

UFO

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ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL CALZADA • THE MORNING NEWS

Presidents And Flying Saucers

UFO EXPERT SEEKS LINK BETWEEN EXTRATERRESTRIALS, WHITE HOUSE

GO AND DO

OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

Dates: April 8-10

Hours: The conference begins at 1 p.m. April 8 and concludes at noon April 10

Venue: Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center in Eureka Springs

Admission: \$45 through April 2 or \$50 at the door

FOR INFORMATION,
CALL (501) 354-2558.

By Becca Bacon Martin

THE MORNING NEWS • BMARTIN@NWAONLINE.NET

In Grant Cameron's reality, humans are children playing with matches — and extraterrestrial visitors are the adults, prepared to step in if the fire would burn down the house.

"Basically," Cameron says, "there's a galactic law about noninterference. They can't tamper with our culture. The only time they would intervene in human events would be a nuclear war. I think the vast majority of what they're doing is waiting."

Surprisingly, Cameron doesn't think too much about the aliens' agenda. He doesn't watch the night sky for flying saucers or collect stories of abductions. One of the keynote speakers at the 2005 Ozark UFO Conference April 8-10, Cameron simply accepts extraterrestrials and unidentified flying objects as facts. What he wants is proof that other people will accept — and he knows exactly where to find it.

"Only one thing will break the (UFO) cover-up, and that is if the president stands up and says, 'This thing is for real,'" Cameron says. "If

he's been briefed on UFOs, then UFOs exist. They don't brief the president on things that don't exist."

Cameron, who is on staff at the University of Manitoba, Canada, saw his first — and only — UFO when he was "just a young kid" of 22. It was "blood red, flashing and bouncing around like a Ping-Pong ball in the sky," he describes. His first thought was to wonder "why nobody was investigating this."

"I was at university, but after that, I basically pulled out," he says. "The stuff I was doing was a total waste

there's no way to convince people we have things under control."

How much presidents know about the UFO situation varies, Cameron believes. He has been told that Truman was briefed on UFOs every three months, for instance, while Eisenhower allegedly visited a California air force base to meet with aliens and hear their message. Jimmy Carter, Cameron says, even hired a consultant to report to him on UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence.

Perhaps the most bizarre presidential tale Cameron tells is one about Richard M. Nixon, whom he says allowed popular 1960s comic Jackie Gleason to see the bodies of dead aliens. And Vice President Dick Cheney "has long been rumored to be an inside player on the critical information such as crashed saucers."

Arkansas' own Bill Clinton was perhaps furthest out of the UFO loop, Cameron says, but he made the most succinct assessment of the situation. Cameron reports that Clinton once said, "There's a secret government within the government, and I don't control it."

"That's what ought to have people worried," Cameron says.

Cameron speaks at events like the Ozark UFO Conference to meet people who might be new connections and because, he says, "it helps me solidify ideas." He's content to leave the rest of the UFO experience to other experts.

"I never really look for UFOs," he says. "I see things in terms of UFOs when I watch the news. I want to stick to ways to prove this is for real."

Lou Farish, the Ozark UFO Conference coordinator for the past 17 years, says Cameron and other speakers are simply "people I would like to hear if I went to some other UFO conference."

"I just hope we'll present something in the way of new material that (participants) aren't aware of and will find of interest," he says. "I'm not concerned with the non-believers. I've never seen little guys waving out the windows, but I've seen enough objects that were strange to me."

Registration for the Ozark UFO Conference is \$45 through April 2 or \$50 at the door. For information, visit www.ozarkufo.com or call (501) 354-2558.

of time compared to this. In some ways, I guess it ruined my life! But in other ways, it's been quite an experience."

In his continuing "effort to prove to my friends I was right," Cameron studied the work of Wilbert Smith, Canada's late UFO expert. Through his inquiries, Cameron became convinced that the answer to his questions was stashed away somewhere in the

U.S. government's top-secret files. He started reading at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Mo., then moved on to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan., where in all the vast collection, he says, there were only five references to UFOs.

"That inspires what I do now," he says. "The president is the nation's chief executive. He should

be told the whole truth."

Cameron says he believes "national security" is the reason behind the UFO cover-up — and he admits that he can understand the reasoning.

"If there was a panic, there would be serious repercussions," he says. "The thing about Sept. 11 is that we could convince people maybe it wouldn't happen again. But in the situation with UFOs,

Are we alone?

Scientists say life is likely out there

By Diane Clay, Staff Writer

The mountains, oceans, shorelines, channels and rocks on Saturn's moon Titan have pushed the debate over life beyond Earth even further into the realm of serious science.

While UFOs and green alien creatures have dotted the landscape of American popular culture for decades, real scientists didn't much debate the subject of extraterrestrials and other life beyond Earth for fear of being labeled "kooky."

In the past 10 years, however, scientists have discovered new worlds that make the idea of some type of creature not so science fiction.

The trend started in the mid-1990s, when two groups of researchers found planets around stars other than our own. While these first planets were gas giants even larger than Jupiter, and not likely to sustain life, it opened the possibility that a smaller Earth-like planet or moon existed in the same solar system.

Astronomers have since found more than 100 such planets, including smaller spheres like Earth. Astronomers captured the first image of an extrasolar planet last year.

Amid the planetary debate, Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity, which are still roaming and collecting data, landed on our solar system's fourth planet. They provided the best evidence yet that liquid water once existed on Mars, which would make life possible at least at some point during that planet's history.

Scientists have yet to find fossils or other direct proof that small life-forms existed there.

New theories in physics, such as the string theory of the universe, worm holes and the proposal of other dimensions, have added to the discussion.

Despite all of the advances in just the past 10 years, the most tangible evidence that suggests we may not be alone came this month when the first of 350 photos from Saturn's moon Titan began to appear on the European Space Agency's Web site.

They showed, for the first time, a landscape that looked eerily like Earth's, with mountain ranges, gullies, islands, shorelines, mud and pebble-size objects that resemble rounded river rocks.

Even though the atmosphere and chemical make-up on Titan would not sustain life as most people imagine it, the dynamic surface made scientists wonder.

Bernard Haisch, an astrophysicist who recently published a paper on the subject in the conservative journal *Science*, said conditions don't have to be exactly like Earth's to sustain life.

As an example, he points to the existence of life on Earth in even its most inhospitable environments, including the harsh, dry cold of the Arctic and the high-pressure acid vents at the deepest depths of oceans.

"We are trying to put in a modern context the various arguments that we are not alone in the universe. It makes sense to be open to this possibility. It's more likely that we are in the middle of other civilizations than we are not," Haisch said.

He said finding smaller forms of life will probably take hundreds or thousands of years, since explorers will have to travel to distant star systems to find them. Such trips will require new ideas in physics and propulsion.

Haisch and his colleagues said the more likely place to look now is in UFO reports from reputable people such as military pilots and astronomers with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to find evidence of past visitations. While Haisch agrees that nearly all such sightings can be explained or are fabricated, there are a few that deserve a closer look.

Harold Puthoff, a physicist and director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin in Texas, suggests scientists search the moon,

Interstellar messages

Astronomers regularly send messages into space that are intended for possible extraterrestrials — inhabitants of other planets. These messages are sent in the form of radio waves or engraved on disks and plates and put onboard space probes.

The Pioneer probes, which are on their way to the stars, are carrying an image representing a man and woman as well as our position in the solar system. The Voyager 1 and 2 probes are carrying a gold disk with sound and images representative of Earth, including bird songs and greetings in 55 languages. The probes have no final destination. They will drift in deep space.

Scholastic Atlas of Space



Harold Puthoff



Bernard Haisch

Mars, Titan and other spots in the solar system for artifacts that may suggest an earlier landing or probe by advanced societies.

They may not be there, he said, but researchers ought to look.

"I think we'll find some type of evidence before we get out of our solar system whether it be debris or monitoring devices," Puthoff said.

He said the ideas behind advanced societies were planted in 1977 when another paper was published in *Science* suggesting that the search for extraterrestrial life should start by assuming that the galaxy has been colonized.

The idea wasn't taken as seriously as it is now.

NASA continues its SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program in search of other life through radio wave communication, and scientists such as Haisch and Puthoff hope new discoveries will inspire colleagues to incorporate the possibility of life into their research.

"Maybe bit by bit, things will open up a little," Haisch said. "I am just asking that they not dismiss everything."

What was that object in the eastern sky? A UFO or Saturn?

By STEPHANIE FARR
Sun-Gazette Staff

Todd Butters of Old Lycoming Township said he saw an unidentifiable object hovering in the eastern sky above Wildwood Cemetery at 10:30 p.m. Nov. 30.

He filmed the object for 20 minutes, during which time it did not appear to move except with the natural motion of the Earth, he said.

He and his wife went to sleep and awoke again at 12:30 a.m. to find the object was still visible in the night sky. When Butters was asked by the Sun-Gazette to explain what he saw, he replied, "I wish I could."

He initially believed the object to be a helicopter coming toward his residence, but when he retrieved his video camera and zoomed in on the object, the possibility of a helicopter was out of the question.

"With the naked eye, it looked bigger than a usual star. It was mainly bright green and red with lights around the center," Butters said. "It was circular in shape, and after about 10 minutes, the object appeared to turn sideways, taking the shape of a half circle."

Dr. Richard Erickson, an astronomy professor at Lycoming College, upon hearing Butters' story, said that when

unidentified flying objects are observed, they are usually familiar astronomical objects or airplanes, but don't appear as such to the untrained eye.

On the night of Nov. 30 and the early morning hours of Dec. 1, Erickson said, Saturn was clearly visible in the night sky. It would have appeared just above the horizon at 8 p.m., but wouldn't have been visible above objects like trees and hills until around 10 p.m., he said.

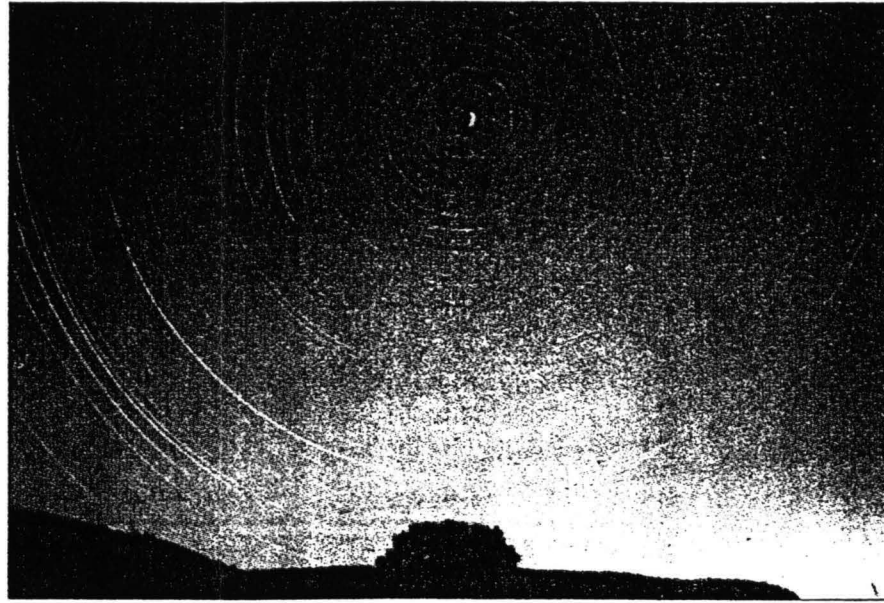
At that point in time, Saturn was at zero magnitude, making it appear just about as bright as — if not brighter than — all of the other stars in the sky that night, Erickson said.

"Saturn would be my guess, if I had to make one," he said. "We are getting to the point that it is almost directly across from the sun as seen from earth, so we're getting a lot of sunlight reflecting off of it. Plus, Saturn is a big planet with reflective clouds. Put all those things together and Saturn will look pretty bright in the night sky."

But how can the red and green lights that Butters observed be explained?

"If the air is turbulent enough, you are likely to get optical atmospheric effects which can make astronomical objects appear to shimmer and change colors," Erickson said.

He said different colors, like reds and



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

This five-hour time exposure shows the northern sky as seen from Rose Valley Lake. The half-circular star in the top center is Polaris, the North Star, which streaks very little because it is aligned with the earth's spin.

greens, can bend slightly differently depending on the movement of air masses. He said Saturn will appear like Butters' description about every 13 months, but since most people aren't familiar with the night sky, they may have never noticed it before.

Stars that were particularly bright this time of year are another possibility for what Butters saw, Erickson said. The twin stars of the constellation Gemini, Castor and Pollux, would have appeared one-fourth and one-third as bright as Saturn that night.

More toward the southeast that night would have been Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky and a part of the constellation Canis Major, the big dog. Sirius is 25 times brighter intrinsically than the sun and is one of the 10 closest stars to Earth. There are many other stars a lot brighter intrinsically than Sirius, Erickson said, but they are farther away from Earth, so they appear dimmer.

The difference between the light of a star and that of a planet is that a star puts out its own light and a planet reflects the light of the sun.

"Without knowing for sure, my guess is that it was Saturn or one of those stars in the sky at that time, and the colors were probably just the result of an atmospheric effect," Erickson said. "I've never seen anything that I haven't been able to recognize and identify before."

But, Erickson said that he is not completely adverse to the possibility that the object Butters' observed could be unexplainable.

"You can't rule out the possibility of a UFO," he said. "That's why they are called unidentifiable flying objects, because you can't explain what it was."

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UFO report overlooks volumes

This is a short review of Peter Jennings' (ABC) show on UFOs.

It started out well, but ended a little sick on true UFO evidence.

Jennings could chase them. They could be tracked on radar and photographed from time to time. But the government was no longer investigating them, nor were they being considered a "problem of national or international security" or related to "human survival issues." He left the door open for "more credible information." He gave short shrift to the Roswell case and implied that some cases may be "actual unknowns." Jennings admitted that the Condon report of the University of Colorado was a "publicity stunt." I doubt ABC's looking for big numbers in the rating race was successful.

Bud Hopkins, Stan Friedman and the late Dr. John Mack of Harvard were given short shrift on their findings in the UFO field. Not covered in great depth (so important to the UFO reality) were the thousands of UFO landings, occupant encounters, severe animal reactions, domed saucer cases, massive pilot reports, human injuries and deaths, human abductions, E-M effects, residue cases, radar trackings for the most part, human reaction studies, massive numbers of video films and photographs, shooting incidents, animal reactions and car chases, just to name a few.

In fairness to both Peter Jennings and ABC television, how could anyone expect to do justice to UFOs and their occupants in over 150 countries or all 52 states in the USA in a two hour television special? Nor could UFO and occupant encounters in the Carolinas for over the past 75 years alone be explained overnight.

"Mission Impossible" I would call it.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

George Fawcett is an author and long-recognized expert on UFOs.

