will be titled as 'animation' throughout the broadcast."

That's keeping their journalistic noses clean.

The report is billed as a study of the public's fascination with the subject, that is, you are the ones who are so keen on this, not the network. You made them do it.

Jennings, of course, is careful not to take sides in the long-running debate.

But by fronting this exercise, Jennings has taken sides in an uncomfortable way. He has thrown in with the corporate bean counters who would rather have their anchor host a two-hour prime-time marathon about UFOs during February than, say, a straightforward, in-depth analysis of Social Security.

At a time when the network is weighing the best way to dump "Nightline," serious journalism has all the appeal of a white paper on the trade deficit. UFOs are more fun.

TV critic Joanne Ostrow can be reached at 303-820-1830 or [jostrow@denverpost.com](mailto:jostrow@denverpost.com).

apparently from four to six inches in diameter and from eighteen to twenty-four inches high, the body of the light being of an orange color, occasionally flashing off rays of a greenish or sometimes of a bluish tinge; that it moved up and down over the fields slowly, and gradually sank down and vanished. They also saw two other lights moving around which looked like a lamp light surrounded by a porcelain globe, the body of the light not being visible but white, mild and distinct. ...

We have heard of no rational attempt to account for the singular lights seen. Some believe they are connected with the end of world, which Mother Shipton prophesied will take place this year.

Others say they are electric lights that have escaped from Edison's or Brush's laboratories, but they cannot see why they hang around one place so persistently. Others are sure they sent out from h- -l by the murderer to find the place where the murdered man had buried his money. Not having seen them, we pretend to give no theory.

INDEPENDENT RECORD, Helena, MT - Oct. 29, 2004

# Alienation: UFO groups clash over credibility

Paranormal center owner files police complaint accusing rival group of watching, stalking her

By JENNIE TUNKIECZ

jtunkiecz@journalsentinel.com

**Burlington** — Mary Sutherland, owner of the Burlington UFO and Paranormal Center, says she is being watched.

But it's not by little green men or even ghosts. Those kinds of close encounters she would welcome.

Sutherland thinks a human, perhaps associated with a rival UFO group in Wisconsin, is stalking her. She reported her concerns to police this week.

Burlington police are investigating the suspicious circum-

stances that have nothing to do with the increased UFO activity in the area that Sutherland says she has documented. Her downtown store features everything from alien kitsch, such as inflatable green goblins to published research on UFOs and paranormal activities.

She learned of the possible stalking when someone forwarded to her a Web link to an unidentified group that is attempting to debunk Sutherland's work and the photos on her own Web site. The group

questions why UFOs make nightly appearances over Sutherland's store, yet no one else reports such sightings.

What frightened Sutherland was the rival group's claim that "our group spent good money and hired a professional to do surveillance on Mary & the Burlington UFO every night (all night) from Jan. 22nd through Jan. 30th," according to the posting.

For a woman who looks for UFOs, who seeks out places where there has been paranormal activity and who goes looking for ghosts, the "stalker" crossed the line.



BENNY SIEW/BSIEW@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

**Mary Sutherland**, owner of the Burlington UFO and Paranormal Center, has complained to police that she suspects a rival UFO group is stalking her.

"When I read that they paid someone to be out there and watch me, that scared the heck out of me," Sutherland said Wednesday.

Then, just like a UFO in the night sky, the group's Web site disappeared Tuesday after Sutherland posted a message letting people know she had contacted police.

## Work was criticized

Jennifer Hoppe of Sheboygan, who has been associated with UFO Wisconsin, a group interested in UFO sightings

across the state, just happened to be reading Sutherland's Web site Tuesday morning when Sutherland posted the Web page that is critical of her work. Hoppe sent Sutherland an instant message suggesting she answer the group's questions. Hoppe then found her name on Sutherland's Web site.

"I had nothing to do with the accusations from the Web site," Hoppe said. "I sent her an instant message saying that those were pretty good questions and asking, 'Are you going to answer them?' Apparently, she isn't."

Hoppe and her husband ran UFO Wisconsin for three years. Part of their mission was to try to get people to take UFOs seriously, she said. But she said she can't take Sutherland's photos seriously, and she wonders why there have been no reports to police about UFO sightings. "The reason people don't take UFO research seriously is because of people like Mary," Sutherland, UFO shop owner, said. "There have been legitimate cases in the world that defy logic. What responsible, respectable professional is going to research that when people like Mary are blathering this hockey-pokey crap as the truth?"

## Burlington activity questioned

Pat Champeau, owner of Background Plus Detective Agency in Sheboygan, had participated in Sutherland's Web site, but recently asked for her contact information to be removed from the site. Champeau questioned how there can be so much alleged activity in Burlington.

"It's outlandish," Champeau said. "There are five million places to land, and it's always over her business. It's nuts."

Sutherland said she has no idea who is behind the unidentified Web site, but she challenges all of her detractors to come to Burlington and do their own research.

"I welcome anyone to come down here and take pictures," Sutherland said. "Come here at 3 a.m. and see what is lighting up the sky."

There is also a legitimate reason why people have not been calling the police about UFO sightings or paranormal activity, she said.

"I have a UFO center. Doesn't it make sense if you see a UFO to come to me? If you see paranormal activity, you don't go to the police, you would go to a paranormal center. It only makes sense," Sutherland said.

Sutherland said she has been researching UFO and paranormal activities for more than 20 years. She opened a virtual UFO and paranormal center and started hosting a Web radio show in Burlington four years ago. Last spring, she turned her collectibles and doll shop into the Burlington UFO and Paranormal Center.

The bulk of the store is devoted to research on everything from ancient races and burial mounds to UFOs. She has a library and a video viewing room to watch documentaries that she has made of people who say they have seen UFOs and who claim they have been abducted by aliens. Isn't space, the final frontier, big enough for all UFO enthusiasts?

Sutherland believes it is. "It shouldn't have to be this way," Sutherland said.

The Web site is  
www.burlingtonnews.net/  
burlington\_ufo\_center/



# MUFON BELIEVERS



JOEY BENTON/SALISBURY POST

**LECTURE:** Mutual UFO Network meeting attendees listen as Scott Ramsey presents some of his research Sunday.

## UFO group gathers to share research

By JONATHAN WEAVER  
Salisbury Post

"I believe."

Those words were conspicuously displayed below a rendering of the archetypal extra-terrestrial — rail thin with saucer eyes and an oversized egg-shaped head — at Ellis Park Sunday as about 50 people from all parts of the state gathered for the first of this year's four meetings of the N.C. Chapter of Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

The group elected officers for the year and heard from speakers such as Scott Ramsey of Mooresville, who talked about his exhaustive research on the 1948 UFO crash at Aztec, N.M.

Ramsey and his wife, Suzanne, are penning a book called "Fallen Angel, The Recovery in Hart Canyon."

George Fawcett of Lincoln, who formed the North Carolina chapter and was its first state director, said the group is "dedicated to educating the public as to what's happening in our home towns" concerning UFO activity.

His philosophy is perhaps best summed up on his address label, which reads, "The Truth is Down Here."

*"It's time we all woke up and find out we're not alone in the universe."*

GRANVILLE ANGELL  
MUFON member

MUFON-NC's purpose statement says the group strives to "provide the ultimate answer to the UFO enigma" and serves as a sounding board for those who have had close encounters "new or old" to tell their stories without "fear of ridicule or censorship."

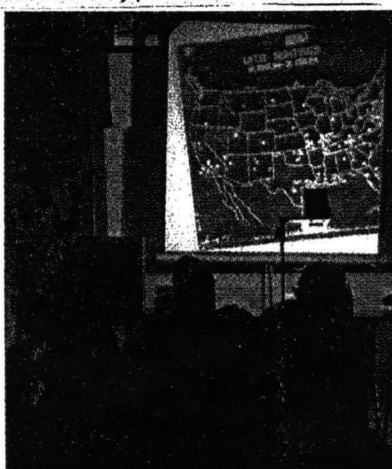
Since the age of 14, Fawcett has looked into about 3,500 reported UFO sightings, he said.

Though he couldn't recall any recent sightings in Rowan, Fawcett said MUFON received 75 reports of UFOs in North Carolina and 54 in South Carolina last year.

Fawcett, an honorary member of the Board of Directors for the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M., recently finished his second book, "Unique Studies, 1940 - 1984: Global UFO Repetitions and Human Reactions."

Fawcett was one of several MUFON-NC leaders who came to Ellis Park Sunday.

"My interest is because of personal experience," said Granville Angell, a counselor from Lincoln County. "It's time



**EVIDENCE:** Scott Ramsey presents some of the evidence he has gathered regarding a purported UFO crash near Aztec, N.M., at the MUFON meeting Sunday at Ellis Park.



**MYSTERY:** Scott Ramsey shows a projection of a 'mystery road' near Aztec, N.M., adjacent to the reported site of a UFO crash in the 1940s.

we all woke up and find out we're not alone in the universe."

Those experiences "led me to believe there was more than what the media and government tell," he said.

Angell helps with "experimenter support" with MUFON-NC, he said.

That entails talking to folks who have had experiences with UFOs, he said.

During his presentation,

Ramsey, a Rowan County resident, showed overheads of declassified documents and an excerpt from a documentary in which he was interviewed.

Ramsey has long been interested in UFOs, he said, but his research into the mysterious Aztec crash began in October 1988, while he was on a business trip to Farmington, a

New Mexico town near Aztec.

He heard some Navajos talking about going hunting near the "crash site."

So when he returned to North Carolina, Ramsey started digging.

He spent a lot of time researching in libraries. He also called other researchers, many of whom told him that the crash was a hoax and he was wasting his time.

If it was a sham, so be it, he figured. He wanted to find out on his own.

Ultimately Ramsey sifted through 2,200 declassified government documents and interviewed more than 60 people with first-, second- or third-hand knowledge of the crash.

The result: "There is no smoking gun," he said. "But there is enough evidence to show that something happened."

Witnesses have said the crash, which occurred March 25, 1948, involved a craft that was 100 feet in diameter and contained 14 to 16 bodies.

The site was found by civilians about 5 a.m. that day.

"I don't know if we'll ever find out what happened." But he vows to continue the research, he said. "We've still got a lot of work to do."

Ramsey said he became involved with the Salisbury meeting after MUFON International in Colorado contacted him to write an article for a publication.

He did, and later MUFON-NC officials invited him to Sunday's meeting.

For more information on MUFON, visit the website at [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com).

MUFON-NC's individual dues are \$10 per year, \$5 per year for those under 18. A family can join for \$15 a year.

Meetings are generally held the first Sundays of February, May, August and November at different locations.

Contact Jonathan Weaver at 704-797-4266 or [jweaver@salisburypost.com](mailto:jweaver@salisburypost.com).



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

# Uncovered at last: the sightings of strange flying objects found in Britain's 'X-Files'

BY ROBERT VERKAIR

THEY CONTAIN Britain's very own X-Files: thousands of classified documents detailing credible observations of unidentified flying objects reported by RAF personnel, British Airways pilots and senior police officers.

Now under the Freedom of Information laws, files previously held by the Ministry of Defence's special UFO department, known as SF4, are being released to the public.

Among the most credible reports of a possible visit by extraterrestrial life-forms is one made by an RAF pilot and two NCOs at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland.

In July 1977 Flt Lt A M Wood reported "bright objects hanging over the sea". The MoD document adds that the RAF officer said the closest object was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter". The UFOs were reported to be three miles out to sea at a height of about 5,000ft.

The officer, whose report is supported by Cpl Torrington and Sgt Graham, said: "The objects separated. Then one went west of the other, as it manoeuvred it changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs." The men who were positioned at the picket post at the RAF station were able to observe the strange objects for an hour and 40 minutes.

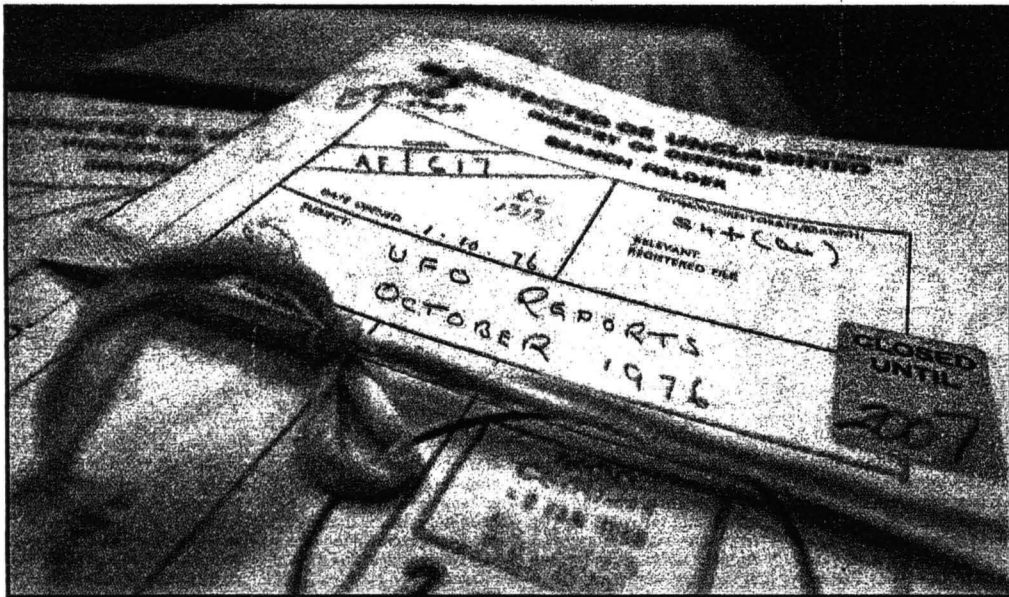
At the same time a radar station detected the objects in exactly the same position as the men had observed them. It registered them to be between 30 to 35 degrees before they disappeared from the screen.