TV NEWS

Equal Time for U.F.O.'s

To the Editor:

Frank Rich does an uncharacteristic disservice to open debate when he dismisses the interview subjects of Peter Jennings's recent U.F.O. special as "fanatics" ["Gonzo Gone, Rather Going, Watergate Still Here," last Sunday]. The one distinction the Jennings special may claim is that it separated the fanatics — the awk-

ward paranoids who dominate "ufology" — from ordinary people who believe they've witnessed something fantastic.

Reasonable people sometimes encounter unexplained phenomena only to be told, tut-tut, that science makes no room for personal anecdote. This tends to force them to the fringes, if they want to be heard at all. ABC's motives may have been less than stellar, but the network did, for an evening, buck that unfortunate pattern.

MITCH HOROWITZ
Manhattan

COLORADO DAILY, Boulder, CO - Jan. 14, 2005



Bob White of Reeds Spring, Missouri, shows an object he says is extraterrestrial that came from a bright light he saw in the sky while driving one night in Colorado. [KRT PHOTO BY NORMAN NU/KANSAS CITY STAR]

MAN HOPES TO DRAW TOURISTS TO SEE WHAT HE SAYS IS A METALLIC OBJECT THAT FELL OFF A UFO

By STEVE ROCK
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

Bob White is convinced his story deserves a grand stage, that his most-prized possession should be displayed before a national audience.

It should draw tourists from all over the country, he figures, and be a major attraction for people who want to see an artifact that White swears was retrieved from a UFO in 1985.

Instead, White's find is in tiny Reeds Spring in southwest Missouri, secured in a locked display case at the back of a converted video rental store. Here at the Museum of the Unexplained, a small, fledgling operation that during a recent morning went more than three hours without a customer.

White can't figure it out. All he wants to do is find some believers. He wants peo-

ple to quit snickering and looking at him like he's crazy. He wants them to listen to his story, to take a hard look at his metallic artifact, to give him a chance.

"This," White said, "is the most difficult thing I've ever done in my life."

The odds are stacked against him, no question about it. He and his partner at the museum, Robert Gibbons, have been rejected and ridiculed. White estimates he has spent more than \$60,000 traveling to conferences, starting the museum, having the artifact tested and retested.

And yet he forges on.

"I'm 73 years old," White said. "I don't have much longer. What I'd like to see before I'm gone is the national media get their heads out of their ..."

White paused, choosing his words carefully, "... out of the sand. I'd like to see the national media and everybody else realize that what I have is real."

That all changed overnight. Here's how he remembers it:

White and a friend were driving from Denver to Las Vegas on a desolate highway near the Colorado-Utah border.

It was 2 or 3 a.m., he said, and White was sleeping in the passenger seat of the car. At one point, his friend woke him up and pointed out a strange light in the distance. White didn't think much of it and went back to sleep.

Then his friend woke him up again. This time, White said, the lights were practically blinding.

He got out of the car and stared, dumbfounded. The object was about 100 yards in front of him, he said, "and it was huge ... absolutely huge."

White was paralyzed, not with fear but with awe.

In time, he said, the lights bolted toward the sky. He said that they connected with a pair of neon, tubular lights — "the mother ship," White guesses now. And just like that, he said, the entire contraption zipped eastward through the Colorado sky and disappeared.

"What I saw," White said, "was not of this earth."

As the craft flew away, White said, he noticed an orange light

Scientists theorize that the "UFO" lights White said he encountered could have been nothing more than a falling star, that his artifact could be space debris. Some scientists who have tested the object, or arranged for a laboratory to test it, said there was nothing extraterrestrial about it.

People have questioned White's motives, even his sanity.

"I've been called every name you can think of," he said. For his part, White doesn't wear outlandish clothes, and he looks as if he could spend the winter months as a department-store Santa Claus. He comes across as a plain-spoken, level-headed guy who is every bit as homegrown as his Kansas City roots.

And if he's doing this for the money, well, that plan was a miserable failure.

The museum, about 13 miles north of the glitzy Branson

falling to the ground. A locator probe? Something that simply broke off?

It was red hot when he reached it, he said, but in time it cooled enough to pick up. White shoved the object into the trunk of the car, and he and his friend headed off to the nearest all-night diner.

"The strongest thing they had was coffee," White said, chuckling. "We wanted more than that."

White didn't say much publicly about his encounter when it first happened. A comedian and a singer, he was trying to earn a living in show business.

"I didn't want anybody to call me a UFO nut," he said. "I was afraid it might hurt my career."

So he packed up the artifact and forgot about it, at least until the mid-1990s. Around 1996, after his nomadic show business career had ended in Branson, he decided to seek out answers.

The object is about 7 1/2 inches long and shaped like a teardrop. It has a coarse, metallic exterior and weighs less than 2 pounds. It looks a bit like it could be a petrified pine cone and is composed primarily of aluminum.

White has had the item

tested several times, hoping for some answers.

The Nevada-based National Institute for Discovery Science in 1996 sent a sample of the object to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

"The metallurgical analysis was pretty mundane," said Colm Kelleher, a scientist who runs the day-to-day operations of the National Institute for Discovery Science. "We didn't find any evidence that it was extraterrestrial."

"Now you can make the argument that we didn't spend \$1 million and look at every conceivable option. We didn't cover every base."

Gibbons, whose background most recently includes work as a senior technician in the interconnect technologies division of Northrop Grumman in Springfield, Mo., is quick to point that out. He said it was the first test conducted on the artifact and wasn't very thorough. A later test, he said, was conducted by a laboratory in California and showed that the object's strontium isotope levels were "virtually the same" as those found in meteorite samples from Mars.

A scientist at the California laboratory, who asked that his

name and that of the laboratory not be used, disagreed.

"It didn't show any extraterrestrial signature," he said.

Meanwhile, skeptics abound.

Sgt. Gary Carpenter, who works at the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said it was not uncommon for NORAD to get calls about strange lights and unidentified objects.

Not once, he said, has the object been identified as an alien spacecraft.

"Usually it turns out to be space debris from a satellite that's decaying, or it's in the realm of naturally occurring, celestial lights," he said. "It could be something like a falling star. It could be contrails, the things you would see trailing an aircraft."

But White and Gibbons are undeterred, proclaiming that White has twice passed polygraph tests about the encounter and the artifact. Capt. George Larbey, who is in charge of the criminal investigation and drug units for the Greene County Sheriff's Department in Springfield, conducted the first polygraph test in 1998.

"I believe he found an object that fell from the sky,"

Larbey said. "As far as the UFO goes, I don't know if I'll go there, but in his mind, that's what he believes he saw."

"There was no reason for me to believe he was intentionally fabricating any aspect of his story."

This year alone there have been 16 alleged UFO sightings in Missouri reported to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. There have been 10 in Kansas, including one in Olathe in March in which the person filing the report said, "There was a threat present."

White and Gibbons still hope to tap into that market.

White opened the Museum of the Unexplained with visions of turning it into a destination. He wasn't looking to get rich — according to the Missouri secretary of state's office, the museum was registered as a nonprofit organization in August 2000 — but hoped to spread the word about his experience.

But the museum has struggled, unable to tap into the Branson spin-off crowd and secure a niche audience of its own. Only 2,800 people went through the doors that first year, when admission was free, and the museum hasn't been able to replicate those numbers since.

Jan. 19, 2005

UFO presence has scientific backing

The Jan. 17 letter by Don Caughey makes clear distinction between science and an ideology such as creationism, to which I would add soteriology and resurrection belief. But is the distinction that clear?

The case in point is the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) phenomenon, which the science community since the 1950s has strived to ignore or dismiss in its entirety as mistake, hoax or pseudoscience. UFO witnesses have repeatedly been told by "experts" that what they saw was something other than what they described. Although the 1969 Condon Report could not explain away a third of the UFO cases it analyzed, Dr. Condon's summary gave the impression that the phenomenon was not worth studying. This reinforced the curtain of ridicule that grew up around the subject, intimidating most UFO witnesses into staying silent. Hence science journal editors almost never publish any submitted UFO papers, and mainstream science has remained mostly ignorant on a topic that should be of utmost importance to science and religion.

Some scientists have nevertheless been studying the subject and realize its apparent reality. We understand, now, that aliens visiting us since 1947 and giving us innumerable UFO sightings ever since are much farther along in evolution than we are, and are breaking in our societies to their presence gently and gradually. A peer-reviewed paper on this has finally appeared in the scientific literature, available at: www.earthtech.org and www.ufoskeptics.org. Hopefully this will begin to dispel the scientific ideology that mankind is the Crown of Creation in our sector of the galaxy.

Jim Deardorff
Corvallis

Aliens Do Exist

ABC RECENTLY aired a two-hour documentary hosted by Peter Jennings that examined the UFO controversy in America. Their conclusion was that the jury was still out on whether we're being visited by extraterrestrials.

Thanks to an experience that I had while living in Albuquerque in 1967, I know that we are being visited.

At the time, my family lived on Tivoli Avenue, directly across the street from the Hoover-Aspen Elementary School complex in the Northeast Heights. On two successive nights, in the summer of that year, people on my street saw a nebulous ball of white light fly north over the city, turn to the northeast, perform a series of zigzag moves and disappear over Sandia Crest.

The object returned for a third night. However, after performing the zigzag moves, it stopped dead in the air. Fourteen of us stood in my neighbor's driveway wondering what in the world the thing was. Minutes later, my neighbor walked over to me and said, "Chris, I just saw an orange man on the school roof." I knew what he was implying, but remarked that maybe it was the school janitor in orange coveralls.

I then walked over to the curb with him and asked him to point out where he had seen the entity. I stood there looking for several minutes, but all I saw was the black of night. I was just getting ready to turn and walk away, when right where I was looking, appeared a seven-foot tall, luminous orange man.

He was human in shape, though his head was slightly more elongated. He also had some kind of a black speckling that is hard to articulate because I can't equate it with anything I'm familiar with. Two seconds later, he was gone. But I have no doubt as to what I saw — somebody who was not from this planet.

A short time later the UFO resumed its flight and disappeared over Sandia Peak. We looked for it for a fourth night, but it did not return. I don't know if an alien spacecraft crashed outside of Roswell in July of 1947, but I do know that 20 years later in Albuquerque, two 12-year-old boys got to find out firsthand that aliens really do exist!

CHRIS BRETHWAITE
Kansas City, Mo.



PRESIDENT'S DAY

In honor of President's Day, *Oklahoma Gazette* salutes the head honchos of some intriguing local organizations. Hail to the chiefs!

Take me to your leader

By Ben Fenwick

Location: A lonely, rural state highway near Kingfisher. Time: Night. The stars are out. Date: Approximately one year ago. Situation: More than just stars shine this night.

Two women returning home from their college spring break trip, driving late, looked up to see a shining triangle-shaped light in the sky. It hovered above the trees for a while. It was unmistakable.

The women looked around them. The other cars on the road slowed. The women could see faces in the other cars gazing at the same thing they were seeing.

After hovering over the trees for a few minutes, the light lowered behind the trees.

The two drove on for a moment, then, despite having great fear about what they'd seen, turned around and drove back to investigate. They drove to the same pine thicket, saw a dirt road and turned down it. But it ran to a graveyard.

That was enough. They became frightened. They gave up on their investigation and called Oklahoma's chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON. MUFON's network of investigators rolled on it.

"I found them to be very credible witnesses. They were absolutely scared to death. They never believed in UFOs until they saw this thing," said state director Susan Hill.

If an alien landed in Oklahoma and wanted to be taken to the leader of MUFON, it would be Hill. MUFON is an international network of researchers, scientists and enthusiasts who are dedicated to credibly investigating the UFO phenomenon, including its varied "close encoun-

ters," abductions and associated incidents. Although the overall UFO search has taken blows to its credibility since the heady days of the Air Force Project Blue Book, Hill and others say the truth still is out there.

With more than 30 years since its founding, Hill said, MUFON remains a success story in the field of UFO research.

"I think a lot of people don't realize it truly is a serious scientific organization. It's not a lot of kooks like a lot of people think it is. It couldn't have stayed around as long as it did if it didn't have such a good caliber of people in it."

Like in the Kingfisher incident, MUFON keeps at least a small team on call, ready at any time to go to the scene of a sighting or contact and collect evidence. Hill said they are selective about responding to reports.

"MUFON does send out investigators, but we don't go out on all calls. We depend on volunteers. It's hard for a lot of them to go out on every call," she said.

Once on the scene, the MUFON's field investigators do a preliminary search and look for physical evidence of the UFO. If there are photos or footage, great. Physical evidence of UFOs almost is never extant.

"Sometimes there is evidence, but usually there isn't. MUFON international has consultants and scientists around the country. If we find any, the evidence is sent off to the specialists in the field," Hill explained.

But growing in relevance is the investigation of oddity attached to sightings. Among such oddities is "missing time," a notion straight out of "The X Files." Also, there are increasing reports of triangular-shaped craft that have been clocked at 7,000 miles per hour. That's faster than any manmade craft can move in the atmosphere, short of a



Susan Hill is state director for Oklahoma's chapter of the Mutual UFO Network.

Saturn V.

"Say there is a couple of young adults and they see a triangle craft in the sky, then the next thing they know, it's an hour later. That's called missing time. It's kind of a red flag, actually," Hill said. "Sometimes people wind up way down the road and they don't know how they got there. It happens usually after they see a craft. Through the years, there have been a number of similarities in these reports. That's when MUFON started paying attention in these reports."

In which case the women in the Kingfisher sighting might have gotten off easy — they apparently had no "missing time." And what happened in that investigation?

Hill said she and her husband drove to the area of the sighting that night. They tramped into the thicket looking for clues.

"We couldn't see anything

I think a lot of people don't realize it truly is a serious scientific organization. It's not a lot of kooks like a lot of people think it is.

— Susan Hill, state director for Oklahoma's chapter of the Mutual UFO Network

because it was too dark. There was no evidence we could find," Hill said.

A visit to the sheriff's department uncovered that a UFO report was filed. Nevertheless, MUFON found little interest on the part of the authorities.

"We got a copy of their log and a UFO was reported. But you still get the swamp gas snickers," Hill said.

UFO hunters report strange lights at Dugway

by Audrey Rock-Richardson
STAFF WRITER

It's being called by some "the new Area 51." And it's in your backyard.

It seems some strange things have been seen at Dugway Proving Ground. Dave Rosenfeld, Don Rogers, Brian Whitesides, & Pete Day of the Utah UFO Hunters captured on camera a flashy light show at the proving ground on Friday, June 11, and Saturday, June 12, 2004.

Since then, UUFOH has been busy fielding questions about the things they saw at Dugway last summer. Fox 13 News' Steve Baron and KTVX Channel 4's Brent Hunsaker have both, in the last month, broadcast television news stories on the phenomenon. But still, very few answers are emerging on what UUFOH Director Dave Rosenfeld calls one of the top 10 occurrences he has ever seen.

Five UUFOH Investigative Team members were there to witness and photograph "a dramatic unknown Beam Test" near I-80 and Wendover in the Air Force's Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR).

On Friday night (June 11) around 1 a.m., they say, they saw a wide beam of light, with flickering light surrounding it, shoot straight up. The incident lasted three to five minutes, then stopped abruptly, the sky falling pitch black again. They say the sequence repeated every 5-15 minutes for exactly one hour.

According to their official UUFOH report, the light was so intense, it was at least two times brighter than nearby Wendover, which was visible from their vantage point. Three members noticed a possible mild sunburn the next morning, and some say they experienced mild allergy symptoms, illness, and fatigue for a number of days following the incident.

When they gathered all peripheral information, they also had reports of a bomb-like noise the next morning (heard but not seen). And they claim they weren't alone when they viewed the spectacular show. UUFOH say the dramatic lights were unavoidably visible from nearby I-80, and that any passing motorists — perhaps numbering in the hundreds — could have also witnessed the light show. They also say they witnessed a military plane in the area, and what they believe was "camouflaged surveillance" around the area.

So what was it, exactly? "A military/shadow government weapons test," said Rosenfeld. "This event we called 'Beam Test' or System N.O.R.A. It's rumored to be some sort of laser, or particle beam, likely mobile, space weapon. It might be nuclear powered — maybe 100000 megawatt? — and it's dangerous to be in the general area while it's firing. And this weapon is not for defense."

Paula Nicholason, Public Affairs Officer for

Dugway Proving Ground, said Fox 13 had sent her some of UUFOH's photos for comment. "First of all, from the photos they sent me, I can't verify that these were even taken at Dugway," she said.

"But I can tell you that we did have some field artillery units out here that were being shot, and there was some testing going on during those dates, June 11 and 12. And they were units from the Utah National Guard."

UUFOH is convinced whatever was going on wasn't safe. They dedicate their very lives and resources to research of unexplained phenomena, and they don't mince words on the purpose of their mission. They are, self-described, "a Salt Lake City-based group dedicated to Investigating and finding evidence on the UFO activities and paranormal happenings in Utah."

"Our goal is to provide enough information for the common person to draw their own conclusions based on accurate



photography courtesy / UUFOH

The organization, Utah U.F.O. Hunters, photographed a mysterious light phenomena over Dugway Proving Ground from public land near Wendover looking south.



photography / courtesy of UUFOH

This photograph was taken by members of the Utah UFO Hunters team last June near Wendover and I-80 looking south toward the Utah Test and Training Range. Witness noticed this large and unusual beam of light lasting three to five minutes near Dugway Proving Ground.

information, often considered 'out of the box' and normally not released by the extremely filtered mainstream media sources," said Rosenfeld. "And to educate and inform the public of the UFO activities and evidence that occur in Utah."

The Utah UFO Hunters have members across Utah, and they meet monthly to discuss current events, investigations, evidence, etc. Sometimes, they welcome a guest speaker. The group is continually looking for new reports and sightings, looking to determine "how hot the hot-spots are," and looking for new locations to view phenomenon. When there is a recent sighting, or regular sightings increase, a search group tries to capture the phenomena on video or camera.

"By taking detailed reports, collecting data, informa-

tion, physical evidence, locating hotspots, interviewing witnesses, photographing and/or video taping UFOs — and our search group in the field — we hope to bring the newest sightings and photos to you," said Rosenfeld.

The June photos have raised a flurry of questions, curiosity, and media coverage. And the reaction, according to Rosenfeld, has been mostly supportive.

"It was mostly good," said Rosenfeld. "There were some comments about health concerns, but mostly kudos. Our website got flooded, and the hits from government and military agencies were again high in numbers." And, of course, he adds, "We received the usual degrading comments from a few."

But Rosenfeld isn't surprised

by what he saw last summer. He says strange sightings are a typical occurrence at Dugway, and that UUFOH is often there to document it. "Exotic testing of weapons and other technology needs oversight," he said. "And our star visitors are watching what goes on there, so naturally sightings of UFOs in or near the area is common."

Rosenfeld and UUFOH are pushing for more answers on what happened at Dugway last summer.

"Dugway needs some oversight!" he said. "Our objective is truth, no matter how far fetched or boring. We bring you the facts and news and let you make up your own mind based on the evidence. The Truth Is Here In Utah, and we want to show you that truth."

Rochester man studies UFOs with a historian's tools

Richard Nolan has never seen a UFO. But he believes they are real. Don't roll your eyes.

Nolan is a historian and researcher by trade. He has never had any interest in science fiction. If extraterrestrials have visited Earth, Nolan doesn't claim to know where they've come from or what they want.

He does believe, though, that the subject is worthy of inquiry.

Dolan, a Brooklyn native, earned a history degree from Alfred University, studied at Oxford University, and then studied American Cold War diplomacy at the University of Rochester in the 1990s. He earned a master's degree in history.

He left academia because he didn't want to spend his life "begging for adjunct instructorships." He now runs his own professional résumé writing service.

His passion, however, is researching and writing about UFOs. He has been a contributor to The History Channel, has written dozens of articles and, in 2000, published Volume One of *UFOs and the National Security State: An Unclassified History*. The book documents global UFO encounters from 1941 to 1973. Just in those years, he says, the book documents about 250 UFO encounters involving the military. He is working on a second volume that would present evidence through the 1990s.

"I have gone from the standard academic track to the fringe," he says, "and the fringe is the best place to be."

He has collected loads of official documents released to many researchers over the years through Freedom of Information Act requests.



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At first, he says, American intelligence worried that the Soviet Union might have perfected the technology of extremely high-speed craft that can stop in mid-air and turn on a dime. That turned out not to have been the case, but the reports of sightings continued for decades.

As every television viewer knows, the government has long dismissed sightings as mistakes. Either witnesses have mistaken weather balloons or atmospheric conditions for unusual aircraft or

they are hallucinating.

But when you have trained pilots telling similar stories, you have to listen, he says. "I would hesitate to use the words 'extra-terrestrial spacecraft' in describing these things. This could well be so — but I really try to be less definitive. Call me picky, but I would simply describe them as military encounters with unconventional craft that vastly exceed our own capabilities."

You have to be skeptical of reports, but not closed-minded. So what's credible?

"I look at a few things. First, a detailed (Freedom of Information Act) report is something I consider credible," Dolan says. "A photograph that has gone through extensive analysis" is also credible.

In fact, he says, people need to be far more open to possibilities

we cannot imagine. Might creatures capable of traveling vast distances have more sophisticated ways than low-flying metallic hovercraft to survey the Earth? A reasonable assumption, he says, but who knows?

In 1994, Nolan kind of stumbled into the field of UFO research, knowing quite well that most of the world finds the subject amusing, if not nuts. It doesn't bother him.

He has pursued his material methodically because, as he says in the introduction to his book, "this topic deserves a respectable history." □

Dolan will speak on "UFOs, National Security and You" from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 28, at Brighton High School. Advance registration is required. Call (585) 242-5191.

Unidentified falling object spooks Roswell Ave.

Chino residents not sure what destroyed shack

By SARA A. CARTER
STAFF WRITER

"It came out of the night sky, landed south of Moline."

Jody fell out of his tractor, couldn't believe what he seen."

"It Came Out of the Sky," Creedence Clearwater Revival.

CHINO — Much like the song, something — nobody's sure what, exactly — fell from the night sky Tuesday near Roswell.

No, not the town in New Mexico. This Roswell is an av-

ONLINE EXTRA

Related stories, Web links

enue in Chino, one street up from where — and here's where things get even more interesting — a ~~shot~~ caught fire at about the same time the flying object supposedly hit the ground.

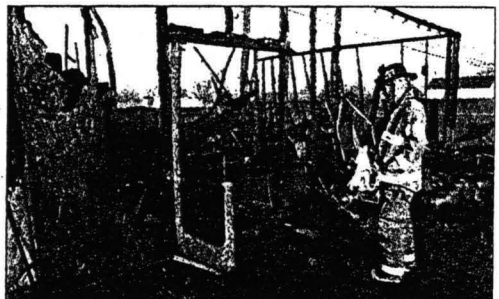
At least that's what dozens of people thought they saw around 10:30 p.m., when they contacted the San Bernardino

County Sheriff's Department to say an unidentified flying object was landing or crashing in town.

The sighting was reported by residents and drivers from as close as the 71 Freeway and as far away as the 210 Freeway.

First, falling object. Then, fire.

"Somebody told one of the fire officials that they saw a plane crash," said Capt. Kim



WALTER RICHARD WEIS • STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chino Valley Fire Capt. Kim Johnson looks over a burned-out backyard shack Thursday that was destroyed by fire late Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the shed lay in ruins in the back of the abandoned Cozzens Avenue house. Charred-black wood crackled and swayed in the wind as neighbor Gary Hering worked on his RV.

"I didn't hear anything," Hering said. "Not an explosion, nothing. My son and wife saw the fire coming from the shed. All I saw was flames."

It's a mystery, yes, but one that not everybody thinks is a big deal, said another neighbor, Gary Matulik, who was home when the fire broke out.

"I didn't hear anything," Matulik said. "I didn't even know there was a fire here last night." But some chose not to talk about the strange object that fascinated and terrified them the night before.

"My cousin said he saw a shooting star," said a young man who lives on Roswell Avenue. He did not reveal his name.

The young man's cousin, who also withheld his name, denied it.

"I was just talking," he said. "It didn't mean anything."

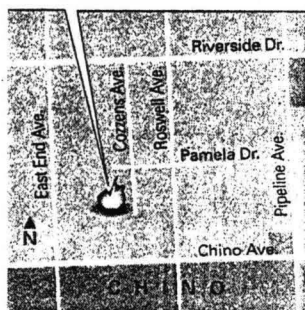
Fire investigators spent Wednesday at the shed, looking for a cause of the fire.

"There may be a simple explanation," Johnson said. "But who knows?"

Since 1967, UFO sightings in the Inland Valley have been reported from time to time.

Mysterious fire

A shack burned behind a house on Cozzens Avenue late Tuesday shortly after residents saw something streak across the sky and land nearby.



RICHARD HASELRIK • STAFF ARTIST

Balls of light over Diamond Bar, south Pomona and Claremont were seen in 1967. In 1974 an unexplained fiery flash perplexed residents in Azusa.

And in 1966, Claremont residents were told a UFO sighting was really just a plastic bag-

Information Center

IN YEARS PAST

50 ago

• The phenomenon of shining discs flitting to and fro in the clear night sky prompted hundreds of persons in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties to jam the telephone switchboards of *The Post-Journal*, the Buffalo Weather Bureau, Sheriff's offices at Little Valley and Mayville, and Jamestown and Dunkirk police headquarters.

James Rowland of Ellington, one of the first to report the sight, described the "saucers" as a large area in the sky, brilliantly lighted, which seemed to form a circle, and which went to and fro in a northerly direction.

Deputies on patrol reported that they saw the phenomenon, but expressed belief the shining lights were reflections of powerful searchlights.

POST-JOURNAL, Jamestown, NY - Feb. 22, 2005 CR: D. Munson

Information Center

IN YEARS PAST

• In 1955, a gray, cob-webby substance that fell out of the sky and covered a half-square mile of a residential area in Horseheads, N.Y. two days ago was still a mystery substance today. Scientists who examined the substance reported that it was slightly radioactive but not dangerously so. The substance, which one person described as "gray, ragged and nylon-like" covered homes, shrubs, trees and lay over snow covered lawns and fields. Area residents said that nothing like it had ever happened in the area before.

50 ago



Nick Redfern

ON APRIL 8, 1977, Superintendent Cooper of West Yorkshire Police was on duty in his patrol car at Laisterdyke, Bradford, when he saw a bright silver light in the sky. Initially he thought it was a star but then realised it couldn't be. "It was low in the sky, a long distance away," he said. "Then I thought it was moving, visible just over the rooftops."

"Suddenly, the light went out and I could see nothing whatsoever in the sky where it had been. I contacted Operations, who reported no other sightings recorded."

Two months later Flight Lieutenant Wood, a pilot at RAF Boulmer, Northumberland, saw objects "hanging over the sea", the closest of which was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter".

Then the brightly-lit objects separated. "One went west of the other and, as it manoeuvred, changed shape to become body-shaped, with projections like arms and legs." The mysterious objects were also tracked on radar at both Boulmer and Staxton Wold.

Details of both of these close encounters are included in Ministry of Defence documents now being released under the terms of the new Freedom Of Information Act. The files, previously held by the MoD's special

'Eye witness accounts go back 90 years'

UFO department, SF4, include scores of seemingly credible reports of a possible visit by extraterrestrial life-forms.

But these new releases represent only a tiny proportion of the vast number of X Files held by the Government that cover not just UFOs but eyewitness accounts of sea serpents, crop circles and ghostly goings-on - some going back more than 90 years. Within the files of the Admiralty, the Report On The Dartmoor Floating Or Balloon Light concerns a series of curious encounters in the wilds of Devon in June, 1915.

A Miss Cecilia Peel Yates of Dolbeare Cottage, Ashburton, saw from her bedroom window what was described as "a bright light in the sky... apparently suspended a short distance above the Earth". The report continues: "It was too large and bright for a planet and, as she watched, it swung to the north-east and disappeared."

As the summer progressed, other witnesses to the mysterious light surfaced. By September, sightings were so frequent that Lieutenant Colonel WP Drury, garrison intelligence officer at Plymouth, staked out the area at night to try viewing the object himself.

HIS PERSISTENCE paid off on September 4. "About 9.30 we observed a bright, white light, considerably larger in appearance than a planet, ascend from the meadow to an approximate height of 50ft or 60ft. It then swung for a hundred yards or so to the left and suddenly vanished," he recorded.

Lt Col Drury speculated that the incidents might have been connected with "illicit signalling" but nothing was proved and the X File on the Dartmoor light was quietly closed.

One particularly spectacular X File stands out. Formerly classified secret and dated December 2, 1942, the Air Ministry document describes the sighting of a huge, unidentified flying object by the captain and crew of an aircraft that had been taking

part in a bombing mission on Turin four days earlier. "The object," the report reveals, "was 200ft-300ft in length and its width 1/5th or 1/6th of its length. The speed was estimated at 500mph and it had four pairs of red lights spaced at equal distances along its body. These lights did not appear in any way like exhaust flames."

The Air Ministry noted: "The captain also reports a similar object about three months ago north of Amsterdam. In this instance it appeared to be on the ground and later travelling at high speed..."

A covering letter signed by the air vice marshal of No 5 Group of the RAF states: "The crew refuses to be shaken in their story in the face of the usual banter and ridicule."

Similarly, previously classified documents generated by RAF 115 Squadron in late 1944 state: "In [an] attack on Bremen, there were many reports of 'silver and red discs above the formations'. These have been seen before but up to now no one has been able to decide their purpose."

These sightings were never explained and the documentation was filed away from prying eyes.