The report describes Flt Lt Wood as "reliable and sober". It adds: "Two contacts were noted on radar, both T84 and T85, at RAF Boulmer. They were also seen on the Staxton Wold radar picture which is relayed to West Drayton... On seeing the objects on radar the duty controller checked with the SRO at RAF West Drayton as to whether he could see the objects on radar supplied from RAF Staxton Wold."

This account was deemed so sensitive to the national interest that the MoD had delayed its release for an extra three years. But under the Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on 1 January, the file has been reviewed and declassified.

Some of the other reports are equally compelling. A British Airways Tri-Star on a return flight from Portugal in July 1976 was involved in an incident which led to the scrambling of fighter jets.

The MoD report says that the Tri-Star captain reported "four objects - two round brilliant white, two cigar-shaped" 18 miles north of Faro. The captain was so alarmed by what he and the passengers had seen that he



The formerly secret reports. They are now available at the National Archive

Timothy Allen

reported the sighting to air traffic controllers at Lisbon and Heathrow. The report says that fighters were immediately scrambled from Lisbon.

Shortly afterwards another Tri-Star crew on the same flight path reported a similar unexplained sighting. This time they said there was a "bright object with two contrails" between Fatima and Faro. It remained stationary before moving north and then "changing in length".

In another incident in the same month two Tri-Star co-pilots and five of their cabin crew reported "passing underneath a bright white circular object".

The files also contain reports compiled by police officers of their first-hand experiences of observing UFOs. On 8 April 1977, Superintendent Cooper of West Yorkshire Police described a sighting while on duty in a patrol car in Laisterdyke. He said: "I looked to my right and through the side window of the car I saw a bright silver light. At first I thought this was a bright star. It was low in the sky, a long distance away... then I thought that this light was moving. The light was visible just over the rooftops of the houses on Ferndale Avenue at the junction with Hambleton Avenue."

Superintendent Cooper continued to observe the object as it moved along the rooftops until the light "suddenly vanished". He said: "The light went out and I could see nothing whatsoever in the sky where the light had been. I then contacted Operations who reported no other sightings recorded."

MoD officers working at the UFO unit have often made reference to the credibility of the person making the reports. Observations made by former ser-

vicemen appear to be taken more seriously than others. An MoD report sent from RAF Cosford on 14 July 1976 noted that the 66-year-old woman from Wolverhampton, who claimed to have seen a "white, bar-shaped" object in the night sky, was married to a retired RAF pilot but later the report added dismissively: "He did not observe anything from his seated position."

But the veracity of the reports is brought into question as soon as there is any suspicion of al-

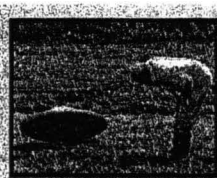
cohol influencing the observations. Several sightings between 2 and 5 September 1977 are dismissed even though the informants are adamant they saw a "pulsating bright light, emitting a vapour trail" near Derby. The file ends: "Four witnesses had been imbibing at the local hostelry and their sightings were discounted."

Scepticism creeps into the MoD reports if it emerges that it is not the first time a person has seen a UFO. Between 7 and

8 August 1976, a Rotherham man reported four sightings to his local radar station. The comment on the UFO file reads: "He evidently runs a UFO sightings club and has been logging UFOs for three years."

British UFO hunters will no doubt use these sorts of comments to help support the theory that the Government has been suppressing evidence of a visit by extraterrestrial life.

However, some of the sightings strike a rather salutary



## UFO 'SIGHTINGS'

**Chief Superintendent Hobson, Manchester Police, 3 July 3 1976**

Routine traffic patrol on A62, Manchester Road. "We watched the light for about two minutes. I then followed in a police vehicle along the A62."

**Flight Lieutenant A M Wood, Corporal Torrington, SACs Hughes, Goddard and Graham, July 1977**

RAF Boulmer: "Two bright objects hanging over the sea. As it manoeuvred object changed shape to become body shaped."

note. A white, bright light that caught the attention of a woman in Tenterden in September 1977 was immediately reported to Ashford police station and her observations duly noted.

But in the MoD file, the officers find a more mundane explanation for her experience. The officers says: "She saw a long white light in the front with a flashing red light at the rear. The informant states: 'like a jumbo jet'."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Dec. 23, 2004 CR: G. Conway

KELOWNA

## Alien encounter prompts extraterrestrial support group

A woman who says she lost an hour of her life after an encounter with aliens has started a support group for those who have experienced similar extraterrestrial abductions.

Corrina Sables said she was compelled to start the group after she and a friend had a "close encounter while star-gazing last year."

"She said when her friend first pointed out the oddity, 'I thought she was making a joke. Then the next thing she said was 'Well, wait a minute. It's changing. This thing is turning into a bright, neon-coloured and oval-shaped thing.' And at that point, I turned on the lights ahead of us just to check for animals. I thought she was still joking at this point. That's when we saw five sets of eyes."

Sables said thousands of people across the world experience similar events and they have a lot to share with each other.

Anyone wanting to join the group can contact Sables at spiritlightshaw.ca

Canadian Press

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England

Jan. 26, 2005

## 'Alien visit' reported in North-East X-Files

REPORTS of a possible visit by an alien life-form to the North-East have been revealed in Britain's version of the X-Files.

Classified documents published to comply with the Freedom of Information laws contain observations of unidentified flying objects reported by RAF personnel, airline pilots and senior police officers.

One of the most credible sightings revealed in the papers, previously held by the Ministry of Defence's UFO department SF4, is one made at RAF Boulmer, in Northumberland, in July 1977.

The documents include a sighting by Flight Lieutenant A M Wood, who reported "bright objects hanging over the sea".

Two NCOs also saw what the

RAF officer described as "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter".

The UFOs were said to be three miles out to sea at a height of about 5,000ft.

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

Men who were at the picket post at the RAF station observed the strange objects for an hour and 40 minutes.

Flt Lt Wood is described in the report as "reliable and sober", while a radar station also detected the objects in the position the men had observed them.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Feb. 4, 2005 CR: G. Conway

## SPACE CADETS

# Britain's Defence Ministry keeps an open mind about visits from aliens

Undaunted by the lack of evidence, officials at Britain's Defence Ministry are refusing to rule out the existence of alien life forms visiting Earth, the *Financial Times* reported yesterday. It quoted from a confidential letter from an official acknowledging that the ministry has recorded accounts of people claiming to have seen alien life in Britain. According to the letter, obtained under recent legislation on freedom of information, the reports are collected "solely to establish whether



what was seen might have some defence significance." While admitting "only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat," it added the ministry was "totally open-minded" about the hypothesis of alien life. Two weeks ago an anonymous caller reported seeing "strange lights" above Kent, southeast England, while another claimed to have seen a flying saucer in central England. *Agence France-Presse*



# More strange objects are being seen than ever before



■ Unclear – Royston Dean, director of the Astronomy Resource Centre, Hockley, thinks the cigar-shaped UFOs could be planes

MAIL, Oxford, England - Jan. 11, 2005

## In search of UFOs

SIR — Can any of your readers help me track down a recording of a BBC Radio Oxford programme on UFOs broadcast in 1972 following a flurry of sightings in the skies above Oxford and Banbury?

Readers who remember these events may recall that in February of that year, the BBC invited a number of Oxfordshire witnesses who had seen strange objects in the sky to take part in a studio discussion chaired by the late Desmond Wilcox in Banbury town hall.

The programme, which ended with a panel debate that included a spokesman from the Ministry of Defence, was screened on BBC2 in February 1972 as part of the *Man Alive* series.

The TV show was followed by two programmes by BBC Radio Oxford. These were broadcast on August 10, 1972 (repeated August 14) titled *In the Eye of the Beholder* (UFOs), and August 17, 1972 (repeated

August 21), titled *Unidentified Flying Objects*.

Both programmes were produced by Ricky Roebuck whom I have been unable to trace.

Although I have been able to obtain a copy of the BBCTV *Man Alive* programme, I have been unable to trace the radio programmes.

They are not among the collection of old recordings donated by Radio Oxford to the archives of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies at the Westgate Library.

I would like to hear from anyone who could provide me with a copy of the Radio Oxford broadcasts, or who took part in the *Man Alive* programme at Banbury, for a research project into the media and UFOs.

Please e-mail  
D.Clarke@sheffield.ac.uk or  
write to the address below.

DAVID CLARKE (Dr)  
292 Bole Hill Road  
Sheffield S6 5DF

SOUTHEND could be the latest hotspot for UFOs.

Seekers of the unexplained who have their telescopes trained above the estuary have noticed the number of baffling flying objects is increasing rapidly.

Meteors burning up in the atmosphere are just one of the strange phenomena people are noticing but there are plenty of other enigmatic sightings people have made over the past few months.

Mystery surrounds silver cigar-shaped objects seen in the sky.

Royston Dean, director of the Astronomy Resource Centre, in Hockley, and Mark Doulton, of the Southend UFO and Paranormal Group, are stumped when it comes to finding answers to all the questions.

Mr Dean said: "These silver cigar-shaped objects could be anything. They could be aeroplanes. It really depends on whether whoever saw them was looking through a telescope or not."

Southend searchers are not the only ones to have seen the strange cylindrical shapes.

Recent reports from Newcastle revealed motorists noticed a silver cigar shaped object above them and moments later their engines stopped.

Shining cylinders are not

■ By ISABEL GOMPERTZ

the only items exciting stargazers.

Mr Dean confided: "The number of sightings of unidentified objects has increased over the past few years, although this could just be because more people are looking."

UFO spotters with telescopes have also seen balls of white light racing through the atmosphere.

Mr Doulton said: "These balls move at an incredible

speed and they manoeuvre. They jump across the sky and change direction four or five times. Meteors and stars can't do that."

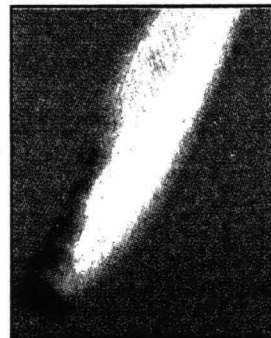
Mr Doulton is usually sceptical of UFO spotting. He believes 95 per cent of the time weird happenings in the

skies can be explained by astrological events.

However, he has his own theories about what the mystery balls of light could be.

He sites pressure building up between rocks, which can escape in a burst of energy which then rises into the sky lit up like lightning before dissipating.

Anyone spotting strange happenings in the skies above is welcome to report them on [www.southendufogroup.com](http://www.southendufogroup.com) the Southend UFO and Paranormal Group website.



■ Spotted – a UFO over the estuary

CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton,  
England - Jan. 19, 2005

# Ball of light UFO mystery

Does this picture show  
proof of life from other  
planets visiting our  
world?

The image is taken from a  
mountain of video footage and  
photographic evidence which  
show a mysterious ball of light  
hovering over Cannock Chase.  
The footage is now being  
analysed as possible proof of  
alien life, says one of the coun-  
try's leading researchers into  
unexplained phenomena.  
And the ever-growing volume  
of sightings around our local

by Michael Bradley

woodland are to feature in an  
American TV documentary  
exploring mysterious sightings,  
said Staffordshire UFO Group  
member Graham Allen.

"The lights were seen around  
Friday January 7", he told The  
Post. They were orange in  
colour. A large orange ball of  
light.  
"They were filmed and pho-  
tographed in Cannock Chase,  
Rugeley, and other areas of



Staffordshire."  
But why is the Chase such a  
constant hot-spot for sightings?  
"That's anybody's guess," said  
Graham.  
"But one reason may be  
because it is such a vast clear  
space with no light pollution."

Lights spotted the following  
morning could have a more  
down-to-earth explanation, he  
said.  
"I do still believe that these  
sightings may have been a laser  
light show, and so I am appeal-  
ing to anyone who may have  
had a home laser show on that  
evening so we can come to a con-  
clusion about the incident."  
"I am not however connecting  
the sightings in the early hours  
of the Saturday morning with  
the ball of light on Friday  
evening, and there so far has  
been no rational explanation for  
these."  
Graham is asking anyone who  
may have seen the mysterious  
glow to get in touch.  
"Did you catch the mysterious  
lights on film? Write to: The  
Post, 103-106 High Green  
Court, Newhall Street,  
Cannock, WS11 1AB."

# Aliens forced me to flee the country, says varsity lecturer

A NORTH-EAST university lec-  
turer has said he was forced to  
flee the country after he was  
plagued by UFOs he believed  
were monitoring his every  
move.

Tom Moir, 44, was just a  
teenager when he first spotted  
red lights in the sky near his  
home in the quiet Aberdeen-  
shire village of Muchalls.

That same night he claims he  
saw a strange alien-like figure in  
the middle of the road and a  
small flying machine which  
hovered above his head before  
flying off.

For the next three decades he  
said he spotted the mysterious  
lights hovering in and around  
the village, close to his home.

He was so disturbed by the  
long-running experience that he  
felt his only chance of escape  
was to move the other side of  
world to Auckland, New  
Zealand.

He said: "I had no choice in  
this. It was just something that  
happened. I wanted to get as far  
away as possible. Although the  
lights were intriguing, I did find  
them rather frightening."

"In New Zealand I haven't  
seen anything coming close to  
that. But that's not to say there's  
nothing like that here either."

He said his ordeal began on  
an isolated country road in  
December 1971 as he walked  
home from a piano lesson.

In the distance he noticed a  
red light flashing on and off,  
which he thought was a heli-  
copter. A few seconds later he  
spotted another two lights at  
either side of him and became  
suspicious. Scared by what he  
had seen, Mr Moir ran home to  
tell his older sister Alison.

He said they ran outside and  
saw one of the flying machines -



It was on a lonely country road, in the quiet village of Muchalls, that Tom Moir says he first encountered his alien visitors

which he believes was sent by a  
being from another world to  
record information - close-up.