In 1946 sightings of so-called "ghost rockets" over Scandinavia attracted the attention of the British

Government. A secret intelligence report of 1951 detailed the facts: "Unidentified flying objects were first reported after the war from Sweden in the summer and for some months there was a considerable number of alleged sightings, mostly in Sweden but a few also in Norway, Finland and Germany."

"The descriptions were usually of some sort of wingless missile travelling at very high speed, cigar-shaped

'The MoD is as mystified as all of us by UFOs'

or circular, sometimes emitting bright lights, occasionally sound."

Allen visitors or, perhaps, Soviet missile flights? No conclusive answer was ever forthcoming. The UFOs, however, were not gone; throughout the Fifties, UFO encounters involving the RAF proliferated.

"The object was silver and circular... it maintained slow, forward speed for a few seconds before commencing to descend, swinging in a pendular motion similar to a falling

sycamore leaf," wrote Flt Lt John Kilburn on September 20, 1952, in a report of his UFO encounter at RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire, a day earlier.

"Suddenly, it accelerated at an incredible speed towards the west before disappearing... the rate of acceleration was unbelievable."

After details reached the press, the Air Ministry circulated guidelines that stated: "All reports are to be classified 'Restricted' and [military] personnel are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed."

In early 1957, UFOs were tracked on RAF radar screens in a flurry of incidents. One X File states: "On April 4, radar operators at West Freugh detected unidentified objects... It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds."

A particularly notable report of February, 1962, describes an RAF Police investigation of a sighting filed by Ronald Wildman of Luton, who "was travelling along the Aston Clinton Road at about 03.30hrs on February 9 when he came upon an

object like a hovercraft flying approximately 30ft above the road surface."

"He was travelling at 40mph but an unknown force slowed him down to 20mph over a distance of 400 yards, then the object suddenly flew off... He described [it as] about 40ft wide, oval in shape with a number of small portholes around the bottom edge..."

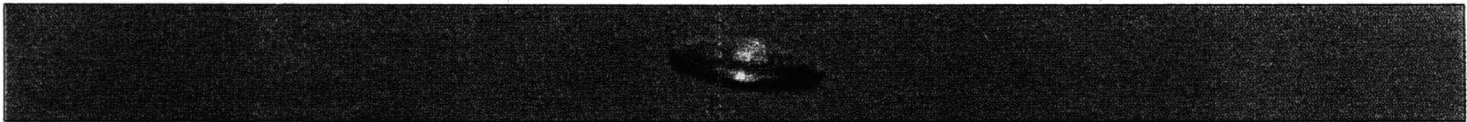
The Air Ministry carefully noted: "This incident is one for which there can be no indisputable solution."

THE declassified X Files are certainly thought-provoking in terms of both witness credibility and content but they seem to suggest that the MoD is as mystified as the rest of us as to what UFOs are - or, indeed, are not.

Does the Government have a lot of reports but very few answers, or is it feasible that the truth has been discovered but kept hidden from us? Now that we have a Freedom Of Information Act, perhaps we will learn if the truth really is out there...

● Nick Redfern is the US editor of *Phenomena Magazine* (www.phenomenamagazine.com).





The light on the disk in Hannah Roberts' photo suggests a sun position behind the camera, which is consistent with the picture's overall light pattern. HANNAH MCROBERTS — FOR THE PROVINCE

B.C. UFO picture 'best in the world'

TEST OF TIME: Vancouver Island woman's photo remains a mysterious treasure

BY CARRIE WEST
SPECIAL TO THE PROVINCE

More than two decades ago, Hannah McRoberts, a young wife and mother, snapped a picture of a mountain near Kelsey Bay on Vancouver Island.

A small puff of cloud made it look like the mountain was spewing steam. She thought it looked interesting. When she developed her film, it looked *really* interesting. It looked as though a flying saucer had appeared in the photograph.

And today, this image, taken on Oct. 8, 1981, remains British Columbia's most famous Unidentified Flying Object photo.

McRoberts figures it's been reproduced in books, magazines, television shows and websites close to 100 times worldwide — from Microsoft and BBC websites, to children's books and strange-but-true television programs.

"It's been published in Time-Life books," says McRoberts. "That kind of authenticates it, too, for them to publish it."

The Province published her photo and story amid a flurry of interest at the time, says McRoberts, but now she only gets a phone call from a journalist or interested party every couple of years.

"My name will always be in print with that picture," says McRoberts. "But I'm certainly not wealthy or famous or anything for it."

McRoberts, who still lives in Campbell River, says she hasn't had any other close encounters. And she maintains to this day that her peculiar photo wasn't a hoax.

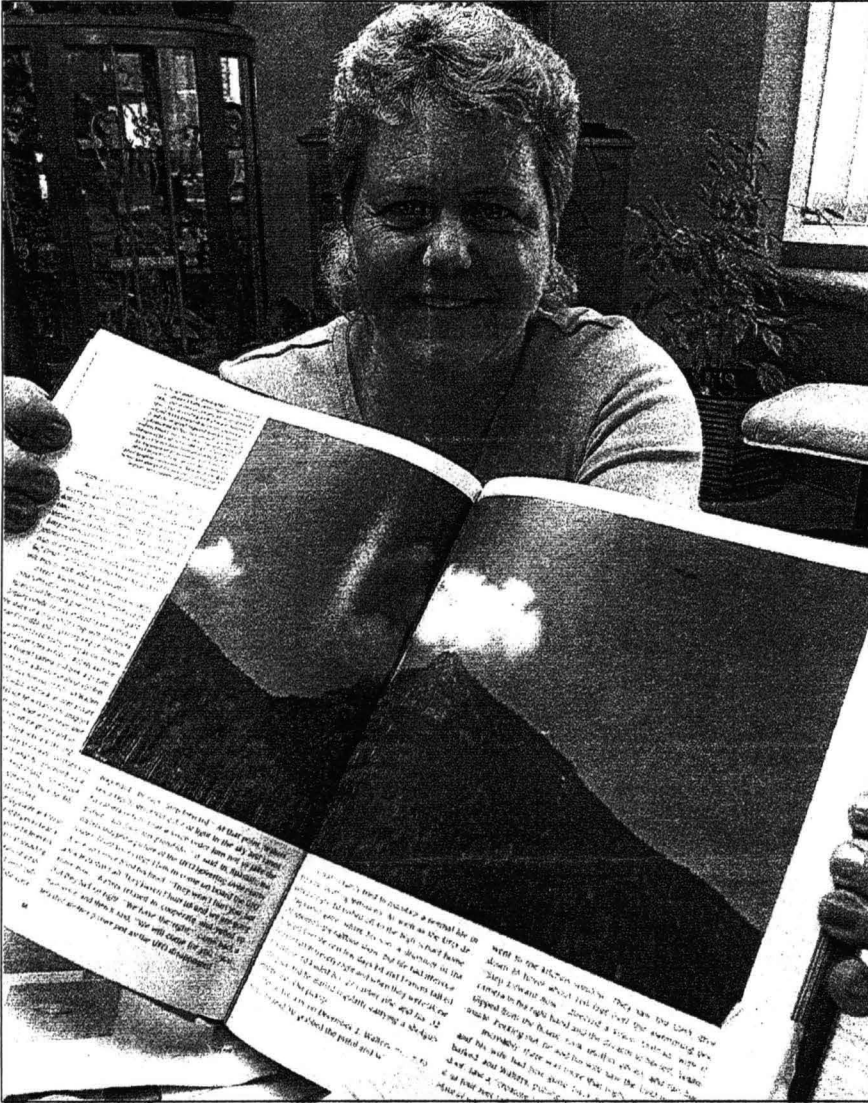
"Absolutely not," says McRoberts, without hesitation.

McRoberts' presumably accidental photo has become internationally famous in UFO circles, according to Gavin McLeod, president of UFO British Columbia, a 10-year-old non-profit organization.

Most other photographs or videos of UFOs can be explained, he says. Many are out-of-focus airplanes, stars or bright planets like Venus. Hoaxsters use pot lids or Frisbees to convince the gullible.

But because experts examined the McRoberts photo and the image of the apparent flying saucer appears relatively clear, McLeod says it's well-known internationally.

"In my humble opinion, the Hannah McRoberts photo is the best



Hannah McRoberts displays her picture in the most famous publication to use it, a Time-Life book called *Alien Encounters*. JERITT BOOMER / STRATHCONA PHOTOGRAPHY — FOR THE PROVINCE

credible UFO photo in the world," says McLeod.

Whether or not McRoberts' photograph is the best, it is considered believable in part because of

McRoberts' own credibility. At the time, she was 26 years old, snapping pictures with her husband and 18-month-old daughter on her way to visit her sister in Holberg, on the

northern tip of Vancouver Island.

McRoberts says she never saw any flying object in the sky that day. It only appeared after her film was developed. After seeing the devel-

oped photo, she says, she contacted the Canadian Forces Base in Comox, where they took her name and number.

"I never heard from them again," says McRoberts.

McRoberts waited eight months before showing the picture to experts at the MacMillan Planetarium in Vancouver.

An American UFO researcher, Richard Haines, spent two days with McRoberts and her family in 1983. He considered possible explanations, including double exposures and scratches on the film. He conducted experiments around the possibility that the object was a Frisbee, but concluded this was highly unlikely.

Also, the photos snapped immediately before and after the one with the strange flying disk were taken in different locations, meaning that if the picture was a hoax, there was only one attempt to capture it on that roll of film.

"In my humble opinion, the Hannah McRoberts photo is the best credible UFO photo in the world."

— Gavin McLeod, president of UFO British Columbia

Haines also considered the credibility of McRoberts and her family (McRoberts says he grilled everyone when he visited in 1983).

At the time, her husband worked in a lumber mill in Campbell River. Haines described the McRoberts family as "middle-class, hard-working people" and McRoberts herself as a "mature adult with high credibility." He also credited the family with not trying to instantly capitalize on the photo, which heightened her believability.

Today, McRoberts charges for the use of her photo through a service in England. The Province paid \$90 for the two pictures above.

McRoberts currently works in an adult daycare facility. She says she's shy about the UFO photo, but her husband "kind of brags about it."

"It happened so long ago," says McRoberts. "It's not that important to me anymore. Life goes on, and things go on."

On the web: www.ufobc.ca/History/1980/kelsey.htm

UFOs COME IN BLACK, YELLOW AND ORANGE

BRITAIN'S top secret X-Files have been opened up.

And they reveal that although aliens may be little green men, their spacecraft are always yellow, orange or black. Those are the colours of the 88 UFOs reported by military staff and terrified men and women who claimed to have seen alien spaceships in the skies over Britain last year. The truth is finally out there after the Ministry of Defence was



X APPEAL: Mulder and Scully

by JAMES WICKHAM

forced to release its X-Files on UFO sightings — like the ones in the TV science fiction hit with agents Scully and Mulder — under the new Freedom of Information Act. One man told Britain's special UFO unit — known as SF4 — that he saw an alien craft near Devizes, Wilts, on September 24.

Fire

"It looked like a big ball of fire coming down from the sky with a tail and sparks coming off the end of it," he claimed. In nearby Somerset a week earlier another spotter reported: "The object looked like a great bright light and was really intense, like a ball of fire coming down from the sky, rapidly moving towards the ground."

Many sightings are explained away as meteor showers, but Ministry of Defence chiefs have struggled to find a simple explanation for all of the reports.

Some files hint that the RAF might have been shadowing the UFOs.

In April, a witness said he saw a mystery craft near Goole, East Yorks. "The object looked like a boomerang and was stationary over a power station," he said. "An aircraft was circling it."

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CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Feb. 21, 2005

UFO sightings soar

WINNIPEG (CP) — There were no little green men to be seen but there were plenty of strange occurrences in the night sky last year.

A national survey by Ufology Research of Manitoba shows a record 882 UFO sightings were recorded in Canada in 2004 — an average of more than two a day and up 31 per cent from the previous year. Included in the reports of unidentified flying objects were disc-shaped crafts, spectacular fireballs and a large black triangular object moving through the sky.

Chris Rutkowski, research co-ordinator for the UFO tracking group, said the results show that people still have a fascination with what's going on above.

Rutkowski said he's not exactly sure what caused the increase, although sightings have been growing steadily over the last several years. For a while that could be attributed to popular TV shows such as the X-Files or significant events like the millennium, he said, but now it might simply be due to more UFO reporting sites on the Internet.

Strange objects in the sky, alien visitors and other close encounters revealed in the North's secret

By Daniel Thomson

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X-FILES

A NORTH pilot's close encounter with a UFO off the coast of Northumberland has been revealed in long-hidden military files.

Newly-released reports contain numerous UFO sightings by British airmen, including details of a possible visit by extraterrestrial life-forms to the North, witnessed by a pilot at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland.

In July 1977, Flight Lieutenant AM Wood of RAF Boulmer reported seeing "bright objects hanging over the sea" including an object that was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter".

North UFO-watchers last night welcomed the release of the report on the incident, which has been the subject of local rumour for years.

The official reports, which have spent more than 25 years under lock and key in the Ministry of Defence's UFO department - SF4 - have just been released under new Freedom of Information measures.

In the classified report, Flt Lt Wood, described by superiors as "sober and reliable", 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 sighting of the UFOs, which were reported to be three miles out to sea at a height of about 5,000ft, was supported by a Cpl Torrington and Sgt Graham of RAF Boulmer, who were positioned at a picket post at the station.

They also observed the strange objects for an hour and 40 minutes and reported the sighting to their commanding officers.

The MoD report confirmed that the objects had been visible on radar at RAF Boulmer as well as the base



THE TRUTH IS IN THERE? RAF Boulmer in Northumberland, where strange flying objects were reported in 1977.

at Staxton Wold, North Yorkshire.

It said: "On seeing the objects on radar, the duty controller checked with the SRO as to whether he could see the objects on radar supplied from RAF Staxton Wold."

Researcher of the paranormal Alfred Dodds, 66, of the Northumberland UFO Research Centre, said last night: "There have been quite a few sightings of UFOs in Northumberland over the years, with several in the vicinity of RAF Boulmer."

"And I had heard rumours of this particular incident, so it is very interesting to hear that it has been officially confirmed. Hopefully, we

will see more incidents come to light as further classified UFO documents are released under the Freedom of Information Act."

The account of the sighting has been kept secret by the MoD since 1977 - but under the Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on January 1, the file has been reviewed and declassified.

An MoD spokesman last night confirmed a number of classified reports had been released and explained the ministry's policy on Unidentified Flying Objects.

He said: "Some reports have been released that were deemed to be in the public interest. But the majority

of documents on contentious subjects will not start to be released until after February 1.

"The MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of UFOs and flying saucer matters, or to question the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded."

"The MoD examines any UFO reports it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. But to date the MoD knows of no evidence, which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena."

MERCURY, Tamworth, England - Jan. 13, 2005

Lights in the sky spark new UFO mystery

A RUGELEY UFO spotter has refused to rule out extraterrestrial activity after residents from around the region recall suspicious sightings.