Mr Moir added: "I didn't hear  
a thing but it went right over  
our heads. I looked up and all I  
could see was a circle of red  
lights. It hung there for about 30  
seconds. Every night of the week  
from then on the same lights  
appeared at around the same  
time. They did seem to be  
steered by some automatic ma-  
chinery or intelligence."

Mr Moir tells his extraor-

dinary story for the first time in  
the latest edition of Grampian  
TV's Beyond Explanation,  
which delves into some of Scot-  
land's most baffling mysteries.

He has kept his experiences a  
secret for years for fear of being  
labelled "just another weirdo".  
But he does have some proof.

After enduring the "surveil-  
lance" of the UFOs for many  
years Mr Moir, an electronics  
engineer with BSC and PhD  
degrees who has published  
more than 50 papers, decided to

capture the lights on video cam-  
era. "It was me doing the gath-  
ering that time, instead of  
someone gathering the infor-  
mation on me," he said.

His story has been backed up  
by experts on UFOs. Invest-  
igator Brian Allan said: "The  
guy is explaining to the best of  
his ability a very real experience  
that occurred."

"The fact that it's corrob-  
orated by other people makes it  
even more so."

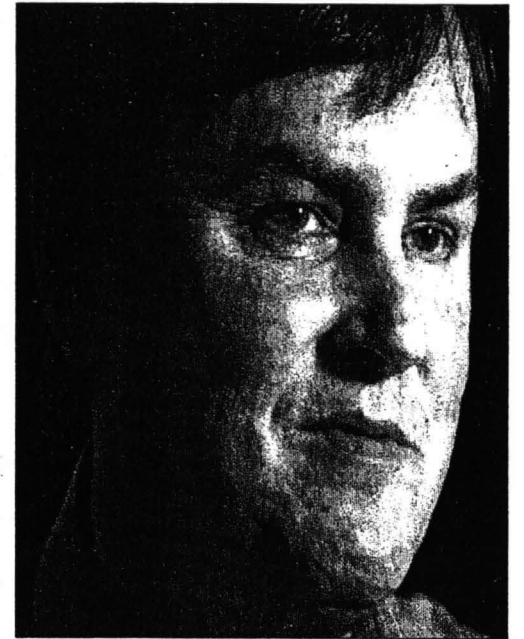
The latest episode of Beyond

Explanation, hosted by film star  
Brian Cox, also features alien  
abductee George Smith, from  
Innsch, Aberdeenshire.

He claims to have been vis-  
ited by beings from another  
world and taken aboard their  
craft numerous times.

These trips, he believes, have  
left him with "super-intelli-  
gence" and the ability to take on  
profound studies.

Mr Smith said: "This ex-  
perience has been a tremendous  
education. I have learned about



University lecturer Tom Moir claims he was driven out of  
Scotland to New Zealand by the threat of extraterrestrials

the workings of the world and  
the workings of the human  
body.

"I have also learned how to  
break down water and use the  
hydrogen and oxygen to run an  
engine. Their intelligence is far,  
far superior to what I can un-  
derstand."

But both Mr Moir and Mr  
Smith's stories, although  
accepted by UFO experts, were  
treated with scepticism by psy-  
chologist Kevin Allan.

"People who believe in para-

psychological phenomena also  
tend to have high mental im-  
agery. They may be, in effect,  
reporting things, not the way in  
which they took place, but how  
they remember them. Their  
own mind is fooling them into  
believing the event took place  
when in fact it didn't."

The latest episode of Beyond  
Explanation airs tomorrow at  
7.30pm on Grampian and Scot-  
tish TV.



# Diary

## Strange goings-on in X-Filey

GIANT flashing snakes in Selby. Bright balls of light heading in from the North Sea. Mysterious disappearing aircraft at Scarborough.

If you think this sort of stuff goes way over your head, you are absolutely right.

As our report tonight reveals, the British Government has been secretly logging UFO sightings above North Yorkshire for years.

But more worryingly, there has been a record increase in the number of strange goings on in our slice of the heavens.

Russ Kellett, a UFO investigator of some 15 years standing, told the Diary that he had logged 48 reports in the past year. That bucks a national trend where sightings have become rarer.

"We have had the biggest number of sightings on record, around Selby, Norton, Filey and Scarborough, all the way up to Cloughton and Whitby," he said.

The most recent took place near Scarborough last Tuesday night. "A gentleman was walking his dog at



Cloughton and saw 200 objects coming in from the North Sea," Russ explained. "They were whitey-yellow balls of light."

A few days earlier, on January 10, something odd was spotted above Selby. It looked "like a snake in the sky, with lights all over the bottom and top".

Back in Scarborough a flying saucer has been seen and filmed by Russ's colleague Jodie Holden. It

landed somewhere behind the McCain Stadium, but a later investigation found no trace of it.

"There's different sorts of things being seen," Russ added. One extremely odd sighting over the West Riding was captured on video. It looked like "somebody falling out of the sky," said Russ. "You are waiting for the parachute to open."

"But then you realise if it was a person falling out of the sky he would have to be 20ft tall."

That mirrors a similar sighting reported in Mexico.

Late last year the British UFO Study Group named Russ's home town of Filey as a hotspot for this sort of thing. So why the sudden increase in activity?

"If I knew that I would probably have the key to the universe. We have got no idea. It's worrying to be quite honest."

But if you are keen to see a UFO, head over to the East Coast, he says. And "just keep watching".

WHEN the Post Office Ltd first announced that seven York branches were earmarked for closure back in August 2004, the company's "head of area" David Mellows-Facer told us this: "The harsh reality is

that many urban offices are struggling to survive because there are too many branches for the amount of business."

We went back to him for a comment last October, when it was confirmed that six out of the seven were definitely to shut. What did he think?

"The harsh reality is that many urban offices are struggling to survive because there are too many branches for the amount of business."

Yesterday the axe fell on the last of the bunch, Bishopthorpe Road Post Office. What new insight could Mr Mellows-Facer shed on the issue?

You've guessed it. He said: "The harsh reality is that many urban offices are struggling to survive because there are too many branches for the amount of business."

Each time we were asking for a response to the anger and inconvenience our readers were suffering as a result of this ill-considered closure scheme. The fact that all Mr Mellows-Facer could be bothered to do is recycle the same old soundbite reveals a lot about Post Office Ltd's attitude to their customers and their communities.

Chris Titley

# 'UFOs don't exist... until you bump into one'



SPACE VISITORS: Do aliens look like this?

ENCOUNTERS with a world of aliens and flying saucers seemed that bit closer last week when thousands of previously secret official documents were released, detailing numerous UFO sightings in Britain during the Seventies.

Britain's X Files were released under the Public Record Act's 30-year rule, and a further tranche of documents were published by Suffolk Police to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, which came into force at the beginning of this year.

Some UFO investigators are hopeful that the new FOI legislation will open the way for previously classified information to enter the public domain and give more credence to the theory that there really are unidentified objects

## As secret papers emerge, Michelle Stanistreet meets survivors of some very strange encounters

traversing our skies. However, Philip Mantle, a UFO investigator and member of the British UFO Research Association, believes that the new powers do not mean the Government will now share its extraterrestrial secrets.

"Forget the Freedom of Information Act - if the powers that be want to withhold the sightings reports, there's nothing to stop them. This has happened time and time again in the US. The authorities cite national security interests and the documents are never released - and America has had the Freedom of Information Act for years. Would any government willingly admit that there are things it can't explain flying around in its skies?" says Mantle.

The new information released by Suffolk Police contained internal memos about the UFO sighting in 1980 that became known as Britain's Roswell - referring to the infamous incident in 1947 when a flying saucer is supposed to have crashed in the deserts of New Mexico. The "unusual lights" incident, in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk was witnessed by a clutch of American airmen.

They reported a strange "circular metallic craft" with glowing lights and "hieroglyphic markings".

Subsequent investigations found landing marks on the ground, burns to nearby trees and unusually high radiation levels. Airmen Larry Warren described seeing three "aeronaut entities", 3ft tall and resembling "kids in snowsuits".

But a 2003 confession by airman Kevin Conde, in which he claimed he turned a battered old car into a "spacecraft", was seized upon by sceptics as an opportunity

to debunk the sighting. The new documents deal with his confession that he drove the car round in circles in the fog, with a PA blasting and lights flashing.

However, this explanation, which discounts the fact that the American airmen apparently witnessed these strange happenings over a number of nights, does not cut any ice with many UFO investigators.

Nick Pope ran the Ministry of Defence's UFO project between 1991 and 1994. His job was

in terms of documents. There's some intriguing evidence but no definitive proof. But I'm certainly far more open to the possibility of alien life since doing the MoD UFO job, than I was before.

"The interesting thing about UFOlogy is never knowing what's going to happen next. The world's most interesting UFO encounter could be just around the corner."

For some, the existence of alien life forms is a reality, not just a possibility. James Millen first saw what he now believes were aliens at the age of eight, during the war. Walking home from cub scouts, he saw lights shining around the treetops at the top of a hill.

"Suddenly I was in a very dark place, with what I can only describe as the Seven Dwarfs, without Snow White, standing around me. Ugly things. The next thing I remember is it being pitch black and I was on my way home. When I got home all hell had broken loose. My mum and the police had been out looking for me, it was 10.30 and I had lost several hours," says James, who is now 69.

The retired landscape gardener, who lives in Putney, south-west London, had another encounter in 1990 while on a camping holiday in Dorset with his wife Pam.

"I got up at 3am and went to the toilet. On my way back to the tent I saw a bright light and about eight golden balls in the sky. I got my wife to come and see, and then I decided to get the camera. Next thing I remember is coming back to the tent, totally elated, saying: 'They've gone now'. It was 5.35am."

"I went through the classic scenario: I was in a white room, lying on a kind of bench with figures standing around me. I knew they were communicating but there

**'If someone could explain away what has happened to me, I'd say, thank God for that'**

to investigate the several hundred sightings reported each year. Pope found a logical explanation for about 95 per cent of sightings - such as balloon flights, space debris re-entering the atmosphere, aircraft or weather ships. However, he admits that this left a "hardcore of sightings that defy explanation".

Pope, who has written several books on UFOs and alien encounters, is adamant that the Rendlesham Forest incident was no hoax and that it remains Britain's most significant UFO sighting. "There's absolutely no evidence that this was a prank and every possibility that it wasn't. Numerous trained observers saw this and there's a real paper trail

## Calling ET

WAS there anybody out there?

With Sky 1 currently showing the latest TV miniseries based on extraterrestrials visiting Earth to kidnap unsuspecting humans, I have to report my own strange out-of-body experience this week.

And, as with all such encounters, I am having difficulty in getting anyone to believe me.

While driving along the A31 towards Ringwood on Tuesday evening at about 4.30pm traffic slowed to watch a strange craft pass overhead.

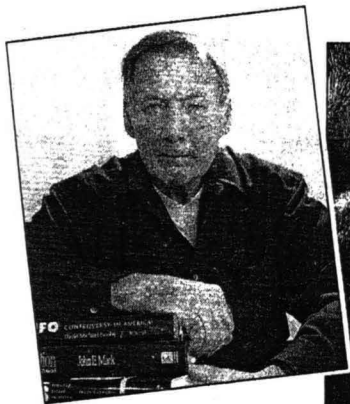
Hovering above us was a triangular-shaped aircraft with a spotlight. It was slow enough to be a helicopter but dissimilar. I mentioned it to the newsdesk here at the



paper. But, I was informed by colleagues barely concealing their smirks, checks with Southampton Airport and Hampshire police brought no reports of "strange aircraft" that late afternoon.

"Did you notice anyone looking out of it?" asked one staffer. "And were they green?"

So, if anyone has made contact with a visitor from another planet could you ask them to get in touch. I have a vacancy on the Daily Echo newsdesk they might be suitable for...



was no talking. The truth is much weirder than any sci-fi film."

James's experiences led him to become a coordinator of the Witness Support Group, that helps the thousands of people in Britain who claim to have had an alien encounter.

**S**OME places in the UK - such as Bonnybridge in Scotland - have been identified as "hot-spots" by UFO investigators.

There, 14 years ago, two men taking night photographs of the Grangemouth Petrochemical Plant, on the banks of the River Forth, saw a fast-moving craft that stopped and hovered 300ft above them. One of the men managed to get a single shot of the underside of the craft, that remains the subject of much debate today.

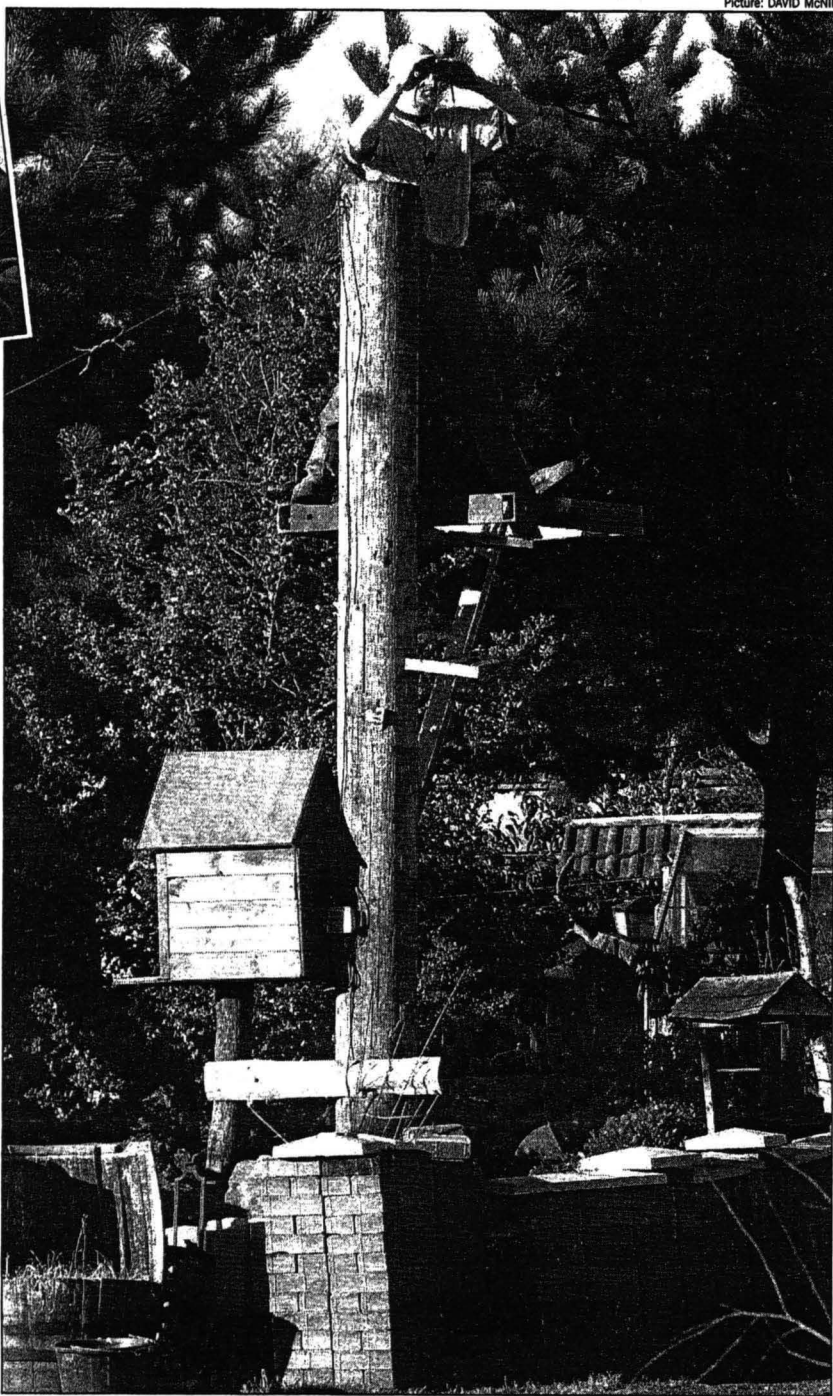
Craig Malcolm lives near Bonnybridge and is one of many residents who are convinced they have had multiple sightings of UFOs. To get a better view Craig, a 34-year-old mechanic, built a UFO viewing tower in his front garden out of a 20ft telegraph pole fitted with a platform.

"There's no shadow of a doubt in my mind that UFOs exist. I have video footage. We just have to sit in the living room and you see all sorts. The ladder gets me above street lights so the view is better."

There are many believers who are convinced that the truth is not only out there but that it has long been unearthed by governments who refuse to share their knowledge of alien life forms with the public at large.

However, for others who have survived brushes with a life beyond Earth, official acceptance of their stories is not of great significance.

"I couldn't give a damn whether people believe in UFOs or not," says James Millen. "It doesn't alter the facts. If someone could explain away what has happened to me, I'd say thank God for that. Flying saucers do not exist until you bump into one."



**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS?** Craig Malcolm scans the heavens from his 20ft UFO viewing tower in Bonnybridge, Scotland; James Millen, inset above, believes he saw aliens when he was eight

HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - Jan. 14, 2005

## In pursuit of the alien dollar

Bonnybridge has seen the future - and it involves getting its hands on a slice of what Roswell has, reveals **Beth Pearson**

IT'S not often that people are united by aliens, but that's exactly what will happen if plans to twin Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, and Roswell, New Mexico, go ahead. In early March, Billy Buchanan, councillor for Bonnybridge and deputy provost of Falkirk Council, will be leading a fact-finding mission to the US's epicentre of UFO activity and he hopes to form a long-term partnership.

"Roswell could be a catalyst for so many good things," says Buchanan, who hopes to establish cultural and educational exchanges between the towns. "I'm looking forward to the experience."

Buchanan and fellow members from the Lights of Bonnybridge Twinning Group will be accompanied by entrepreneurs who are interested in building a UFO theme park in Bonnybridge, which will help the local economy and encourage UFO tourists to visit other, historical sights in the town. Roswell attracts thousands of UFO tourists each year who want to see the site of the apparent UFO crash of 1947.

Buchanan is finalising travel

details for the trip to Roswell. There follows the initial e-mail exchange between Buchanan and Bill Owen, mayor of Roswell.

**Dear Mayor Owen,**

I am Councillor William Buchanan, the deputy provost of Falkirk Council, in Scotland, UK. The ward I represent is Bonnybridge. Once again, my area has been given the title of UFO Capital of the World. Some time ago, we spoke on worldwide radio of a proposal to enter into a twinning association with Roswell, New Mexico.

I propose, with your co-operation, to bring out to Roswell members of the Lights of Bonnybridge Twinning Group as a fact-finding mission to see if we can develop this partnership formally.

Yours faithfully,  
Cllr W F Buchanan

**Dear Councillor Buchanan,**

We would welcome a delegation from Bonnybridge coming to Roswell to discuss the twinning idea. We are proud of Roswell and know you would enjoy experiencing



its many areas of interest, including our world-famous UFO Museum and Research Center.

Sincerely,  
Bill B Owen, Mayor

**Dear Mayor Owen,**

I was delighted to receive your email response and your very positive approach to a delegation coming from Bonnybridge to Roswell. We are all excited about coming out. As we both agree, Roswell and Bonnybridge have much more to offer than just a UFO phenomenon.

Speaking to people in the community and further afield, they see this as an exciting proposal that will benefit both communities and, in its own way, benefit world peace.

Councillor W Buchanan

The exact circumstances of the Roswell Incident, as it is known, are still widely debated by ufologists. The US government and sceptics say that hot air balloons being used as part of an air force experiment crashed in bad weather, while ufologists say it was an alien spaceship. Some of those believe aliens were recovered from the scene and taken by the US government for autopsy or interrogation.

These theories, and hundreds more, have been bandied about in the 30 years since it happened and, while there has been little in the way of agreement, one certainty is that it has been great for Roswell's economy. Its UFO tourist industry is thriving and supports two UFO museums, an annual alien festival and hotels with signs that read: "Come crash with us."

The town, like Bonnybridge, accommodates both believers and sceptics but the financial benefits of being a UFO centre are enjoyed by both. Buchanan hopes that Bonnybridge will soon be able to share in this prosperity, as well as the opportunity for transatlantic understanding.

"We've more to offer than the phenomena in the skies," says Buchanan. "We're now visionaries in Bonnybridge. We have seen the future."

## MoD's alien files are out of this world

By Cathy Newman and Jean Eaglesham

The X-Files have been opened: in a victory for ufologists everywhere, the man from the ministry not only admits he has an open mind about the existence of extra-terrestrial lifeforms but also keeps a careful tally of UFO sightings.

Following a request under the Freedom of Information Act by the Financial Times, the Ministry of Defence has revealed it remains "totally open-minded" about the possibility that life exists beyond Earth.

The MoD has released a detailed log of reported unidentified flying object sightings. "Strange lights were seen in the sky" in Whitstable, Kent, just over two weeks ago - the same night a member of the public reported a "flying saucer" over Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and a "sighting" at Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

More exotic alien encounters were recorded last year. "A square red object, pinkish at the front" was spotted in Strathclyde, Ayr, on January 2; a "chewy mint shaped" object was seen in the night sky above Nelson, Lancashire, in May; and a "large black object" was identified in Rhyl, Clwyd, in February.

A diligent ufologist from Surrey gave a detailed eyewitness account in May, noting that "grooves and windows could be seen and no room for humans to fit within it". The same month "a bright, pulsing, spider-looking object" appeared at King's Lynn, Norfolk, and the MoD was even contacted by someone from Sri Lanka in March puzzled by an orange "ring doughnut".

A letter from the MoD's directorate of air staff explains that it examines all UFO sightings it receives "solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance". It adds: "Only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat."

But, in an aside that will hearten conspiracy theorists, the letter stresses that the MoD "remains totally open-minded" as to "the question of the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial lifeforms".

This approach may explain why the MoD has not always confined its work on extraterrestrials to recording sightings. In 1950, a working party set up by the MoD "to investigate the flying saucer phenomenon" reported to the joint technical intelligence committee.

The MoD letter does not detail verbatim the spy chiefs' reaction to this report on alien life forms. But they presumably decided the spooks would be better employed in the cold war - the letter states that the intelligence committee decided the working party should be dissolved.

The government also refused to back a 1978 attempt by the Grenadian delegation to the United Nations to establish an international working group to evaluate UFO reports, the letter states. "The British delegation did not think that such an agency was appropriate to the function of the UN." The MoD admitted the documents are a fraction of the thousands of records of alleged alien visits.



## Police release details of 'aliens in forest'

# A close encounter with Britain's X-files



OUT OF THIS WORLD: But are UFOs simply the work of clever hoaxers?

SECRET police details of one of Britain's most celebrated 'close encounters' with a UFO have been released under new Freedom of Information measures.

Suffolk police have placed on the internet all their internal memos relating to the 'Unusual Lights' incident in Rendlesham Forest on Boxing Day, 1980, which has since been claimed to be a hoax.

American airmen at RAF Woodbridge reported a strange 'metallic craft' with glowing lights and 'hieroglyphic markings'.

## Airmen reported 'a strange metallic craft'

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

Conspiracy theorists insist that it remains a mystery - despite the confession in 2003 by Kevin Conde, an airman at the base, that he had turned a battered American police car into a 'spacecraft' by sticking red and green lenses on it, and driving round in circles in the fog with a PA loudspeaker going and the lights flashing.

He said he was bored and wanted to play a practical joke on a friend in a

By Glen Owen

sentry box. But UFO enthusiasts claim he is 'retrospectively trying to write himself into the story'.

Suffolk Constabulary has put the documents on its website, under the Freedom of Information Act, which came into effect this month.

They include a message from the airbase to the constabulary's command desk reporting a 'sighting of some unusual lights in the sky... [we] have sent some unarmed troops to investigate, we are terming it as a UFO at present... reports received of aerial phenomena over southern England during the night'.

The following day, the desk received a second report from officers at the scene who 'found a place where a craft of some sort seems to have landed...there were three marks which did not follow a set pattern'.

In a separate move, the Ministry of Defence has released thousands of classified documents from its special UFO department, known as SF4.

They include an account, dated July 1977, from Flt Lt AM Wood, a pilot at RAF Boulmer in Northumbria, who saw 'bright objects hanging over the sea', including an object which was 'luminous, round and four to five times larger than a helicopter'.

The UFOs were said to be three miles out at a height of 5,000ft.

I and my sister watched this every night for years on end and it was not a laughing matter for us.

I also don't believe they were chasing me or her, as the sensational reports seem to suggest. What was happening was more of a "survey" of everybody in the area - house by house. Perhaps a bit like what we would do to wild animals in their habitats. We can never be 100% sure that this was extraterrestrial in origin, but it certainly must be a good contender, considering the technology at the time.

Tom Moir,  
121 Canongate Street,  
Auckland, New Zealand.

## Muchalls area UFOs

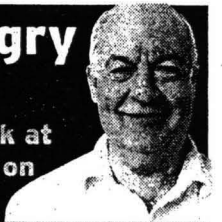
SIR, - I heard that you had coverage of the story about UFOs in the Muchalls/Cookney-Netherley area after I appeared on Grampian TV's Beyond Explanation.

I don't know where the bit that I moved to New Zealand to avoid the phenomena came from, although I find it rather amusing. I just came here for a change of lifestyle and a different job.

The interviewer did ask me this question and I denied it. The phenomena were at their peak from 1971 to about 1985.

## One angry man

A caustic look at what's going on in the world



FRED SHAWCROSS

## Here's why I believe in UFOs

**D**O you believe in UFOs? Have you ever seen one? Do you know someone who has? That might not be the most discussed topic among your family and friends but it certainly beats Celebrity Big Brother and who is doing what to whom in Emmerdale.

Those of us fascinated by, and possibly a little apprehensive about alien visitors, have read and heard details of revelations contained in Britain's X-files, the thousands of classified documents relating to reports of UFOs, recently released under the Freedom of Information laws.

The more "believable sightings" documented in the 1970s - a thinly-veiled reference to those credited to people more likely to be accepted as reliable witnesses - were reported by RAF personnel, British Airways pilots and senior police officers. These were more or less similar in that the objects first hovered, then moved at colossal speeds.

They were mostly saucer-shaped and surrounded by, or displaying, very bright lights. It is also worth mentioning that on one occasion, a sighting by RAF servicemen was supported by reports that unidentified objects had been spotted on defence radar screens.

I'm glad that these sightings of UFOs have been made official because it gives me a chance to go public on an incident which, though it happened more than 30 years ago, still causes the hairs to rise on the back of my neck.

And it is the absolute truth. I was travelling home from Park Hall, Charnock Richard, where I was a member of the resident band. It was my turn to drive, so I was alcohol-free. My two companions had had a few scoops but were by no means "bombed".

It was early morning in mid-summer. The sky was clear and with little else on the road, we were chugging along, talking amicably, when suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I became aware that there was something above my vehicle, to the right. It was round, very brightly lit and appeared motionless, as if sizing up the car. I didn't need to tell my two friends. They had spotted it and looked as scared as I was.

Being beamed up and transported to the Planet Zog without a tearful goodbye to the wife and kids, or a change of underwear, isn't a particularly enchanting prospect, though it would probably be considered a Godsend by all parties these days. However, I digress. After what seemed an eternity, but could only have been minutes, the UFO zoomed off at an incredible speed and vanished. We all saw it. The UFO could not have been imagined or an alcohol-fuelled illusion.

Those of us who believe in extra-terrestrials theorise that if men can reach the moon, and put unmanned spacecraft on planets light years from Earth, what reason is there for doubting life forms from other solar systems are dropping in to have a look at us?