Despite fears of ridicule and alien-ation, a Gentleshaw woman reported her close encounter with a UFO near Lichfield.

The Malthouse Road resident was reluctant to contact the *Mercury* to recall her disturbing sighting of a spinning, saucer-shaped flying object on Friday evening (January 7).

The 40-year-old, who did not want to be named, was driving down Horsey Lane towards the Hedgehog pub in Lichfield.

At about 7.50pm, she noticed a dull white light close by and sensed something was above her.

"That's when I first saw it above my car," she X-plained.

"So I slowed right down and as I turned right, that is when it appeared to follow me."

"I opened my window and stuck my head out but there was no sound."

"Some cars past me and they appeared to slow down."

"I cannot see how they could miss it."

Rugeley resident, Graham Allen from the Staffordshire UFO Group, said a number of people had also reported strange lights on the same evening, believed to be coming from near Armitage and Rugeley.

He refused to conclude whether they were or were not a UFO.

"We had a number of sightings mainly in the Rugeley area and actually I saw them myself," he said.

"I think that they were laser lights or high-intensity beams shining on the clouds,

from what, at the moment, I do not know."

"I am not sure at this point whether they were a UFO but I do want to hear from witnesses."

According to Mr Allen, unusual sightings are no rare thing.

"There are lots of UFO sightings in Staffordshire, in August last year it was quite prolific."

"I would like to find the source of these lights but if there isn't one, I may have to conclude that it was a UFO."

Mr Allen would like anyone who believes they may have also seen something extraterrestrial to contact him on 01889 585149.

■ *Did you see anything? Write to the Cannon & Rugeley Mercury, CIN, Ventura Park Road, Bitterscote, Tamworth, B78 3LZ or email mercury.editorial@cintamworth.co.uk*

Secret Government files reveal details of UFOs in North Yorks.

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

by Charlotte Percival

charlotte.percival@ycp.co.uk

NEW Government documents released under the groundbreaking Freedom of Information laws have shed new light on unidentified flying objects in the skies of North Yorkshire.

Thousands of secret Ministry of Defence documents detailing observations of UFOs reported by RAF personnel, British Airway pilots and police officers are being released to the public to comply with the Freedom of Information laws, which came into force on January 1.

Britain's X-Files, as they are being referred to, log thousands of fascinating sightings by witnesses such as an RAF lieutenant, a police superintendent and a British Airways pilot, including an incident detected near Scarborough.

In July 1977, Flt Lt A M Wood reported "bright objects hanging over the sea". The document held by the MoD adds that the UFOs were reported to be three



X-Files agents Mulder and Scully would have a field day in North Yorkshire



Leslie Brigham's picture of a mysterious light in the sky over York in September 1972

miles out to sea and about 5,000ft in height. The UFOs were also seen on the RAF Staxton Wold radar picture, which is then relayed to West Drayton.

The account was deemed to be so sensitive that the MoD had delayed its release for an extra three years.

Earlier this month, Filey was named as Britain's top location for sighting UFOs.

The British UFO Hunters study group said the seaside town was hotspot for unexplained incidents, involving flying objects. The organisation has found that enthusiasts have recorded most sightings in the town, compared with the rest of the country.

Perhaps Britain's X-Files will unveil the mysteries behind the unexplained accounts of UFOs in North Yorkshire that have fasci-

nated Evening Press readers over the years.

In September 1972, Leslie Brigham photographed a mysterious light in the sky over York, which was also witnessed by his grandson John Ward. Explanations included a cloud of ionised particles from a rocket, a meteorite and an alien vessel, but nobody knew for sure exactly what it was.

In July 1980, Clive and Yvonne Howard, of York, spotted six "flying saucers" in a cluster over Sutton-on-Derwent. The couple claim to have heard a faint whirring sound before the objects disappeared.

In January 1991, Roger and Dawn Toye, of York, saw a series of lights hovering 500 metres above Knavesmire at about 5am on a clear, frosty morning.

A spokesman for RAF Linton-on-Ouse said air force activity was very unlikely to have caused what the Toyes saw.

In May, 1994, York postman John Hunt reported seeing an "onion-shaped" object fly at high-speed over his houseboat on the River Ouse.

In January 1995, farm worker Wayne Simpson claims to have seen a flying saucer as he tended his sheep near Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

The grey-coloured UFO zig-zagged across the sky and then, after a loud bang like thunder, disappeared.

● Have you ever had a close encounter with a UFO? Email charlotte.percival@ycp.co.uk, or phone 01904 653051 ext 315.



■ Architect Roger Ferguson (right) and Dutch entrepreneur Gerrit Wals at the site of the proposed UFO centre in Bonnybridge near Falkirk.

Scots UFO capital set to twin with Roswell

BONNYBRIDGE and the US city of Roswell are set to become twin towns because of their famed UFO links.

An advance party from the Scots town dubbed the UFO Capital of the World will "beam down" in March to make first contact with the New Mexico community that has become a

By Bob Smyth

Mecca for devotees of flying saucers from around the globe.

Falkirk Council's Deputy Provost Billy Buchanan, who is councillor for Bonnybridge, is to take a delegation to Roswell to

make a presentation about the plan at a meeting of the city council.

The move comes after he contacted Roswell's mayor about the communities cashing in on their UFO notoriety.

Councillor Buchanan said, "Roswell has responded positively to the idea of becoming Bonnybridge's twin, or 'sister', as the Americans call it.

"We have formed the Lights of Bonnybridge Twinning Group and we aim to take about eight people on a five-day visit."

The Roswell Incident in 1947 led to claims that a flying saucer had crashed in the area and that bodies had been recovered from the wreck. The US military initially admitted an alien craft was involved, but later backtracked and the incident has been shrouded in mystery and rumour ever since.

A major draw is the city's International UFO Museum and Research Centre.

Bonnybridge hopes to have its own version of the attraction. Earlier this year we revealed a planning application had been lodged for a UFO visitor centre in the town.

Backing

Among those who could be in the delegation to Roswell is Dutch entrepreneur Gerrit Wals, who owns an Argyll holiday park and is giving financial backing to the visitor centre plan.

Councillor Buchanan added, "Roswell has a population of just 50,000 but it's a draw for thousands of tourists interested in the UFO phenomenon. That pumps millions into the local economy.

"While they have had one famous incident, we

have had thousands of strange sightings in the sky above the town since 1992.

"We've been thrust into the world spotlight, with TV documentaries and UFO conferences, and it's no wonder we're called the UFO Capital of the World.

"However, we want to emphasise both places have more to offer than UFOs and we hope to take along people with tourism and business links to promote more general commercial tie-ups.

"The Falkirk Provost has told me he'll be writing to Roswell, too."

Roswell Mayor Bill Owen said, "We welcome the delegation coming to discuss the twinning idea. It would appear to be an interesting possibility that would benefit both our communities."

SUNDAY POST, Dundee, Scotland - Dec. 12, 2004

Have we been visited by aliens?

Photographer 'can't remember' taking this mysterious snap of flying objects

By Stef Hall and Rachel Dearden

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? Or is just a smudge on a windscreen?

Keen photographer Stephen Ratcliffe of Woodstock Close, Lostock Hall, near Preston, reckons he has seen something sinister in the skies above Ribchester.

The 49-year-old claims to have unwittingly snapped four UFOs hovering over the Ribble Valley when he took his digital camera to photograph the snow-covered landscape around the village.

The prints, which he says he does not remember taking, show orb-like objects appearing to fall from the sky.

But an astronomer at the University of Central Lancashire has cast a shadow over the authenticity of the picture, saying the lighting is not right.

Professor Donald Kurtz, professor in astronomy at the university, said: "Things fall from the sky, bits of space rock and such like, but seldom will someone see it."

"There are certainly no aliens flying around Lancashire in their flying saucers."

Prof Kurtz added that the UFOs appear to be lit from the top whereas the shadows in the photograph are cast from behind.

But Stephen, who works for Goss Graphics in Preston, is convinced the photos were a result of some kind of paranormal happening.

He said: "I bought the camera for £129 last year and it has never had anything like this happen before. I can't remember taking the picture. I am convinced the camera did it on its own."

"I was parked on a car park in the middle of the village and it looks like the picture was taken from behind the wheel of my car."

"There was nobody else around so I don't know if anybody else saw them."

*Have you seen any strange happenings in the sky? E-mail the newsdesk at lep.newsdesk@lep.co.uk



CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Stephen Ratcliffe, who snapped the UFO over Ribchester on his camera

● A UFO is officially classified as the sighting of an object or light in the sky or on land whose appearance, trajectory, actions, motions, lights and colours do not have a logical, conventional, or natural explanation.

● UFOs come in all shapes and sizes. People have experienced everything from unexplained spots of light to alien abductions and close contact with beings or objects.

● Many researchers say UFOs have appeared throughout history. There are reports from America in the 1890s. But the first sightings that could

Factfile

be investigated occurred during the Second World War when pilots saw glowing balls of light flying beside their planes.

● Ufologists have three basic theories to try to explain UFOs. They may be the products of intelligent beings, unusual but natural phenomena or the result of people's need for a comforting or challenging belief system.

● There are thousands of ufologists. There is no formal training as ufology is a hobby rather than a professional career.

Was 'close encounter' a meteor?

CURIOSER and curioiser...

A shocked Prestonian today told how he saw a meteor in the skies over Preston as he prepared to take his dogs for a walk yesterday.

Steve Butterworth, 46, of Teil Green, Fulwood, Preston, says he was bathed in the bright white light of a passing meteor at 6.40am yesterday.

He said: "I had walked out of my door and was looking at the ground when I saw the whole area light up in a glow. It was an intense white light, brighter than the light of a full moon. It was still dark at that time and it looked like somebody had torn a line in the sky and daylight was pouring through."

"It looked like a roundish object with a streak behind it. It was the most beautiful colour I have ever seen - a phosphorus white-blue light. Then, as quickly as it came, it petered away."

Astronomer Prof Donald Kurtz said: "If there was no light pollution the average person would see about 10 meteors an hour on a clear night."

"It could well have been a meteor - early morning is a good time to see them - but to see such a bright meteor is quite rare."

OBSERVER, London, England - Jan. 9, 2005

The truth is out there - eventually

WITH Whitehall shredding machines still whirring, a straw poll carried out by *The Observer* suggests that the publication most likely to benefit from the Freedom of Information Act - which became law on 1 January - might turn out to be the *Fortean Times*. Last week, the Ministry of Defence received 172 requests for information under the act, mostly from journalists.

Typically, perhaps, the most popular requests were not for war records, nor for details of previously confidential defence contracts, but for information about UFOs and 'low-flying aircraft'. Meanwhile, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs logged 25 requests for files on hunting, flood defences and, bizarrely, 'the welfare and handling of circus tigers'.

The total number of FOI requests received by the 10 Whitehall offices polled is 517; the MoD logged the most and the Department for International Development - which has been busy after the tsunami disaster - just eight.

With files held by 100,000 public bodies newly available under the act, there are bound to be some rich pickings for journalists - although at the time of writing, the British Potato Council, one of the organisations on the list, has yet to receive a request.

The stories will take some time to appear: 20 working days are allowed for the delivery of documents, but would-be investigative journalists who use the act to sniff out career-defining stories risk sharing their findings with their rivals.

Answers are subject to 'simultaneous disclosure', on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website (www.dca.gov.uk/rights/dca/disclosure.htm). In other words, as soon as you get your answer in the post, it is posted on the Internet for everyone else to read.

MERCURY, Lichfield, England - Feb. 13, 2005

Appeal for more 'saucer' sightings

by Carl Roache
News Reporter

DESPITE fears of ridicule and alien-ation, a Gentleshaw woman has reported her close encounter with a UFO.

The Malthouse Road resident was reluctant to contact the *Mercury* to recall her disturbing sighting of a spinning, saucer-shaped flying object on Friday evening, January 7.

The 40-year-old, who did not want to be named, was driving down Horsey Lane towards the Hedgehog pub in Lichfield.

At about 7.50pm, she noticed a dull white light close by and sensed something was above her.

"That's when I first saw it above my car," she X-plained.

"So I slowed right down and as I turned right, that is when it appeared to follow me."

"I opened my window and stuck my head out but there was no sound."

"Some cars past me and they appeared to slow down. I cannot see how they could miss it."

Rugeley resident Graham Allen from the Staffordshire UFO Group, said a number of people had also reported strange lights on the same evening, believed to be coming from near Armitage and Rugeley.

He refused to conclude whether they were or were not a UFO.

"We had a number of sightings mainly in the Rugeley area and actually I saw them myself," he said.

"I think that they were laser lights or high-intensity beams shining on the clouds, but from what, at the moment, I do not know."

"I am not sure at this point whether they were a UFO but I do want to hear from witnesses."

According to Mr Allen, unusual sightings are no rare thing.

"There are lots of UFO sightings in Staffordshire, and in August 2004 it was quite prolific."

"I would like to find the source of these lights but if there isn't one, I may have to conclude that it was a UFO."

Mr Allen would like anyone who believes they may also have seen something extraterrestrial to contact him on 01889 585149.

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.]

March 4, 2005 — *Diario Litoral del Dia* — ARGENTINA: POLICE CHASE "THE ROOFTOP MADMAN" — The head of the URI asked local residents to remain calm. Until the moment, no one has been attacked or injured, claimed Sheriff Legstra. The official asked that his men be allowed to do their jobs.

Sheriff Gabriel Legstra of the La Capital Police Department, told the press of his departments actions due to claims made by numerous residents of Barrio Centenario and San Lorenzo -- all of them alarmed by the escapades of "The Rooftop Madman," a strange character to which ghostly characteristics have been ascribed.

How are police responding to the state of commotion visible among the neighbors?

At first we were greatly concerned over so much movement in the neighborhood, basically behind Centenario, where many people took to the streets armed with sticks, machetes, knives and even gomas. All of this started last week, but fortunately, the area was calm last night and there were less calls about this character's apparitions. Tuesday was the peak. We had 18 police units in the area to keep the peace and above all to convince people to stay in their homes. This was the message we wanted to convey on account of the psychosis unleashed in the area. The fact is that we do not have any record of people attacked by this personage. Neither attacked nor beaten. There were only some frightened individuals. Yes, we do have records of people claiming to have seen it and who describe it in a variety of ways, but with some similarities.

Like which, for example?

They describe it as clad in black, with red eyes. They say it can leap five meters into the air or ten meters in length. That it can cross streets in a single bound, from one rooftop to the next.

Have any police agents seen something similar?

I have no official reports that any agent has seen something similar. I was in the area yesterday and, as has occurred on the four preceding nights, I heard reports of people claiming to have seen it. On Tuesday we had three reports at once. In other words, it was being seen in three different locations at the same time. Police units were dispatched, but nothing was found.

Is there any formal report on these apparitions?

There is none. We are working on a preliminary report as from the interruption of traffic on the perimeter road made by neighbors demanding lights in the area, lights that the Municipality has already installed. Also, one involving stories of persons who claim having seen a prowler in their backyards or on the roofs of their homes.

There was talk of an exhibitionist at first...

The initial stories were many, but the statements taken from people who claimed having seen something do not yield anything aside from a character that appears at windows or on rooftops.

What about the gunshots that shattered the windows at the Itati School, how do you explain them?

As part of the same psychosis. That an episode such as this should repeat itself is something we fear, which is why we are advising people not to go out, to let police do their job, to stay home. Police are in the area. In fact, the situation calmed down a lot last night. There were less people on the street, but I still ask everyone to let us do our job to avoid problems, to avoid any injuries, since there are many people armed with sticks and machetes looking for this character.

This state of collective suggestion may have a real "trigger," such as the case of La Llorona, a fantastic account that ended with the capture of a flesh and blood man. Would this be the case?

To hazard an explanation would be a groundless hypothesis. We're only working on the fact of resident phone calls who claim seeing what they're seeing. What we're all trying to do is calm down the area, investigate and try to apprehend it, if there is in fact an individual behind all of this. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

March 6, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — THE NEVADO DE CACHI UFO PHOTOGRAPH — Readers of *INEXPLICATA* will probably remember the "giant UFO" reportedly photographed by Guillermo Martin, a mountaineer from Buenos Aires, who managed to take the sensational shot during his ascent of Nevado de Cachi. The following report was received from Christian Quintero of *Planeta UFO* yesterday:

Dear Christian--

This morning I visited the Centro Cultural Montana Club Entrenamientos de Montana, located at [...] where courses and training in mountaineering are offered, to meet Guillermo Martin, who very kindly gave me a copy of the photo mentioned in the article of *Diario El Tribuno*. I am attaching the photo to this message, which I leave to your own opinion and open discussion. After thanking him for the photo in our group's name, Guillermo told me that he was engaged in mountaineering with other members of the Center and took photos of the place at Cerro Cachi. Upon developing them, he came across this. The rest of the photos show nothing unusual, which eliminates the possibility of lens damage. The only elucidation he made was that the sun was facing him.

Regards,
Ruben Rombola

The photo -- explains Quintero in his message to *INEXPLICATA* -- has a size of 2048 x 1536 px in TrueColor (24b) and a weight 1.9 MB. This image has been reduced to 1024 x 768 px in TrueColor to a weight of 81.9 KB. "Furthermore, I am including a clipping of the original image in which it can be seen that there is no pixellation around the object, meaning that it is unlikely to have been added to the original shot." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero and Ruben Rombola

March 10, 2005 — *www.ElLitoral.com* — ARGENTINA: THE ROOFTOP MADMAN STILL AT LARGE — ***Stories of apparitions will not cease in Barrio San Lorenzo. Psychologists are working with local residents*** — Residents of Barrio San Lorenzo remain frightened and agitated by the apparitions of the ghostly character

dubbed "Rooftop Madman" (Loco de los Techos). Given the prevailing state of nervous tension, two psychologists began working with the population through the health assistance center located in the area.

As part of the plan, periodic meetings have been held with local residents. The next one is slated for this afternoon at 18:00 hours. Interested parties have been invited -- by means of handbills -- to seek individual interviews with the mental health professionals.

Meanwhile, the ghostly characters' "visits" continue taking place according to numerous stories that are heard daily in the streets of San Lorenzo. This morning, a 60 year-old man told *El Litoral* that he saw the "Madman" in a hallway in his own home, while another woman from the 4000 block of Entre Rios St. claims having seen the phantom on the top of an old pine tree. "My 11-year-old son fainted," said the woman. — CREDIT: Proyecto Catent

March 11, 2005 — *www.infobae.com* — ARGENTINA: LOBIZON TERRORIZES WOMEN IN LA PLAYOSA — Entity tries to get into homes, especially those where it knows men are absent, in this small Town in the Province of Cordoba — Since January, residents of La Playosa, a small city in Cordoba, are restless over the presence of a man who, like the legendary Lobizon, attempts to break into homes while issuing powerful howls. Several women have brought complaints to the local sheriff's office and to the fire department, but until now it has been impossible to apprehend the strange character who has the town up in arms.

"Generally speaking, it attacks dwellings in which no men are known to live, or happen to be away for various causes. It tries to break in through back yards and alleyways, knowing that only women or children happen to be present. Fortunately it has been unable to break into homes because the doors were locked," explained Ana, one of the women attacked by the Lobizon to the Cordoba newspaper *La Manana*.

This woman's eyewitness account coincides with others who were able to see it through their windows. Ana adds: "It's a young person, thin and tall, wiry and very agile. Its eyes are bloodshot and is clad in black, I suppose with the intention of frightening the families of the homes it's trying to break into."

Investigators believe that the "Lobizon" of La Playosa would be a deranged young man trying to break into the homes of some women he has studied previously and who, for some reason or another, have caused him to develop an interest or attraction. In any event, the town's peace has been disrupted and no one dares sleep with open windows, or to leave their doors unlocked, as used to be their custom. — CREDIT: Proyecto Catent

March 13, 2005 — *www.diariollanquihue.cl*, Puerto Montt, Chile — The Chupacabras: Closer than We Thought? by Pedro Soto Palma — Expert says terrifying attacks will begin from March onward — Juan Acuna will never forget that night at the edge of midnight when he returned home seriously injured, bearing the weight of fear on his shoulders. He remained submerged under the restless waters of the canal for 15 minutes trying to think of the sordid image that his eyes had seen while two creatures regarded him with impunity...

The Chupacabras had attacked again. This was the first round. What is it? What is its shape? Where does it come from? These are perhaps the most essential questions that come to our minds when we hear the fearsome "Chupacabras" mentioned.

According to the Biblical Book of Isaiah, reference is made to a female monster (Lilith) that has been translated in certain versions of the Holy Word as "Goatsucker." According to Rev. 34-11, "The pelican and the urchin took over her (Earth) and the owl (Goatsucker or Lilith) and the raven shall dwell on her."

Cause for worry...or not?

Specialist and compiler of articles related to the subject, Liliana Nunez, said that the first recorded case in Chile in the year 2000 did not occur in Calama - as collective memory suggests - but closer to Puerto Montt than one would think. Very few know this.

In the town of Antihue, some 50 km from Valdivia, a local planter killed the alleged "Chupacabras" with a shotgun blast.

If the collapse of the Twin Towers was a triumph for terrorism, the skull of the unknown animal became the standard of victory for the local planter. Months later, learning of the events appearing in the media, he decided to approach *El Diario El Austral* of Valdivia to tell his story. Days later, the rest of the country was stalked by a strange animal known as "Chupacabras."

After four months of intense investigation, scientists with the Universidad Austral determined that "Chilean fauna is sufficiently well-known; the discovery of new species in the year 2000 is unlikely." Specialists analyzing the case determined that they had been "unable to establish the animal in question," according to the newspaper article. Scientist Milton Gallardo, who analyzed the skull, said it had 6 incisors, 2 canines, 6 premolars and 6 molars in the upper jaw as well as in the lower jaw. A total of 40 teeth. Truth or fiction? No cause for alarm ... or is it?

[The creatures that attacked Juan Acuna] had two "yellow suns" under their forehead. One of them was 60 centimeters tall and the other stood over one meter tall. They were winged and covered in black fur. If the Hiroshima bombing was torture, how did Acuna feel about his experience on July 11, 2004 near El Parral?

Marcelo Catrilef, a veterinarian from Puerto Montt, stated that there is still no clear explanation to the attacks recorded by the press since the Year 2000.

"It is very clear that the phenomenon is little known. We cannot think that it is an animal, but there are many unexplained things, such as the behavior of the attacked animals. Hens will not crow. We are witnessing strange behavior on the part of the attacker, as well as the attacked," he emphasized.

Alberto Urquiza, a panelist with the "La Ley de la Selva" show, a ufologist and specialist in the subject, said that the attacks take place in a stealthy manner. "The wound inflicted is a single one and is characteristic to all cases. It's about the size of a finger seen head-on, not very large, which can be two to four centimeters deep. There is no blood to be found around the attacked animal; their hairs and feathers are bloodless and there is no blood to be found on the floor," he said.

The unknown predator's victims range from alpacas, pigs and sheep to dogs, cats and most poultry.

According to the hypotheses presented on the Chupacabras' origin, there are four on which investigators have come to rest their conclusions. Among them is the one set forth by psychiatrist and paranormal researcher Mario Dussuel, who stated that the first theory is that [the creature] is an experiment belonging to one of the great powers, such as the U.S.. The case that occurred in the northern part of the country--at the Radomiro Tomic mine, where a creature was captured -- coincided with the presence of U.S. aircraft, intuiting that Americans would be directly responsible for the genetic experiments with the feared "Chupacabras". The profile [of this hypothesis] was lowered after some time.

The second hypothesis is that the strange being has always existed on Earth. "It is an intelligent being that has known how to hide, which is why its remains have never been found," he added.

The third is based on the fact that our habitat contains an intraterrestrial environment complete with caves and underground shelters. "At a given time, there was an intense burst of ultraviolet radiation that killed all of

the dominant species at the time. Then came a civilization that hid under the earth to shelter itself," suggested the investigator.

The fourth hypothesis is related to UFOs, because flying objects have been seen coincidentally where the aforementioned creatures are reported. According to this line of thought, these specimens would have been left behind by ETs to study human reactions.

It is very hard to embrace any single one of these postures, believes Mario Dussuel, since their feasibility has yet to be established. This expert believes that the creature has existed always.

Researcher Liliana Nunez dismisses altogether that the creature is related in any way to the UFO phenomenon. "The UFO phenomenon in Chile has nothing to do with animal slayings. It would suffice to compile the published articles, which are in excess of 1500 worldwide. UFOs are not related in the least to these cases." — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

March 28, 2005 — *La Estrella Digital*, (EFE News Agency), Madrid, Spain — Parapsychologist Fernando Jimenez del Oso dies at age 63 at Madrid's La Princesa Hospital — Jimenez was the author of books and articles on magic, spiritism, the occult, divination, UFOs and other mysteries -- subjects that intrigued him from a young age.

Fernando Jimenez del Oso, doctor of psychiatry and parapsychologist, died yesterday at age 63, as confirmed by sources in Madrid's La Princesa Hospital. Born in Madrid in 1941, he studied medicine at Universidad Complutense, specializing in psychiatry, which he practiced for many years. He wrote books and dozens of articles and was the editor of encyclopedias and collections such as "La Puerta del Misterio," on magic, spiritism, the occult, divination, UFOs and other mysteries which fascinated him since his youth. He established and edited a number of specialized publications, such as "Mas Alla" and also devoted himself to reporting in an infinity of radio and TV programs.

In early 1976 he took over the "Mas Alla" program and returned to television in 1982 with "La Puerta del Misterio." That very same year, the series "La Espana Magica" commenced, devoting 13 chapters to the subject of UFOs. He subsequently hosted the "Punto de Encuentro" show.

In 1989 he wrote, directed and presented two television documentaries on Mexican and Peruvian culture with the titles "El Imperio del Sol" and "El Otro Mexico."

March 28, 2005 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE CREATURES REPORTED — ***A report by Raul Oscar Chaves, *CIUFOS-LaPampa**** — On March 20, 2005, the time being 0400 hrs, two witnesses driving along National Highway No. 35 some 30 km south of Santa Rosa, near the vicinity of Parque Luro, saw a beam or "tube of light" some 50 meters from the paved road surface. Unable to see the source of said light, they noticed that the "tube" was projected from a height of some 8 meters in the air down to the ground, without touching the surface. "It seemed suspended [in mid-air]." Faced with this circumstance, they slowed their vehicle, detecting that [inside the tube] "it was possible to see two figures in apparent descent, one on top of the other, with their legs slightly raised." The witnesses add that the "tube" measured approximately 1 1/2 meters wide, was entirely white in color, and allowed [the witnesses] to see that the "the beings wore silvery clothing, like astronaut-type jumpsuits." They further noticed that the beings "held their arms outstretched, as though carrying some element in their hands, while the rest of the arm was slung downward and slightly away from the body." Faced with the unexpected encounter and their subsequent feelings of fear, they chose to speed away from the sight, looking back to see that the "tube of light" remained in place as they pulled away from the area. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

March 30, 2005 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — MUTILATED HEIFER IN CORONEL SUAREZ — A mutilated Aberdeen Angus heifer was found on March 24, 2005 in the town of Coronel Suarez, province of Buenos Aires (Argentina). The carcass was reported along Provincial Highway No. 85, on the shoulder.

The 3 month old animal, weighing some 100 kg. was missing its tongue and presented incisions in its anus and genitals, with a total absence of the uterus and a burst right eyeball.

The carcass also presented signs of missing muscular mass near the back of the neck; orifices were detected in the aforementioned area.

Despite the fact that rigor mortis had not set in, there were no traces of carrion animals in the vicinity and the dead animal did not present any odors or signs of putrefaction. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chavez

April 1, 2005 — Prof. Ana Luisa Cid, Mexico City, Mexico — MEXICO: RECENT UFO REPORTS FROM MEXICO CITY — On March 20, 2005, UFO researcher Ana Luisa Cid photographed a spherical object in Mexico State's Tlalnepantla Municipality. Days later, she discovered that the helicopter shown in the image belongs to the police authorities of the state in question and was flying at low altitude to monitor disturbances with area street peddlers. The spherical object became apparent when she downloaded the images to her computer.

On March 22, 2005, according to a report from aviation technician Alfonso Salazar, the Radio Red news station reported that a spherical UFO had been reported as hanging motionless over the vicinity of Tlalnepantla, Mexico State. The news was made known by Jorge Flores, a journalist and reporter for the station in question, and by Guadalupe Juarez, a reporter for Radio Red's nighttime news hour.

On March 23, 2005, Alfonso Salazar and Carlos Guzman (renowned Mexican UFO researcher) were interviewed to issue an opinion on the subject.

On Easter Thursday (03/24/05) Mrs. Malena Mendieta reported to Prof. Cid that she had witnessed strange low-flying lights near her window in the Patera Vallejo neighborhood to the north of Mexico City. These lights emitted a buzzing sound that impressed her greatly. This sighting took place during early morning hours and she was in the company of her daughter.

On Good Friday (03/25/05) Alfonso Salazar and Salvador Guerrero managed to observe and record a spherical object over eastern Mexico City that suddenly changed speed and trajectory exactly as the Crucifixion was being reenacted in Ixtapalapa.

On March 26, 2005, an aviation technician reported a spherical object emitting white lights in the city's southern region, flying at high altitude from south to north (according to a report by Alfonso Salazar). — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

April 5, 2005 — *CIUFOS-LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE OBJECT CROSSING SOLAR DISK — During an early morning skywatch, members of *CIUFOS-LaPampa* were able to capture images of a strange object in Earth's upper atmosphere flying across the solar disk.