They could land in Emmerdale. What an interplanetary experience that would be. A close encounter of ANY kind with the Dingle clan would be enough to abort that mission and bring a premature end to plans for a global take-over.



### Critic's choice

ALIENS: WHY THEY ARE HERE  
by Bryan Appleyard  
(Scribner, £15.99)

by Christopher Hudson

**W**HEN people thought there was life on Mars they used to be called, disparagingly, little green men. In fact they are little grey men, about four foot high, with large heads, huge bug eyes, tiny nostrils and pointed chins. And they are all around us.

Sometimes people glimpse their faces, peering out of the windows of low-flying UFOs like tour-bus passengers accelerating through a slum district.

When they actually come face to face with humans (encounters of the third kind) they lecture them gravely about the despoliation of the planet or else abduct them, under hypnosis, for medical experiments on their reproductive organs. They are also implicated in crop circles and the mutilation of livestock.

Bryan Appleyard is one of the shrewdest, most knowledgeable journalists in Britain, so you might well ask why he has devoted an entire book to a sober appraisal of creatures from outer space.

He would answer that anything which has become an article of faith for millions of people — most of them sane, ordinary, uncrankish folk — deserves the tribute of serious analysis. His question is whether the truth is Out There or in our minds.

A 1991 poll of 6,000 Americans indicated that 2 per cent of them — that is, five million people — believed they had been abducted by aliens, some repeatedly. Typically, individuals or groups will be caught in a beam of light from an Unidentified Flying Object which renders them unconscious.

Hours or days pass in a limbo. Only under hypnotic regression do they recall lying down, unable to move, while experiments are done on their bodies and samples of their skin, blood, semen or saliva are taken. Abduction researchers suggest that the aliens may have a breeding programme to produce alien-human hybrids.

But Appleyard points out that abduction on this scale would mean hundreds of flying saucers zooming up and down all the time, collecting people. And as the Nobel prize-winning nuclear scientist

Enrico Fermi said: 'If there are extraterrestrials, where are they?'

Apart from one fairly modest UFO happening in Suffolk, alien encounters have nearly all been in the U.S., a country which is busy reinventing the angels and daemons of the Middle Ages.

The prophet Ezekiel and Alexander the Great apparently saw UFOs, but the alien invasion really began in 1947 with the alien ship that crash-landed on the Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico.

It went instantly into history, triggering thousands of flying saucer sightings within weeks and prompting the U.S. government to set up the first of several official investigations, all of which drew a

blank. The official response to Roswell — that it was an experimental high-altitude balloon device to monitor Soviet nuclear tests — is still dismissed as a government cover-up.

Meanwhile, TV series such as Star Trek and X-Files, and science fiction films from The Day The Earth Stood Still to Men In Black, continue to implant themselves in the American consciousness.

Appleyard identifies three responses towards aliens — from 'nuts and boltists' who believe aliens are for real, sceptics who take the 'psychosocial' view that the true believers are deluded souls compensating for the lack of a spiritual dimension in their lives,

and 'third realmers' who conclude that they exist as projections of our unconscious.

His empathy with the nuts-and-boltists is persuasive — how can any of us deny the 'truth' of an experience which has changed individuals' lives?

Yet human suggestibility is limitless. In a fascinating passage, Appleyard puts himself under hypnosis, like those people wishing to validate their encounters with aliens.

**A**SKED by the hypnotist simply to describe his special place, and then see if it had changed at all, Appleyard 'saw' his Norfolk house then noticed a fiery glow which resolved into a flying saucer.

This wasn't a thought but a reality, as immediate to him as the hypnotist's office. Yet the man hadn't prompted him, unlike some of the hypnotists recovering abduction memories in the U.S..

There is a not uncommon state called Awareness Sleep Paralysis in which the sleeper wakes, paralysed, and is terrified to discover the presence of another being in the room, perhaps a spirit from another world, an incubus.

This state could account for many alien experiences. Perhaps more telling, for the literal-minded, is the law of physics which makes it impossible to travel faster than the speed of light, thus giving even the most scientifically advanced alien a journey of hundreds or thousands of years.

Alternatively, of course, extraterrestrials may be so utterly different from us that our brains cannot comprehend them. My money goes with Douglas Adams, who in The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy concludes that alien life is a super-intelligent shade of the colour blue.



Out of this world: In the movie Men In Black, above, aliens had already moved to Earth

# Are there really little green men?

STAR, Shropshire, England - Jan. 19, 2005

## County baffled by beam of light

People in Shropshire today revealed how were they were left stunned by a "massive beam of light" which lit up the sky.

The light was first reported at Nedgehill, Telford, at 6.40am yesterday by Sue Oliver, 37, of Briarwood, Brookside — but now others have also reported seeing the same beam.

Geoff Hall, who lives near Church Stretton, was walk-

ing his dog, Meg, at Woolston also at 6.40am yesterday when he saw the UFO-like light.

He said he looked up into the sky but the beam disappeared almost immediately.

Mr Hall said: "The flash was so bright that I thought it might have been an aircraft exploding. I wondered what it was but I've been unable to come up with an explanation."

Geoffrey Ellis, 59, of Nightingale Way, Leegomery, was driving his van at the same time on the A442 towards Telford town centre when he saw the "beam".

Mr Ellis said: "I don't know if I think it was a UFO but I've got an open mind but there was certainly something up there."

Bus driver and keen astronomer Vincent Adams, of Smallwood, Sutton Hill, saw the eerie lights as he

worked on the early shift in Wellington at about 6.40am. He said he thought a "fireball" had swept across the sky, disappearing as it hit the earth's atmosphere.

The Meteorological Office said the flash was unlikely to have been caused by the Northern Lights.



# TRANSLATIONS

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

February 6, 2005 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — STRANGE IMPRESSIONS FOUND ON CERRO PARAPENTE — \*\*\*Found by a teacher hiking through the hills\*\*\* — A strange cylindrical impression measuring approximately 4.25 meters in diameter was found at the summit of one of the hills adjacent to the San Bernardo. This is the one known as Cerro Parapente ("Hang Glider Hill") because it was customarily used by practitioners of the sport. It is also the western limit of the "Martin Miguel de Guemes" raceway.

The hill stands approximately 1200 meters high and lacks vehicular access, since the road constructed by an association of hang glider enthusiasts has fallen into disrepair.

The find was made by primary school instructor Omar Ruiz, 48, and his son Armando, 13, who had ascended the hill to practice sports.

Ruiz teaches at the "De La Patria" school in the distant community of Los Toldos and spent the last day of his vacation in Salta, since he is returning to work tomorrow.

"I was startled to see those strange prints, almost a perfect circle," he said. "But I was more startled by the curious drawings," stressed the educator after making his discovery known to *El Tribuno*. A team of reporters was immediately sent to the site.

A reporter and a photographer ascended the hill in the company of Ruiz elder and junior, attesting to the veracity of their report: the mark was on the hard, rocky summit of the hill, which is flat and chosen for that reason as a takeoff point for hang glider pilots—a perfect circle that left three types of grooves at different depths, a continuous inscription of notches equidistant to each other and in a diagonal position, similar to the drawings on certain types of special vehicles.

But that wasn't all. At the center of the shape was a rhomboidal form with a curious formation of straight lines, pressured into the rocky surface. Some salient rocks could be seen around the circumference, showing signs of having been polished by the effect of powerful friction.

A tourist from Santiago, vacationing with a large group of relatives who were engaged in rock climbing, reached the summit along with the *El Tribuno* team and the imprint's discoverers. They all expressed their amazement. "I don't know what could have made those marks. It's the weirdest thing I've ever seen," said businessman Marcelo Ruiz, absorbed in contemplation of the peculiar inscriptions. — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas

February 11, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — Strange Phenomena in Mar del Plata — Christian Quintero writes: "In spite of the fact that the print media seems to have chosen to ignore the case, several television channels have been reporting—for a number of days now-- the strange events taking place in the city of Mar del Plata (Buenos Aires province). National stations like America 2 (La Plata) and Canal 9 (Buenos Aires) and some cable channels like Cronica TV are reporting on strange impressions that have appeared in the soil of this beach resort community.

The various reports suggest that the initial events took place in the early hours of Monday (02.07.05) at the "El Paraiso" sector of Sierra de los Padres, some 20 km away from downtown Mar del Plata (for those lacking firsthand knowledge of the site, it can be described as an undeveloped area filled with orchards and farms). Around midnight Sunday or early morning on Monday, some residents noticed that dogs and farm animals were exhibiting an unusually high state of nervousness, howling and braying as though aware of a strange presence.

Romelio Tapia, a local resident, reports hearing a strange noise around 2 am, "similar to that of a strong wind or turbine," and he raised the blinds in his bedroom to see what was going on. At that time he noticed a pair of yellowish lights--similar to mercury vapor lamps--floating above the top of a copse not far from his home. Tapia estimates that the lights were some 3-4 meters above the ground. The lights seemed diffused, as though surrounded by a mist, and rose into the air until they vanished. This information is corroborated by other local residents, like Mrs. Carmen Aranga.

Upon examining the terrain at first light, locals discovered that two strange circular marks of equal diameter (some meters) had appeared at the Tapia Farm. Upon closer examination, they ascertained that it was some kind of ash that left a greasy black residue upon contact with the skin.

After the corresponding report to the local authorities, elements of the forensic police arrived at the site to collect samples of the ash and the grass, but they subsequently decided to remove the entirety of the affected property, leaving it utterly bare.

It is interesting to note that in the days prior to the incident, the daughter of one of the residents suffered nightmares in which a luminous object "was after her." Upon awakening, she would make drawings of the object, which showed a typical saucer-shape with a central dome and legs, in some cases. This story was shared with trustworthy individuals days before the imprints appeared.

After this case became public knowledge, it was learned that marks on the grass had also appeared elsewhere in the city. On this time it involved a business establishment located on Route 88, some 10 km from the Tapia Farm. No lights or sounds were reported in this case, since the facility is closed at night, but at least 10 marks were found the following day, featuring the same type of greyish ash. Unlike the event at Sierra de los Padres, the circles were only marked in their outline and several of them were not completely finished. For this reason they more closely resembled the phenomenon known as "fairy rings." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

February 11, 2005 — *La Capital*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — ARGENTINA: MYSTERY PRINTS FOUND AT INDUSTRIAL PARK — More circles on grass were found at a potato processing plant on Route 88. The circle is completely closed and is monitored. No explanation for this strange phenomenon has been found.

Mysterious circular marks were found yesterday on the grass in several local areas, similar to the ones found at "El Paraiso" at the 20 km marker of Route 226.

This time, one of the cases -- linked by many with UFO sightings -- took place at the Fernandez Hermanos potato processing plant, located on Rt. 88 and Hernandarias, some 6 km away from El Paraiso.

The discovery was made on Wednesday morning, but was reported yesterday by company managers.

"While it did seem something strange to us, we gave it little importance. When we read in the papers that

something similar had happened on Route 226 we reported the case," explained a company employee to *La Capital*.

The circles at the Fernandez Hermanos plant were allegedly created between Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, at the same time that an identical phenomenon took place on Route 226.

This time the marks -- around 10 in number -- appeared in a broad lot in the middle of the establishment, next to a greenhouse and a truck loading and unloading area.

The premises are fenced in and monitored, thus dismissing the possibility that a stranger could have broken in during the night.

One of the first to become aware of the situation was Hugo Giovannangelo, who performs maintenance duties at the company. "I arrived at 7 a.m. and when I went out to the lot, I saw some very strange rings. I was accompanied by a co-worker, with whom I jested that UFOs might be involved."

According to management, no activity was carried out in that part of the premises which could account for the strange phenomenon. "We only mow the grass there. No chemical products are dumped there and trucks aren't allowed to park on it."

Giovannangelo was startled by another fact. He stated that the guard dog on the premises was "very nervous and aggressive" when he went to feed it.

Oddly enough, at El Paraiso, where a local resident claimed having seen a light in the night, something similar happened to the animals. "We couldn't sleep all night because the dogs were restless and the pigs were squealing," said one woman.

There were no witnesses on hand to explain what happened Wednesday morning in the case recorded in the potato plant. All of the personnel left Tuesday at 22:30 after having eaten a meal. Only a watchman was left on site, who claims having seen nothing at all.

Company management was trying to locate a trucker who slept aboard his vehicle during the time at which the marks were created, but could not locate him. Should the driver have been awake at the time, he would have clearly seen what caused the impressions, since his vehicle was parked only meters away. "But the man loaded up, went off to Rosario, and we still haven't found him."

Phytopathologist Alberto Escande of the School of Agricultural Science and the INTA took photos of the grass to analyze them at his lab in Balcarce.

Escande, who has a broad knowledge of grass illnesses, did not conceal his astonishment. He explained that the grass "shows no signs of being burned," but rather shows some kind of dust on its surface, similar to a fungus. But what has intrigued the researcher was the way in which the marks were distributed -- in the shape of rings -- and the fact that the phenomenon has affected all grasses equally. "Generally, fungi affect a single species, and in this case, we can see that even clovers and weeds are affected. However, no explanation can be put forth until a lab analysis has been performed," he said. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

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February 14, 2005 — *Inexplicata, The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* — [Carlos A. Iurchuk, a distinguished Argentinean UFO researcher and long-time collaborator of *Inexplicata*, has sent us the following communique from Carlos Ferguson, Coordinator of the Red Argentina de Ovnilogia (RAO - Argentinean Ufology Network), regarding the apparition of the odd marks or indentations last week. Mr. Ferguson is a resident of Mar del Plata. — Scott Corrales]

The discovery of fungi in the Sierra de los Padres imprints does not invalidate the UFO alternative.

Researcher Carlos Ferguson, director of the Mar del Plata UFO Research Commission and President of the Red Argentina de Ovnilogia (RAO), has spoken out on the events made public and involving the imprints found in Sierra de los Padres and Parque Palermo, Mar del Plata, stressing the following:

Every case has a certain research time that allows for a final verdict on the event. However, according to the data received only a few hours after the events took place, it can be said with a reasonable amount of certainty that an UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT appeared in the early hours of February 8 of this year, causing at least a pair of prints at Sierra de los Padres. Furthermore, we have already received word on 10 new prints in the Route 88 area, although it is worth noting that these are not related to any UFO sighting whatsoever. Returning to the Sierra de los Padres case: the testimony of Mr. Romelio Tapia is convincing with regard to the details of what happened. This person, without being influenced or having preconceived notions, restricted himself to describing his observation.

We are then faced with a CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE 2ND KIND event: on the one hand, the witness was alerted by the fear evinced by local animals. Without Tapia's testimony, the case would be limited to the appearance of the prints themselves, which shows the relevance of his experience. He saw a luminous white sphere (the most reported in these cases). When the UFO took off, marks were left behind that usually have a similar diameter. Similar cases have already taken place in Mar del Plata and elsewhere, as our statistics will show.

1) 20 August 1965: Outskirts of Mar del Plata = Burn mark.

2) 14 June 1968: El Boqueron = Burn mark.

3) July/ August 1968: Parque Camet = Re-greening mark.

4) 2 March 1973: Golf Club MDP = 30 charring marks and residue in the form of greyish dust.

5) 6 January 1985: Mundialista Area = circle measuring 4.20 meters with greyish dust.

6) 26 February 1987: SMATA campground = Circular and semi-circular dehydration marks.

7) 3 March 1987: As above.

8) October 1988: Santa Clara del Mar = One 5 meter diam. burn mark.

9) March 1989: En Playa Dorada = One 14 meter diam. dehydration mark.

10) October 1989: Santa Clara del Mar = One 4.70 meter diam. dehydration mark.

11) February 1990: Caisamar = 1 print measuring 5 m./diam. with greyish dust.

12) February 1990: Sierra de los Padres = 2 circles, one measuring 4m and another 2 in, containing a sort of greyish dust and fungi.

13) February 1990: Port = 2 circles (One measuring 5 meters/diameter and smaller one) of greyish dust.

14) 8 February 2005: Sierra de los Padres.

15) 8 February 2005: Parque Palermo.

Generally speaking, some scorching, dehydration and a fine greyish dust have been found in these prints. The residues are usually found among some very small fungi. Some are already saying that if fungi are found in the Sierra de los Padres case, the case would be invalidated. Nothing could be further from the truth. These microscopic fungi are generated by something that activates them externally, adding to this the temperature present in the area (high humidity). But this would not invalidate at all the report on the presence of a UFO, which, as we know, possesses electromagnetic energy that could well have been the source of these prints.

This has nothing at all to do with another type of ground mark that UFO researchers know very well, and which are known as FAIRY RINGS. These are indeed a mere disease that occurs in the fields and have



nothing to do with UFO prints, but fairy rings are not present in the Sierra de los Padres case.

In summary: We have not had ground marks of this sort in Mar del Plata since 1990 (at least publicly known). On the other hand, the "Pearl of the Atlantic" has a long history of UFO cases, ranking it 5th among Argentinean locales. We cannot make predictions, since it isn't an objective way of dealing with the situation. One thing is certain: according to the statistics in our files, and according to the phenomenon's activity over the past two years, we could be facing an intensification of UFO activity in this region.

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February 21, 2005 — *El Llanhuique*, Puerto Montt, Chile — UFO FLEET OVER HORNOPIREN — Eyewitnesses saw UFO flying over Cerro Hornopiren for over 60 seconds — Around 15:00 hours Walter Jara and his cousin Luis Aguilar saw a UFO for over a minute over Cerro Hornopiren. According to Jara's account, the UFO flew over the summit before his startled eyes, and a few seconds later, he gathered his wits and managed to take a digital photo of the object.

Jara said that at the moment of the photograph, he was not aware of the flying objects that flew over the perimeter vertically. He was surprised a few minutes later. At first, he thought that it could have been a spot on the camera lens.

But after keeping the UFO in sight for 60 seconds, his perception and that of his cousin were changed.

According to his story, the flying saucers were not visible in plain sight. However, when he zoomed the camera lens, he was able to see them clearly. It was a moment of wonder and amazement, said Jara. "The day was clear and cloudless. The object oscillated vertically in the sky. I don't think it was a bird because they move differently."

He added that the UFO was grey in color and oval-shaped.

Jara's friend Fernando Garces said that his family lives in Hornopiren and has never seen any object with the characteristics mentioned by Walter Jara. The Meteorology Office attached to Puerto Montt's Tepual Airport discarded the possibility that weather balloons could be involved, since these are launched at 8:00 and fly over the area for a maximum time of 2 hours. According to weather official Gaston Munoz, by eleven o'clock the balloons have burst. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

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March 1, 2005 — *CIUFOSLAPAMPA*, Argentina — Strange Circles in 9 de Julio — On January 27, 2005, at the "9 de Julio" Air Club, strange circular marks were detected on the runway grass. Jorge Marcelo Ayram, the person in charge of the club, discovered the odd imprints while mowing the runway apron.

Upon being consulted about the origin of the circles, he pointed out that his watchdog had been restless on the previous evening, disturbed and howling, prompting her owner to get up to check on her. The time was 0200 hours and Ayram, by now standing next to his dog, saw a strange light toward the front of the air station. At first he believed it was the full moon, when the size of the phenomenon and its sudden disappearance caused him to think otherwise.

On February 18, researchers from *CIUFOSLAPAMPA* discovered that three circles -- aligned with each other and aimed northward -- were on the surface. The first measured some 80 cm in diameter, the second 1.30 meters in diameter, and the third some 10 - 12 meters in diameter.

The outline traced by the circles shows dark green grass which contrasts visibly with the surrounding growth. — CREDIT: Raul Chavez, *CIUFOSLAPAMPA*

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March 2, 2005 — *CIUFOSLAMPAMPA*, Argentina — Strange Lagoon Entity Reported — Two women walking around the edge of the "Don Tomas" Lagoon in the western side of Santa Rosa, La Pampa reported seeing a strange creature on March 2, 2005.

Upon being interviewed, the witnesses -- described as respected, eminently credible individuals -- explained that they had seen "...an aquatic animal resembling a reptile, not an ophidian, measuring approximately a meter and a half long and of considerable size" for a matter of minutes.

This sensational event occurred during early morning hours at one of the lagoon's reaches, specifically located on its northern shore, by the "Republica de los Ninos" complex.

The circumstance becomes even stranger when the sector in question, of smaller size, represents only a fraction of the lagoon, more aptly described as a marshland and a bird sanctuary. The news was echoed by the local media and the witnesses requested that their identities be kept strictly confidential.

[TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: Santa Rosa is famous for its UFO-related events and the still-unexplained draining of a number of swimming and wading pools in the summer of 2002.] — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

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March 2, 2005 — *El Litoral*, Santa Fe, Argentina — WITH THE DEVIL AT THE WINDOW — Commotion in Barrio San Lorenzo over accounts of a ghostly entity — Residents of Santa Fe neighborhoods like Centenario and San Lorenzo are in an uproar over the insistent stories concerning the appearance of a ghostly entity.

It is for this reason that many--at nightfall--lock themselves and bolt the door. In all fairness, it must also be said that others pluck up their courage and go out in search of the ghost, armed with sticks, machetes and dark intentions.

This same scene has repeated itself day after day over the past two weeks, but last night's chapter was, without a doubt, the one that reached the greatest dramatic intensity.

Until yesterday, the mysterious entity only leaped from one rooftop to another and vanished as quickly as it had appeared. Last night was different: it dared invade a family home.

Around 22:00 hours, Elsa let out a scream that was heard all along Entre Rios Street and gave everyone goosebumps -- so much that even the hardened boys of the El Pasillo gang were alarmed.

Elsa, a hairstylist whose salon is located in the heart of San Lorenzo, took to the street --surrounded by nephews--to tell anyone willing to listen that while she bathed the youngest one, the ghost pressed its face against the bathroom window, showing its claws menacingly and fixing a menacing stare on her.

Everyone remained in suspense after this new story, but immediately, those who were standing guard appeared in vast numbers, wielding heavy clubs, sharp machetes, stilettos, penknives and even humble kitchen knives.

Thus armed and willing to settle the score, they went out after the apparition while various police patrols reached the site with the intention of avoiding a possible lynching or a tragic mistake among the vigilantes themselves.

That's when we heard, amidst the tumult, some frightening stories. Ruben agreed with Elsa when she said that the phantom has red eyes like fire and added that the horrifying personage dresses in black from head to toe.

Ruben also said -- while everyone around him nodded -- that the character being sought is a tall man with a long, wavy mane of hair. Aside from that, our interviewee swore having seen it together with other neighbors -- as it escaped from Elsa's house, leaping from rooftop to rooftop.

"How do you explain," he replied to a question we asked, "how this guy can climb a smooth wall six meters tall? How can you explain that it can leap across the street in a single bound, like it crossed Entre Rios street tonight, unless it was the Devil himself?"

When a respectful silence had settled around Ruben -- a silence that would only be interrupted by the appearance of a police officer, who asked in turn: "How can you explain how we couldn't catch him, when we shot him three times and hit him twice?"

Believe it or bust. But the mystery, the night watch and the risk of a fatal mistake were still latent in the southern area neighborhoods when we returned to the newsroom. To tell the truth, where and when the next chapter will be written is something we still do not know. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

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March 4, 2005 — *www.infobae.com* — ARGENTINA: A Mysterious Character Harasses Santa Fe Residents — Local residents say it jumps from house to house, is dressed in black and has red eyes. After hundreds of complaints, police are looking for it. Listen to the Sheriff's story on Radio 10.

Santa Fe is jumping. Residents of the southern area are frightened by the appearance of a strange entity they've dubbed "the rooftop madman" and who -- according to their accounts -- leaps from roof to roof engaging in acrobatics.

Witness claim it stands two meters tall, is entirely clad in black and wears a balaclava; it sports a cape and its eyes shine red according to the information received by researchers. This character is able to cross the streets by leaping from one rooftop to the next, taking acrobatic leaps that can be of up to five meters high and ten meters long.

"He looks like the cat man," say some locals. "His outline is barely visible, his figure. He never showed his face, but they say they've seen his eyes and that they have a reddish cast."

In an interview with Radio 10, Sheriff Gabriel Legstra acknowledged that "there is a widespread psychosis. In recent days we have received hundreds of reports at our radio command center."

"On Tuesday I dispatched 18 units to assuage people's fears. But ultimately there is no other crime than trespassing here. The character goes from one roof to the next, appears inside a house, has pressed his face against a window, but hasn't attacked anyone."

The psychosis is growing among residents of southern Santa Fe in spite of having never been attacked. Police confirm that in recent days calls have multiplied, reporting a man leaping from one rooftop to the next "like a madman."

According to *La Capital*, he first appeared in Barrio Centenario, only meters from the Colon Stadium, but they say he was seen closer to town, such as in El Arenal, San Lorenzo, Chalet and Santa Rosa de Lima. This is the area most affected by the 2003 floods.

In any event, despite the intense combing of the area by dozens of officers, police were unable to find the character, but advised the public to remain calm, since there are reports within the force that some local residents directly tried to shoot the entity to death.

Mystery grew when several witnesses said that "bullets won't do anything to it. Its eyes gleam red when it mocks those who try to hunt it."

A resident of El Arenal claimed having fired 17 times against it without bullets having the least effect, while the ghost did nothing but provoke it, howl like a beast or cry like a child, making dance steps on the rooftops over which it treads like a cat.

"People are afraid of being attacked, beaten and robbed by this man. They fear he will break into their property and are defending themselves," say those in Regional Unit 1, who in turn describe the locals as "expectant and armed with knives and sticks."

Most locals describe a being that appears to have sprung from a comic book: large in stature, who not only wanders the rooftops, but also crosses the streets in a single bound and can climb smooth walls up to six meters high. "It's the Devil," say the bolder or more imaginative ones.

Sheriff Legstra said a woman told him that "the entity pointed at her with its finger and left her paralyzed."

Another local woman said that last Monday, during an intense rain, the phantom managed to jam the car doors of a vehicle with seven passengers aboard, who were armed and ready to hunt it down, in spite of police warnings. Others decided to stand guard 24 hours by the doors to their homes, armed and vigilant. But it has not been possible to capture it up to now.

Residents of the southern section interrupted traffic, demanding greater lighting for the area, since many are afraid to leave their homes alone. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

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March 5, 2005 — *Puerto Rico Research Group (PRRG)* — Route 303 Proclaimed "Extraterrestrial Highway" — [TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: Since UFO activity began in earnest in Southwestern Puerto Rico in 1987 with the debate of the alleged UFO base under Laguna Cartagena, Route 303 has played a significant role as a site for UFO sightings and alleged alien abductions. After many years of efforts, members of PRRG have managed to secure recognition for this two-lane highway as an "Extraterrestrial Highway". The following communique was received earlier today from Jose Martinez Echevarria of PRRG]:

Greetings to all. We are pleased to announce the news that PR Route 303, running from Lajas to Cabo Rojo, has been proclaimed an Extraterrestrial Highway.

This highway is known to many researchers in Puerto Rico for the number of accounts it has yielded, ranging from UFO sightings to alien encounters. It is a lonely road lacking any kind of electric lighting and the site where the notorious Lajas Aerostat (radar balloon) is located, allegedly to intercept the entry of narcotics into the island, although no public information or statement about the balloon's true purpose has ever been provided. The Mayor of the city of Lajas has been very concerned due to the fact that this military radar facility has never given him any information whatsoever regarding the capture or seizure of drugs in the area.

This effort, initiated by the PUERTO RICAN RESEARCH GROUP, represents the start of a world-class distinction for a road that was famous for the nocturnal vigils that took place along it and which ended with the UFO camp-outs headed by Prof. Reinaldo Rios.