At the time that the sighting took place, the skies over Santa Rosa, La Pampa (Argentina) were covered by stratocumulus clouds, which allowed for intermittent glimpses of the sun.

This sort of natural filter allowed viewing the sun in plain sight and to detect the presence of an object in front of it, which remained static for a few minutes.

This unexpected and highly unusual event allowed researchers to record the event for some two minutes, after which the object in question disappeared.

Having made the corresponding vidcaps and digitized them, they reveal the presence of a triangular object with greater volume in its central part. A JVC camcorder was employed in this recording. The materials obtained remain in the possession of *CIUFOS-LaPampa*. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

April 6, 2005 — *CIUFOS-LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — A Follow-Up On The Coronel Suarez Cattle Mutes — Only a few days ago, *INEXPLICATA* reported on the resurgence of cattle mutilation activity in the Argentinean Pampa.

Researcher Raul Oscar Chaves of the *CIUFOS-LaPampa* investigative organization has provided an update on the situation at our request. His information suggests that mutilation activity is on the upswing again, but it is too early to tell if a replay of the 2002 events is in the wings (Argentina's 2002 cattle mutilation epidemic commenced during the month of May that year).

With regard to the Suarez mutilations, writes Chaves in his reply to our inquiry, cattle ranchers are refraining from reporting cases to the authorities, in spite of the losses suffered. Readers will remember that the 2002 wave ended somewhat "abruptly" in August of that year, not because the mutilation events drew to a close, but because the authorities refused to accept any further complaints involving mutilations.

Seven deer have turned up mutilated in a hunting preserve.

"A while ago we learned that ten mutilated cows had been discovered. The most striking aspect of this is that circle marks appeared in the pastures, and all of the cows appeared in the perimeter of one of the circles, heads pointing toward its middle. We always work on-site, securing all information necessary to appraise each case," adds Chaves.

The alignment of mutilated animals was seen during the 2002, mutilations and in the 1995-96 Chupacabras depredations in Puerto Rico.

The latest case appears to involve a mutilated cat whose carcass was found at a country estate. The witness allegedly saw strange lights and nocturnal sounds resembling "the sound of the wind," after which she found the mutilated pet. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

April 6, 2005 — *www.clarin.com*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — MYSTERIOUS OBJECT IN THE RIO DE LA PLATA SKIES — A STRANGE LIGHT CAUSED ALARM IN TWO CIVIL AIRPLANES — The Uruguayan Air Force investigates two hypotheses: a missile or a fighter plane — The Uruguayan Air Force is investigating the appearance in the sky of a strange luminous object that alarmed residents of towns near Colonia and the crew of two commercial planes that were flying over the Rio de la Plata.

The first to see the strange luminosity were the pilots of a cargo plane from the German company Lufthansa that had taken off from the Ezeiza airport (in Argentina-Tr.) towards Dakar, Senegal. "At 3.50 on Monday (April 4th-Tr.), the pilot of the German airline reported on the radio having seen an object. And he stated that in view of the course it was following, upwards, it must have been launched from the ground. The pilot said that what he had seen was a missile," navigator Col. Jose Luis Vignoli from the Uruguayan Air Force told *Clarín*.

Shortly thereafter, the second report arrived from an airplane belonging to the Aeromas company that was flying in the area. It was the voice of Lt.Col. Walter Alvarado, who was flying towards Carrasco, the airport of Montevideo (Uruguay's capital city-Tr.) from Ezeiza. After listening on the radio to the report of his colleague from Lufthansa, he went into alert. "I had just left La Plata behind (a city in the Buenos Aires province-Argentina-Tr.) when the commander of the MD11 from Lufthansa nervously said that what he was seeing was no space junk, but a missile. There, to my left, I saw an intense brightness in the Rio de la Plata water. I was south of Colonia," he said.

Besides, according to Alvarado, the crew of the other plane "was scared, because since this is a company that makes international flights, the planes have missile detectors. And the missile alarm went on in their cabin."

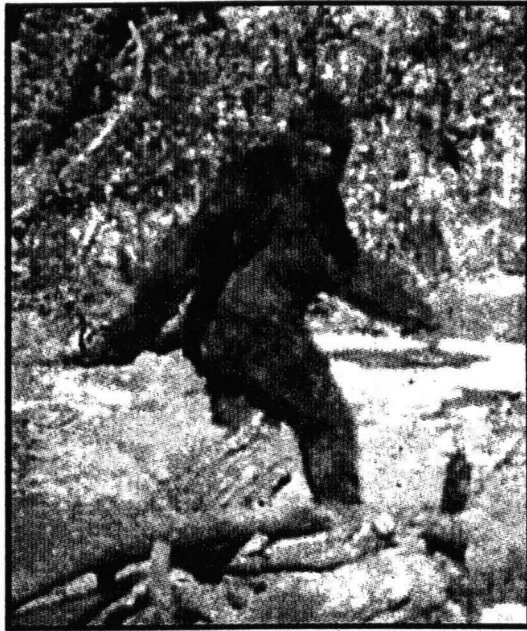
On the other hand, neighbors in the Uruguayan towns of Juan Lacaze (Puerto Sauce) and Nueva Helvecia in the department (province) of Colonia, stated that last Monday they saw the brightness and heard a strong explosion.

In view of the different versions, the Uruguayan Air Force commission that receives and investigates "UFO" reports initiated an investigation to explain the case.

For the time being, the specialists believe that the object seen by the two pilots is human made. And they juggle two hypotheses: one, that it really was a missile; the other, that the brightness could have been the result of the fire from an "afterburner" (a system in fighter airplanes that allows them to achieve maximum speed) that turned on.

"All the events lead us to believe that we're speaking of something conventional. Both pilots agree that the object they saw was not flying at an unusual speed nor was its course erratic. Besides, the German pilot has experience in recognizing missiles because he traveled along war routes in Europe. The other pilot from Aeromas feels that what was turned on was a afterburner," said Vignoli. And he added that in the next few days they will travel to the different places in Colonia to talk to the neighbors that claim having seen lights and explosions.

Meanwhile, sources of the Argentine Air Force that *Clarín* contacted, acknowledged that a report was prepared based on the pilots' testimonies. Also, they rejected the possibility of a missile. They believe in the hypothesis of a celestial object. "These are not everyday sightings, but every once in a while they do happen. It's a question of investigating them," they said.



Representation of Bigfoot

Bigfoot sightings as close as Lampasas River

By CLAY COPPEDGE

When backroads intersect backwaters somewhere in the backwoods you might be near a place where someone has claimed to have seen some kind of a man-ape, a (perhaps) mythical creature usually referred to as Bigfoot.

A lot of Texas Bigfoot sightings occur in East Texas; the Sulphur River, near the borders of Arkansas and Louisiana, is a hotbed of such sightings.

Just across the state line, on the Arkansas side of the Sulphur River, is where persistent Bigfoot reports inspired the movie "Legend of Boggy Creek." The movie took Bigfoot from rural myth into the realm of popular culture.

On the Lone Star side of the river, the Bigfoot monsters that come to inhabit at least the imagination go by many names, some of which sound like high-end fishing lures: Night Screamer, Hawley Him, Haskell Ras-

Back Roads

cal, Wooly Bugger and Caddo Critter. Bigfoot aficionados describe these creatures as Sasquath's southern cousins.

The Texas Bigfoot Research Center — yes there is such a thing and, yes, it is a serious enterprise — has in its internet archive a sighting in Milam County in 1978 and another on the Lampasas River in 1977.

The Texas Bigfoot Research Center investigates (some would say perpetuates) Lone Star sightings of Bigfoot. The center's Web site reports more than 100 sightings per year in Texas. Of that number, the center deems about 75 legitimate.

That may or may not include the local sightings, like the one in the small Milam County community of Ad Hall in July, 1978.

In that one, 15-year old boy, Jeffrey Gelner, said he saw something about seven or eight feet tall and covered from head to toe in fine, dark brown hair. It scared the boy badly, and caused at least two local families to spend the next couple of nights elsewhere.

Other people, however, flocked to the site, eager to see Bigfoot for themselves. Leroy Broadus, sheriff at the time of the sighting, told a reporter he was "more worried about

the Bigfoot lookers than the Bigfoot itself."

The Bigfoot Research Center investigated and declared footprints and claw marks found near the sighting to be man-made, not the work of a Bigfoot.

The family accepted that conclusion.

Still, they knew the teenager saw something.

On The Lampasas

So, supposedly, did the anonymous witness to a Bigfoot sighting on the Lampasas River in 1977. His report was not filed with the Texas Bigfoot Research Center's Web site un-

til August of 1998, 21 years after the sighting.

The witness said that he and five of his buddies gained access to the Lampasas River between Copperas Cove and Lampasas river at a low water crossing, made camp and set up some trotlines farther down the river. They took turns checking the trotlines every hour or so.

About 9:30 p.m., the witness and a buddy named Glen (described by the witness as the most level headed and clean living of the bunch) went by boat to check the lines. They reached a part of the river where they had to get out and carry the boat over a sandbar,

which is when they heard whatever it was they heard.

"We could hear what sounded like trees being broken, and we could see by the moonlight trees falling from the top of the bank coming straight for us," the report said. "We are frozen and neither of us moves. Whatever it is (is) now coming right for us."

The two teenagers beat what can only be described as a hasty retreat.

"We were screaming like a couple of eight-year old girls."

"This thing looked to be 7-8 feet in height, was dark with hair, had a small head which looked like two oranges, almost glowing eyes, no resem-

blance of a neck, and very long, swaying arms, covered with hair about a foot long."

The next day they returned with Glen's brother, a preacher, to search the site. The only evidence they found was about 20 mesquite trees that had been broken about three feet from the ground, along with some deep indentions in the ground.

They don't know what they saw but, like the teenager in Milam County in 1978 and hundreds — maybe thousands — of others, they are sure they saw something.

Hide Nor Hair

Bigfoot sightings in Texas are not new. The Comanche,

Tonkawa and other tribes reported seeing a creature very much like the ones still described today.

So did many of the early settlers.

The lack of conclusive evidence has always been a stumbling block for even the most ardent Bigfoot enthusiasts.

Until somebody finds a skeleton, or rediscovers an unidentified skeleton sitting in a back room of a major laboratory somewhere, skeptics will abound.

Meanwhile, others keep their mind open to at least the possibility. Texas A&M anthropology professor Vaughn Bry-

ant investigated Bigfoot sightings for many years in the Northwest.

He came to Texas but Bigfoot more or less followed him here.

Asked by a Bryan-College Station newspaper last year if he believes in the existence of a Bigfoot, Bryant hedged his bets a bit.

"I'll tell you what I tell everybody," he said.

"I'm not convinced that Bigfoot exists, but I'm also not convinced that Bigfoot does not exist."

"My feeling is, where there's that much smoke, there's gotta be fire. And there's a lot of smoke."



VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Bigfoot of Blues part of saga

Nearly 40 years ago a sighting of huge man-like tracks on Mill Creek Road brought a person to Walla Walla who was to become one of the best-known names in the Bigfoot saga.

That man was Roger Patterson, a Yakima rodeo performer, dedicated to bringing one of the creatures home to prove existence. Patterson hoped he might do just that when he came here in 1966 to check out reports of what likely was one of the biggest of the Bigfoots ever.

This visit to Walla Walla was a year before Patterson was to succeed in capturing on film what he sought on a jaunt into Northern California with his friend, Bob Gimlin. That

filming of a moving Bigfoot is still being analyzed and subjected to the most minute scrutiny by a host of experts and would-be experts. Russian scientists and several U.S. scientists have given the film a sturdy stamp of approval, but the skeptics carry on.

While Patterson failed to capture a Bigfoot in the flesh, "capture" on film is the nearest thing to the real thing so far. For his efforts of going into the field, his research and book, he deserves a ranking in any listing of Bigfoot authorities. He sure has my vote!

It was my story in the UB of Sept. 7, 1966, which drew Patterson here, following his reading of the Associated Press

release in the Yakima paper. That story told how a Walla Walla cyclist, Pete Luther, had come across tracks on Mill Creek Road at the mouth of Tiger Creek. The tracks measured 19 inches long and eight inches across at the ball of the foot. Tracks identical in measurements were to be found on the watershed intake trail a few years later.

We enjoyed the company of Patterson as our house guest that day and heard several accounts of Bigfoot tracks he had been investigating. Patterson told me he had high hopes of some day capturing a Bigfoot. Then, to lead any efforts for preservation of the creature. He even made a prediction one would soon be captured, adding fervently, he hoped the captor would be himself!

Fate has ways of its own; however, and Patterson was to die just over a year after his Walla Walla visit; a scant five years after he caught on film the Bigfoot at Bluff Creek, near the town of Willow Creek, Calif., in 1967.

As I finished reviewing the faded newspaper clippings of the Luther track findings and Patterson's visit here, I was introduced by telephone to a man who hopes to produce a definitive book about Patterson and his hopes and dreams about the elusive Bigfoot.

David Murphy, 37, of Whittier, Calif., wasn't quite four years old when he was "introduced" to the Bigfoot saga. It was 1971 when he was watched the '67 Patterson film.

"I remember my mouth dropping in awe and fear when seeing the somewhat shaky image of 'Patty,' walking from left to right on the film strip with long, swinging arms," Murphy told me. "I was captivated and have been ever since!"

Murphy noted the prime reason for the book "on the life of Roger Patterson, but also Bob Gimlin and Bigfoot, is to give people an accurate sense of the lives of these figures. They have impacted the lives of so many all over the world."

Murphy got my immediate blessing for his book and I'd urge any of The Times readers to give him a hand when he comes calling. He plans to be in our area this spring, probably March or April. He said those wishing to contact him could do so by e-mail: Raiders85@charter.net.

The up-close sighting by the late Paul Freeman in 1982 was for many people their introduction to the Bigfoot of the Blues. However, it was not the first instance, and the sighting reported by Luther in 1966 was but one of several which preceded the experience of Freeman. Tracks made by the creature seen by Freeman that day in June of 1982, were different from those found by Luther in 1966, but were not many miles apart.



The late Roger Patterson showed casts of a Bigfoot when he visited Walla Walla in 1966.

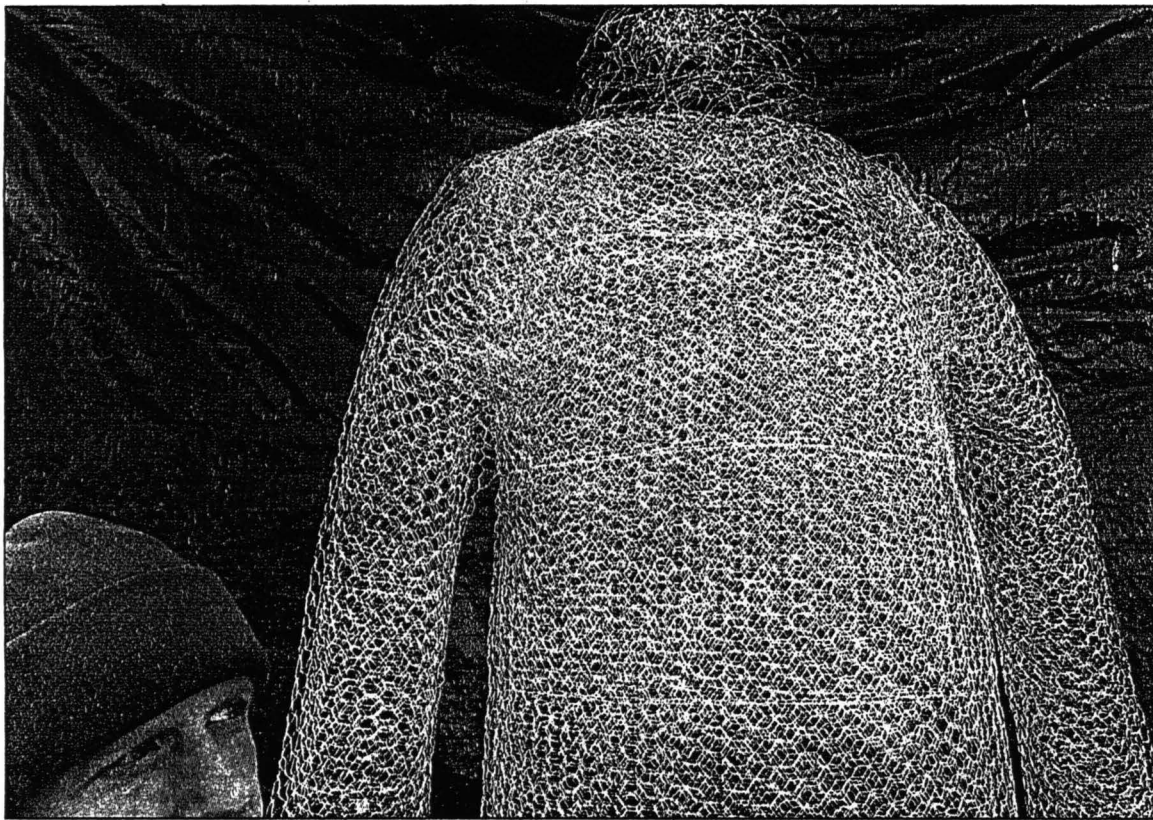
—Vance Orchard photo

BOHEMIAN, Santa Rosa, CA - Dec. 22, 2004

SKY WRITING

Look up in the sky! What's that funny looking cloud? For the past several months, Santa Rosa reader Barry Henshaw has been calling the *Bohemian* offices and asking just that. At issue are so-called chemtrails, as opposed to the normal-looking contrails-formed by jet aircraft exhaust when water vapor condenses at high altitude. According to Henshaw, paranormal radio host Art Bell and a gaggle of websites dedicated to the subject, chemtrails—unusual looking contrails that seem to expand rather than dissipate—may be part of a secret government conspiracy to alter the weather, inoculate the unwitting or even control population growth. "Who knows?" says Henshaw, who reports that there were so many chemtrails in the Sonoma County sky on Thursday, Dec. 16, that callers jammed the switchboards on one local talk-radio program. Is the government secretly spreading chemicals on its constituents? Nonsense, says a 2000 fact sheet on chemtrails issued jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. But then again, those guys don't believe in UFOs, either.

KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR BIGFOOT



World photo/Don Seabrook

Wenatchee resident Paul Graves has begun building an 8-foot-tall sculpture of Bigfoot that he plans to put in his garden. For now, he hides the wire-mesh framework for the sculpture behind a tarp in his back yard. Graves did not want his face to be fully photographed for fear of being harassed about his belief that Bigfoot creatures roam the forests.

Investigator thinks he's hot on the trail

BY RICK STEIGMEYER
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — Paul Graves recalls waking to a chilling sound: a haunting, whooping scream that carried across the valley in the icy dawn.

Graves, 43, of Wenatchee, described the long, piercing call as sounding like a woman's cry, but in whooping breaths as those made by an ape.

"We just looked at each other in disbelief," Graves said about himself and a friend, both avid Sasquatch believers, who had spent the first night of 2005 camped in a tent near

Stevens Pass hoping to hear just a sound. "We heard it scream twice. It wasn't close, but it had the volume to carry across the valley."

There are many believers, Graves among them, nearly a year after the most-accepted Sasquatch documentation was debunked by a Yakima man who claimed to have worn a gorilla suit for a film of the mythical creature striding through a Northern California forest.

Graves is a researcher-investigator for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, one of dozens of Bigfoot organizations that have taken off with renewed interest and new

reports in the past few years thanks to Internet communication. Graves was one of three state investigators named by the organization last year after participating in a weeklong search for the elusive creature. His qualifications included his 15-year interest and thorough knowledge of Bigfoot research, he said.

Graves is a local general cement contractor, musician, sculptor and the son of well-known Northwest artist Robert Graves and retired Wenatchee World feature writer Sheila Graves. He said his new role as

"People call me Bigfoot, but it doesn't bother me. They're just uneducated."

PAUL GRAVES
Bigfoot investigator

Local Bigfoot reports

Chelan County

- ◆ **August 1968:** Backpacker observes a tall, early-morning visitor in camp, Colchuck Lake.
- ◆ **February 1973:** Two men see something walk up and over ridge behind home.
- ◆ **August 1975:** Campers hear loud animal "roars" near a clear-cut, west of Lake Wenatchee.
- ◆ **May 1997:** Hikers find tracks and a possible nest, Ingalls Creek area.
- ◆ **July 1998:** Screams wake campers on consecutive nights at Cle Elum Lake.
- ◆ **July 2000:** Campers hear vocalizations near Clear Lake off Stemilt Loop Road.
- ◆ **October 2002:** Man hunting deer finds unusual feces and hears animal near Ardenvoir.
- ◆ **August 2004:** Driver has road-cross sighting on Highway 2, north of Leavenworth.

Okanogan County

- ◆ **January 1976:** Strong odor, crunching footsteps and large humanlike tracks found in snow near Twisp.
- ◆ **August 1986:** Campers hear multiple vocalizations at Loup Loop Campground.
- ◆ **January 1993:** Equipment operator finds tracks in three feet of snow near Molson.
- ◆ **May 1996:** Memorial Day weekend video of creature near Chopaka Mountain in the Pasayten Wilderness.
- ◆ **October 1997:** Screams heard by hunters outside of Winthrop.
- ◆ **October 2000:** Campers hear possible vocalizations in the Okanogan National Forest.
- ◆ **October 2001:** Two deer hunters find tracks near Buckhorn Mountain.

Source: Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization

"I try not to be skeptical about things I know nothing about."

PAUL HART
Wenatchee, Okanogan forest spokesman

an investigator for the BFRO lends credibility to a work that has consumed him for more than 15 years.

The Los Angeles-based BFRO maintains a Web site and claims as its goal to resolve the Bigfoot mystery by collecting data and physical evidence that may one day conclusively prove the species' existence.

"We're looking for credible witnesses," he said. As a BFRO researcher, his job is to interview people who make reports of sightings to make sure they are credible and then add them to the database.

He's come up with a few, including the Ellensburg fireman and his family camping at the Loup Campground near Twisp who heard two or more animals calling each other through the night. The sounds were unlike any the experienced hunter had ever heard and unnerved the family so much they had to abandon their tent and spend the night in their car, Graves reported.

Graves believes there are many people with Sasquatch stories to share who haven't for lack of a credible group to document the

information without bringing embarrassment. He hopes to find those people as well as relatives of those who have passed older stories down.

According to the BFRO Web site, the group was started in 1995 by Matthew Moneymaker, a Los Angeles attorney who created the 2001 Discovery Channel documentary, "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science."

Reports of a shy 6- to 8-foot-tall ape-like creature with 18-inch feet that walks erect like a man and lives deep in the forest have circulated for more than 150 years, Graves said. Called Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, the Abominable Snowman and many other names, sighting have been documented and become the substance of legend for hundreds of years throughout the world.

More sightings (338) have been reported in Washington than anywhere in the nation, according to the BFRO Web site. Most, 46, have come from Skamania County, near Mount St.

Helens. Chelan and Okanogan County have eight well-documented sightings each. Douglas and Grant County have none, according to the Web site.

Nearly every Washington Indian tribe has its stories and its own name for the creature, said Graves, who is recording a new song titled, "Dsonaqua," the Kwaikwilt Indian name for Bigfoot. He recorded several other songs about Bigfoot and the Northwest mountain mystique when he led the local band Moss Dog in the 1990s. He's also carved soapstone images of the mysterious creature and is currently at work on an 8-foot-tall plaster of paris model that he intends to put in his garden. He knows he'll get a razzing from friends and neighbors, but he's used to it.

"People call me Bigfoot, but it doesn't bother me. They're just uneducated," said Graves, who has a bookcase of well-worn copies of Bigfoot books that have been published over the past 40 years.

Other groups are also eager to find more clues about the hairy man of the woods. Ray Crowe, director of the International Bigfoot Society, based in Portland, said modern technology is on the verge of proving Bigfoot's existence. New cameras, Internet connections, sophisticated DNA and fingerprint examinations have already produced a wealth of new information that has scientists believing that a species of early man may have somehow survived, Crowe said by phone Wednesday.

If Bigfoot is out there, he knows how to keep to himself. Paul Hart, spokesman for the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests, said while there have been occasional reports of Bigfoot sightings in the forest, there's never been anything that he can recall that's been verifiable.

"But I try not to be skeptical about things I know nothing about," Hart said.

On the Web:
www.bfro.net
www.internationalbigfoot.org
www.sasquatchsociety.com

Listen to a sasquatch scream:
www.bfro.net/REF/bfmedia.asp

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Feb. 15, 2005

Local Bigfoot buff resumes search for elusive beast

Recent trips to east Texas forest produce interesting results

By Andrew Griffin
agriffin@thetowntalk.com
(318) 487-6390

Twice this year, Pineville resident Scott Kessler has made trips to the Sam Houston National Forest in east Texas, near the city of Conroe, in search of the elusive creature commonly called Bigfoot.

Yes, the same creature which reportedly made some appearances in Cenla in 2000 – first in the Cotton Island area of northeastern Rapides Parish and also near Zwolle in Sabine Parish.

Kessler, who works as a fireman in Pineville and is an active member of the Bigfoot Field Research Organization (BFFO), loves any opportunity to go out into the wild and seek the creature, which some speculate may be connected to the primate family – if, of course, it exists at all.

Kessler first made the trip to this area, which covers 163,000 acres in Walker, Montgomery and San Jacinto counties, with a dozen other Bigfoot researchers in January, as part of Operation Primate Web II, organized by the Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center.

The goals of the investigation,

both in January and this month were, according to the group's website at www.TexasBigfoot.com: "To gain clear film footage and/or photographs of target species; To gain identifiable DNA evidence of target species; to identify areas of target species activity and/or habitation; to organize and conduct searches for evidence of all kinds; and to thoroughly document and preserve physical evidence including, but not limited to, tracks, hair, scat, wildlife kills and sounds."

Kessler said that while there was a lot of waiting around during the trips last month and in January, there were some exciting instances when it was clear that something big was in the area near their camp.

Kessler said there was a strong indication something was circling their camp. There was an instance where a night vision camera used by the team picked up "an eye" at a height of six feet, watching them nearby. There were limb snaps, and an instance where something threw a tree limb at Kessler. Then there was the smell. Yes, the famous stench that many who have encountered Bigfoot report smelling.

The whole team, Kessler claims, got a

ON THE WEB

For a link to the Texas Bigfoot Web site go to www.thetowntalk.com/features.

strong whiff of something horrible one night while looking for the creature.

"This horrible stench rolled into the camp," Kessler said. "The best way to describe it was a skunk smell combined with a smell of something that had rolled in something dead and rolled in feces. It gagged one of the guys. Oh man, that smell was ungodly."

Kessler and the team were convinced something unusual was watching their camp. And while they never actually saw anything as a group, there was one event where a Bigfoot researcher and a skeptical newspaper reporter from the Houston area, did report something unusual during the January investigations.

A full account of this strange encounter is featured at www.TexasBigfoot.com. On it, TBRC field investigator Mike Hall and

Observer newspaper reporter Cindy Parker, who was there to write a story about their investigations, report seeing something very unusual in the middle of the road.

"Parker was the first to spot the creature. She described it as covered with longish black hair and estimated that it stood approximately six feet tall. It had an exceptionally broad body, estimated at about four feet in width. The observation that possibly impressed Parker the most was the smoothness of the creature's movement – "fluid...like it was floating."

Interviewed separately, Hall estimated that the creature stood about five to five and one half feet tall. The body was covered with hair ("almost shaggy") described as being very dark brown to black in color. Like Parker, Hall was also impressed with the creature's thick, powerful-looking body."

Parker even noted in her Observer newspaper article that she came away a believer.

"After my experiences in the field, I have reasons to believe that an unknown creature does reside in the Sam Houston National Forest," Parker

wrote. Kessler said he was impressed by their report.

So, this month, the team returned to the same general area in hopes of seeing something similar to what Hall and Parker reported seeing.

While there, the team found a very unusual track along a hiking trail. They put plaster cast in the track and waited for it to dry. It was nearly dry when it was compromised by a careless hiker from the city.

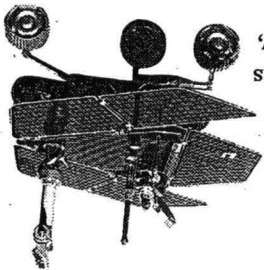
"We protected (the track) for three days," Kessler said. "Then a group came along and a woman stepped in it."

Kessler said it was clearly marked and that he and the others were sure the hiker stepped on it on purpose. And when they tried asking her if she did step on it on purpose she ignored them and continued hiking down the trail.

"I was hacked," Kessler said. "Everybody was too hacked off."

Asked if he and the team were going to return again soon, Kessler said they were going to wait a bit.

"Everybody's getting their batteries recharged," he said, adding that locally, Bigfoot reports have been rare.



dirt. By contrast, the power output of the solar panels of Mars Spirit – on a different part of the Red Planet – has dropped to just 400 watt-hours a day, clogged by the heavy dust. Reuters

down during the Martian night. The cleaning has boosted the panels' power output close to their maximum 900 watt-hours per day after at one stage dropping to 500 watt-hours because of the heavy Martian

SPACE ODDITY

What — or who — is cleaning the solar panels on Mars explorer?

An unexplained phenomenon akin to a space-borne car wash something — or someone — had regularly cleaned layers of dust from the solar panels of the Mars Opportunity vehicle while it was shut surface of Mars, *New Scientist* magazine reported yesterday. It said has boosted the performance of one of the two U.S. rovers probing the