The celebration will be held in Monte Indio, Sierra Bermeja, Route 303, Km 7 Hm 8 in the city of Lajas on Saturday, April 9, 2005, from 6:00 pm onward. Mayor Marcos Irizarry will be invited to present said official document, as he is the signer of the proclamation. There will be festivities and everyone is invited to attend. The highway shall be marked with the natural emblem symbolizing this achievement.

WILLIE DURAND URBINA (DIRECTOR), REINALDO RIOS AYALA (PANELIST), JOSE MARTINEZ ECHEVARRIA (FIELD RESEARCHER), JUAN A. LOPEZ AGOSTO (LOGISTICS CONSULTANT), WILFREDO VELEZ (ELECTRICAL ENGINEER), THOMAS BUERGO CAEZ (CHEMICAL ENGINEER), BENNY ROLDAN (PARANORMAL CONSULTANT), WHIGNBERTO CARDONA (FIELD RESEARCHER), CARMEN MARTINEZ (PARANORMAL CONSULTANT), JUAN S. VELEZ SANTOS, (FIELD RESEARCHER) — CREDIT: Jose Martinez E.





## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

### Our Mountains Not High, but...

So blue were the Blues this morning! So well were they named.

The nearby Blue Mountains have always held interest, though, and will always be that way to so many, both newcomers and oldies of the region.

That interest was there for the first people, the Native Americans, who trod the hills from one point to another, following game and ripening forage to survive.

The interest was there for the fur trappers, followed by the missionaries and then the settlers, all seeking something the mountains held.

The list of seekers must include myself, a journeyman of the creases and peaks of land in the Blues, ever since I came to Walla Walla country back in 1951. To "find things," I took to the trails by foot, horseback and trail bike. The result was stories and tales which now amount to hundreds.

In those searchings for my readers, a major source interest has been the elusive Sasquatch, that long-haired creature the first people have had in their lore for centuries. I got my first taste in 1966 when the prime Bigfoot tracker of them all, Roger Patterson of Yakima, came here to investigate a recent report of huge human footprints on the Mill Creek Road. The interest went from there and blossomed into a couple of books following the 1982 up-close sighting of one of the creatures by the late Paul Freeman.

Interest in Bigfoots in the Blues continues and there is a recent report I must relay. This came from the main tracker of Walla Walla today, Brian Smith. He relayed a report he had of many big tracks in 18 inches of snow Nov. 27 at Bone Springs. This is a point on the Kendall Skyline Drive (a forest service road from Tollgate to Dayton) and located some 12 road miles north of Tollgate.

Smith said the people who saw the tracks said they were like human footprints, but 18 to 20 inches in length, and

"coming out of the trees at Bone Spring and heading on down into the South Fork Walla Walla River going as far as the eye could see."

Well, this is yet another story of winter sightings of Bigfoot tracks in the snow, which seemingly would refute beliefs the thing hibernates like a bear. Sounds like recent snow storms at high elevations of the Blues were sending this one to lower points in search of sustenance.

But, as I said above, many people have headed into the Blues in search of something or another. In the fall, thousands of elk hunters head into the higher places in search of this favored quarry. Some are successful, most are not and some have turned up missing.

Such was the case recently in the Tillamook, Ore., area where the mountains are thick with a trees and deep crevasses, a hunter has disappeared and has not been found in spite of diligent searches in the two weeks or so since his dropping off the face of this earth.

This case reminds me of one of the mysteries of our Blues, an account of what is probably the best-known disappearance incident, put together by my predecessor at the UB, the late A. W. (Nellie) Nelson, back in the 1930s when he first began as roving reporter for the paper.

In January, 1896, Dave Woodward was operating a toll road between the Grande Ronde and Walla Walla valleys, which crossed the Blues at the point now known as Tollgate, Nelson penned. Langdon Lake now covers the meadow where Woodward had his gate and toll collection point for those using the only road, of any kind at that time, in the mountains.

Nelson's account follows:

"One stormy morning, Jan. 30, 1896, it was, he began the ascent from Elgin to Tollgate with a hand sled loaded with provisions he had purchased in Elgin. Men now living (1930s) helped him load up, watched him leave town against their warnings that the brewing storm might be dangerous to his safety. From that hour all

trace has been lost. He is among the army of missing men. Poses, some of who now live at Milton, later found Woodward's broken snow shoes at Spout Springs, not far from Woodward's cabin, but nothing else.

"Likely every square rod of land around Spout Springs was carefully combed in succeeding years. Stockmen, hunters have since been over the land year after year but not as much as single clue that might prove the fate of the Tollgate pioneer has ever been uncovered. He had an axe with him; steel runners on his sled; the canned goods and his shovel have not been found. Woodward might well have been overcome by the storm and devoured by predatory animals, but these same animals didn't eat the iron implements nor the canned goods. What became of Woodward is a national mystery. It will never be solved."

In his story, Nelson depicted many incidents which have been made a part of the mystery of the Blues, some of them "filled with human suffering which may have reached fearful proportions in these Blue Mountains, but for all that, we love them because they are beautiful, restful, sublime."

Those are words with which I readily agree.

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Dec. 3, 2004

## Mutilated cow found in Grant County pasture

BY RYAN FEENEY  
World staff writer

GEORGE — Grant County sheriff's deputies are investigating a mutilated cow that was found in a pasture at the corner of Baseline and Silica roads on Wednesday.

The cow was pregnant and parts of its body were removed, including its heart, part of the tongue and its sex organs, said Chief Criminal Deputy John Turley.

Investigators have no suspects, he said.

The dead cow found west of George was reported at 10:14 a.m. Wednesday, Turley said.

There was no sign of a struggle, he said.

According to Turley, the cow's owner believes the mutilation is the work of a satanic cult, because coyotes did not touch the carcass.

When reached by phone this morning, the cow's owner said he had no more information on the incident.

Turley said the parts of the mutilated cow that were taken are used in "voodoo type, or superstitious type events."

He speculated the genitalia could have been removed for use in fertility rites.

Several mutilated cows have been discovered in adjacent Douglas County in recent years.

In April, a cow was found in an area west of Del Rio and Rex near Grand Coulee with its udder and genitalia cut off.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office closed its investigation into that mutilated cow without determining how or why the animal was killed.

Ryan Feeney can be reached at 664-7144 or by e-mail at [feeney@wenworld.com](mailto:feeney@wenworld.com)

# Falling ice chills local folks

*Experts at a loss to explain phenomenon*

By MIKE FRAZIER  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The sky, apparently, is falling.

Its point of impact? The backyard of William and Anna Mae Beals at 6060 Thomas Road.

A slab of ice about the size of a concrete block hurtled from the heavens Wednesday morning

toward their home in southeast Decatur.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. But their neighbors were shaken when they saw the chilling visitor land.

Darlene Scribner was sipping coffee and watching birds out her backyard window with her sister and cousin when a white flash descended toward the earth.

"We were shocked," said her sister Jo Ann Wheeler.

"I've never seen anything like that before in my life," said her

cousin, Joyce Wetzel.

So where'd the icy chunk come from?

"I don't have a clue," said a puzzled Anna Mae Beals.

Could it have fallen from an airplane's wing? That's unlikely, aviation experts say. Ice can cause serious problems if not removed from a plane's wings.

"We take great pains to make sure airplanes are de-iced," said Elizabeth Isham Cory, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

flush of a portable toilet aboard a high-flying plane? Nope. Waste is removed when a plane touches down. Plus, the neighbors concluded, the ice cube was white and clear — not the typical colors of a potty flush.

Could it be a freak weather phenomenon? The chunk of ice initially stumped even Jim Angel, state climatolo-

gist with the Illinois State Water Survey.

"That's a real mystery," Angel said.

Angel then recalled reports of large ice chunks falling from the skies in places as far away as Spain. The cool slabs usually fall in January, February and March and can weigh as much as 30 pounds.

Experts call them megacry-

## THE NET

For more information on megacryometeors, or big slabs of falling ice, visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megacryometeor>

"Something that big on an aircraft doesn't sound right," said Gene Marcinkowski, Decatur Airport director.

Could the ice cube be the frozen

ometeors. It's not really clear why they fall.

"One of these things is very weird," Angel said. "It's not like it hasn't happened to other people. It happens rarely, but it does happen."

Mike Frazier can be reached at [mfrazier@herald-review.com](mailto:mfrazier@herald-review.com) or 421-7985.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - March 1, 2005

## How little we know

It is truly remarkable that the longer we humans age as a species, the less we seem to realize that other life forms on this planet are not languishing stupidly beneath us.

In fact, anyone who examines the impressive body of evidence accumulated over just the past three decades finds a much different reality. Consider the following.

Many pet dogs react to the precise moment when their owners first think of coming home, regardless of where those people might be. My friends' cat awakens them at 6 each morning. Their dog knows when Saturday rolls around.

Prairie dogs can emit a highly specific language. One of their calls can even identify a human's height or shirt color, according to an Arizona professor who has studied the animal extensively.

Researchers and animal studies experts have taught chimpanzees to understand and even spell many simple words in the English language.

The recent tidalwave that killed more than 200,000 "higher-functioning" humans claimed very few animals. Elephants, monkeys, birds and other creatures headed for high ground several minutes before the killer wave flooded the low-lying areas, claiming so many people.

I have watched the 14 fish in our backyard pond interact, court, sleep side-by-side, and obviously communicate their intentions and feelings in ways I cannot fathom.

A lowly sparrow that hears another sparrow's song in bits and pieces can unite those parts to repeat the same song on its own. Female chickadees slip out of their nests at night to visit lovers elsewhere, then sneak back home just before daylight.

A recent Reuters article quotes avian experts saying we only now are realizing the complexity of birds' brains. Yet, in our arrogance, we have long taken delight in referring to the human dimwitted as "birdbrains."



**Mike Masterson**

Scientists say birds learn how to use tools, copy vocalizations, fib, count and imitate human language to communicate.

"They can lie," says Erich Jarvis of Duke University. "You can teach a pigeon to do something that will have another pigeon get food as a reward. You can find a female pigeon that will pretend a reward for food is coming and then she eats it instead of her mate."

The gross misconception that a bird's brain is primitive tracks a full century back to German scientist Ludwig Edinger.

"A lot went into the idea of a human's (superior) place in the evolutionary scheme of animals," Jarvis told Reuters. "They (people) didn't follow Darwin's view that evolution was a tree. They tried to link it to religion—a linear system where God created one creature, not good enough, then created another creature, not good enough, and then created human—perfect. It was a beautiful story, but it wasn't true."

Taking this a step farther into the realm of the metaphysical, I have long wondered about the postmortem connection that birds seem to have with humans.

I've noticed the sudden appearance of birds that act oddly after a loved one died. Others have told me about similar phenomena in their lives involving birds and even butterflies.

Some might say it's the human mind playing tricks by making coincidences appear to fit. Yet I'm not so quick to buy

the callous dismissals, especially when virtually everything so-called experts have told us about existence for the past 100 years, from Newtonian physics to Vioxx and even birdbrains, has later proven wrong.

Speaking of birds, in the human's well-conditioned tendency to hold itself in ultimate regard, why not try reading the stunning revelations found in the 1973 book, "The Secret Life of Plants," by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird? I'm betting most of you have never even heard of this 402-page book based on experiments with plants by polygraph expert Cleve Backster of San Diego, because those in the mainstream have proclaimed it outside their proper Newtonian-based consensus.

Also, if you haven't heard of Japanese professor Masaru Emoto's startling work with water crystals, which shows through photographs how water relates to human words, thoughts and emotions, read his two-volume set, "The Message From Water."

Emoto, Backster and dozens of other cutting-edge scientists, researchers and academics from around the world will be gathering in Santa Fe, N.M., at the La Fonda Hotel during the final week of April for the annual Science and Consciousness Conference. This five-day planetary gathering of enlightened minds, sponsored by The Message Company of Santa Fe, delves into the latest explorations into the nature of consciousness in all forms.

Yep, friends, when it comes to the myriad life forms that share this exquisitely balanced world we humans are relentlessly defiling with our progress, I believe I'll continue trusting in my own gifts of observation and reason till that final breath is exhaled.

Mike Masterson is an award-winning Arkansas journalist.



# Man offers \$10,000 for Pedro Mountain Mummy

## Hopes to poke holes in theory of evolution with artifact

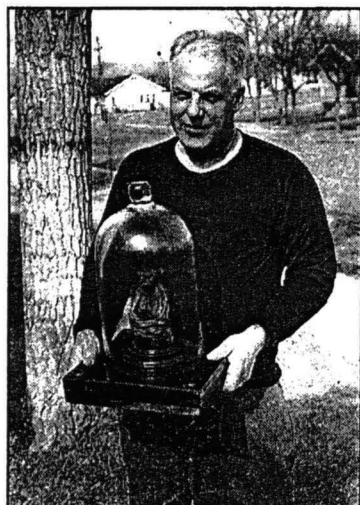
By **BRENDAN BURKE**  
Star-Tribune staff writer

In the name of poking holes in the theory of evolution, a Syracuse, N.Y., man says he will pay \$10,000 for one of the most mysterious artifacts ever dug up in Wyoming — the Pedro Mountain Mummy.

John Adolphi says he wants the Pedro Mountain Mummy, sometimes referred to as Pedro, in order to conduct DNA tests, X-rays, and magnetic resonance imaging on the little fellow.

Conducting such tests, however, is no easy matter, as the mummy vanished in 1950.

Although the mummy has not been seen in public for 55 years,



COURTESY/Casper College Library's David Collection

Bob David holds the Pedro Mountain Mummy in this undated photo. A Syracuse, N.Y., man is offering \$10,000 for the mummy that vanished in 1950.

several photos and many descriptions of the anomalistic artifact remain.

According to these descriptions and photos, it is the size and proportions that make the mummy freakish and pique Adolphi's interest in it.

In the seated position in which Pedro is frozen, he stands only 7 inches tall. If he were to stand up, it was estimated Pedro would only stand 17 inches. And seated or standing, he only weighs three-quarters of a pound.

Adding to the Pedro Mountain Mummy enigma is the fact that he is proportioned much more like an adult than an infant.

According to Adolphi's hypothesis, conducting modern scientific tests on the mummy will reveal that Pedro was an adult at the time of his death. This would mean he was one of the "little people" — a mythical tribe of savage pygmies who haunted Wyoming's mountains, according to Arapaho and Shoshone tales.

These little people, Adolphi postulates, were a species of hominid primates which current evolutionary paradigms fail to take into account.

Adolphi admits that proof of a previously unknown prehistoric relative of man would not disprove evolution, as the recently discovered remains of *Homo floresiensis*, the "Hobbits" found in Indonesia, did not disprove it.

But, Adolphi says, proof of a new hominid species would poke holes in the paradigm evolutionists have created regarding human origins.

Pedro is also a fun artifact, and offering a reward for it is a great way for Adolphi's Web site ([www.biblelandstudios.com](http://www.biblelandstudios.com)) to kick off a worldwide treasure hunt in which rewards will be offered for all kinds of artifacts that go against the accepted scientific and historic paradigms.

In future months rewards will be offered for pieces or photos of Noah's Ark and for evidence of giant humans who Adolphi says once roamed Earth, he said.

### The tale of Pedro

The Pedro Mountain Mummy was first discovered by Cecil Mayne in 1932.

Mayne was prospecting for gold near Pathfinder Reservoir when an explosion he detonated revealed a small cave, according to a Oct. 21, 1932, article in the Casper Tribune-Herald. Inside the cave Mayne found the mummified remains of what looked like a tiny human.

Debate about the mummy's nature started soon after it was found. Some said it was a hoax. Others said it was the mummified remains of a baby. And others said it was one of the little people spoken about in Indian legends, according to Casper Tribune-Herald stories from 1932.

The mummy somehow made its way to Meeteetse, where it was displayed at Jones Drug Store for some years.

In the mid-1940s a Casper used car salesman named

### On the Net:

■ [www.biblelandstudios.com](http://www.biblelandstudios.com)

■ If you have any other information about the history of the Pedro Mountain Mummy, please contact Brendan Burke at (307) 266-0589 or [brendan.burke@casperstartribune.net](mailto:brendan.burke@casperstartribune.net).

Ivan Goodman spied Pedro in the Meeteetse store and bought it for several thousands of dollars.

Soon Goodman was using Pedro to attract people to his lot. The mummy also served as a sort of mascot for Goodman's auto dealership, and its image was placed in advertisements, according to a Casper Shopper story from March 9, 1977.

While in Goodman's hands, the mummy attracted the attention of several Eastern scientists. And in 1950 these scientists conducted the most extensive scientific study of the mummy ever.

X-rays revealed Pedro to have adult-like vertebrae and teeth, according to a Casper Tribune-Herald story from March 5, 1950.

Based on these findings, it was apparently concluded the mummy was an adult.

"After an exhaustive study by the scientists it was agreed that it was the only specimen known of a human race of that type which perhaps dated back a million years," Goodman was quoted as saying in the March 5, 1950, edition of the Casper Tribune-Herald.

Perhaps the study turned out to be a bit too exhaustive for Goodman, as he died later in 1950.

When Goodman died the mummy passed into the hands of New Yorker Leonard Wadler, according to a July 7, 1979, Casper Star-Tribune article.

Soon after, Wadler and his mummy vanished.

According to Adolphi, Wadler moved to Florida and died in the Sunshine State in the 1980s.

If the Pedro Mountain Mummy is to be found, Adolphi said, it will probably be discovered in Florida.

Although Adolphi hopes Pedro will turn out to be a separate species of hominid, recent studies suggest the artifact, although odd, doesn't relegate the currently accepted account of human origins to the trash bin.

According to studies done by George Gill, an anthropology professor at the University of Wyoming, X-rays taken in the 1950s of Pedro reveal him to be an infant who suffered from anencephaly, a birth defect in which only the brain stem develops.

Further testing on a female pygmy mummy brought to Gill revealed it also was an anencephalic infant.

Although Adolphi is only offering the \$10,000 reward for the mummy unearthed in 1932, he is interested in buying other pygmy mummies for lesser amounts, he said.

REPORTER, Vacaville, CA - Jan. 2, 2005



Brian Hamlin

## It doesn't get any weirder than this

One of the newspaper's former editors was frequently heard to cry "Let the weird come to me!"

Fortunately, this aficionado of the arcane didn't have to look too far for her daily dose of weirdness. She did, after all, work in a newsroom fully equipped with sportswriters, rubber rats and unidentifiable foodstuffs of dubious provenance.

Of course, not every fancier of freakishness is fortunate enough to work in a newspaper office, but there's hope for the rest of you with the recent publication of "Weird U.S. — Your Travel Guide to America's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets (2004 Barnes & Noble Publishing, New York, N.Y., \$19.95, 349 Pages).

Written and edited by Mark Moran and Mark Sceurman with a host of co-authors and contributors from across the nation, "Weird U.S." is more than a simple compendium of tired old Bigfoot and Chupacabra sightings.

No, this is a step-by-step, state-by-state, dimension-by-dimension guide to everything weird ever whispered about around a guttering candle or dying campfire from San Diego to Sarasota.

Within this volume's slightly musty pages you'll have an opportunity to meet Mercy Brown, the Rhode Island Vampire or, perhaps, strike up an acquaintance with the Goat Man of Prince Georges County.

(What, you didn't know they had vampires on Rhode Island?) Most of the creatures you'll

encounter in "Weird U.S." make your everyday Bigfoot seem rather mundane.

Take, for example, the Bardin Booger Beast.

Described as "something big and hairy," the malodorous Bardin Booger Beast is rumored to have been wandering on the outskirts of Bardin, Fla., for years.

"Locals claim this bear-sized beast has a pig's nose, a long, red tongue dangling out of its mouth and a stride longer than humanly possible," Moran and Sceurman report.

And unlike some small, backward communities, Bardin doesn't fear its local monstrosity. No, sir. The plucky Floridians have embraced their hometown creature. Residents sport Bardin Booger Beast hats, T-shirts and mugs, while local restaurants feature Booger Burgers on their menus.

Hey, it doesn't get any weirder than that, amigos.

Or does it?

While Florida seems to have the only confirmed Booger Beast, three states have laid claim to roaming Lizard Men. Sightings of the scaly horror have been reported in New Jersey, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

The Lizard Man in Wisconsin — a historic hotbed of weirdness — is not only green and scaly, but has the ability to sprout wings and leap over motor vehicles.

And "Weird U.S." isn't just about Bigfeet and Boogers. It's also chock full of weird places, from Josie Arlington's glowing grave (Louisiana) to Devil's Road and Cult House (Pennsylvania).

Pick up a copy of "Weird U.S." and you also can get acquainted with the cannibal albinos of Ghost Mountain (Pennsylvania) and learn more than you've ever wanted to know about the homicidal maniac who haunts Bunnyman Bridge (Virginia).

Weird?  
You betcha ...

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# 'Ape' Sighting Draws Interest

By GARY WHITE

The Ledger

If the Green Swamp ape actually does exist, its ears must be burning.

Lakeland resident Jennifer Ward went public in November, sharing her description and drawings of a hairy, human-shaped creature she claimed to have seen on the edge of the Green Swamp in August. Ward's tale has reverberated through cyberspace, with links to the original Ledger story and a subsequent Orlando Sentinel article showing up on such sites as Paranormal News, Dr. Mysterian and American Monsters.

Ward has drawn attention from groups that probe the existence of unconfirmed creatures, and she has appeared on three radio shows to discuss what she saw.

"I'm not real surprised people are interested in it," Ward says.

Ward, 30, has discussed her experience with radio hosts at stations in West Palm Beach, Iowa and Jacksonville. She was joined by Scott Marlowe, an instructor with the Winter Haven-based Pangea Institute, which offers classes in archaeology and other areas.

The mother of two says disc jockeys at one station treated her story as comedy, and one at the Iowa station questioned her sanity.

"I'd probably think it was real funny, too, if I just heard about it," Ward says. "I just said I can't help what I saw and I can't help what other people think, either."

Marlowe says the disc jockeys seemed prepared to ridicule Ward but seemed impressed by the obvious sincerity in her voice.

"When Jennifer begins to talk, you can tell she's not fabricating this," Marlowe says.

Ward was driving along Tom Moore Road north of Lakeland a few days after Hurricane Charley in August when she saw something in a ditch beside the road. She describes a two-legged creature about eight feet tall and covered in dark fur with light rings around its eyes. She says it seemed to be foraging.

Ward, who had her two daughters in her car, says she watched the creature for 30 seconds or so before driving on. She examined the scene later but found no conclusive evidence of any beast's presence.

Since Ward's story appeared, several neighbors have told her they have seen or heard something strange in the Green Swamp, and she has learned people living along Rock Ridge Road talk about a "gray ape." But none were willing to speak publicly about their experiences.

Several readers also contacted The Ledger with descriptions of unfamiliar creatures, though only one agreed to be identified.

Carol Gill of Davenport says reading about Ward's experience evoked memories of a night nearly two decades ago when she and her ex-husband were fishing and rabbit hunting at night in northeast Polk County. Driving in their truck, they came across what Gill recalls as a flesh-toned animal about 5 feet long that raced before them at great speed.

Gill, 48, says she first thought

it was a hog but noticed it loped more like a kangaroo.

"I just freaked out, telling my husband, 'Let's leave,'" Gill recalls. "He was just trying to maneuver the truck and get a good spotlight on it. . . . It wasn't my imagination or anything."

Gill says she hasn't told many people about the experience, and her ex-husband now lives out of state. She drew comfort from hearing about Ward's sighting.

"There's somebody else that's seen something too out there," Gill says.

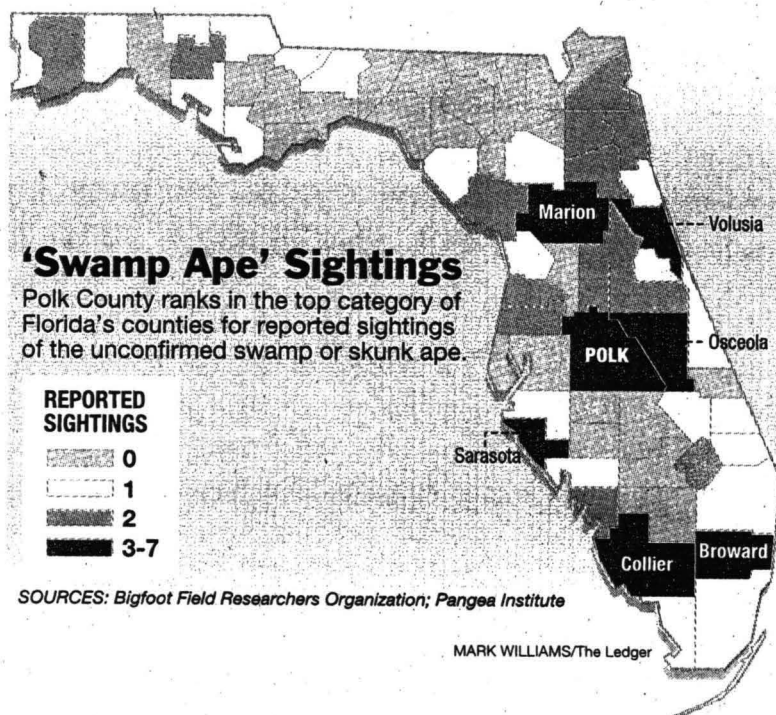
Ward's claimed sighting has boosted interest in an online cryptozoology class Marlowe is scheduled to teach next semester for Florida Keys Community College. Marlowe says he has received inquiries from as far away as New Jersey and Australia for the course, which will explore rumored or unconfirmed species.

Not everyone, though, is encouraging Marlowe's pursuit of

**Jennifer Ward's claimed sighting has boosted interest in an online cryptozoology class Scott Marlowe is scheduled to teach for Florida Keys Community College.**

what he considers scientific truth. Marlowe says he has received "hate mail" both from creationists and evolutionists who question the existence of an unconfirmed species of hominid.

The story also has drawn attention from the nation's foremost cryptozoologist, Loren Coleman. The Maine-based author of such books as "Cryptozoology A to Z" has discussed the matter with Marlowe and says he hopes to explore the area and interview



Ward during a visit next spring.

Coleman says creatures identified as skunk apes or swamp apes have been spotted in Florida at least since 1960. He estimates there are 20 legitimate sightings a year, though he says most remain unreported because the witnesses fear ridicule.

"It certainly sounds like it goes within the context of other stories from Florida," Coleman says of Ward's claim. "I find this a credible story. It needs more investigating. I'm hoping the article will bring forth people who are seeing these things because they fail to report them."

Marlowe prepared a map of swamp ape sightings in Florida since 1982 that shows Polk County among seven counties with three or more observations. He says the map suggests Polk could be the final stop in a southward winter migration for the creature.

While Marlowe hopes to conduct an academic survey of the southern Green Swamp some time next year, he says others have been searching the area in a less rigorous way.

"I've noticed the number of people cruising up and down Moore Road seems to be higher," Marlowe says.

Could the rumor of a swamp ape some day draw people to Polk County just as the legendary Loch Ness monster provides a tourism draw for northern Scotland? Jackie Johnson of the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce says she hasn't received any calls about the creature and doesn't anticipate a marketing campaign.

"I don't know that anybody is seriously considering it from a Lakeland standpoint," Johnson says. "The idea of Lakeland being associated with swamps — I'm not sure how we could use it."

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