

UFO

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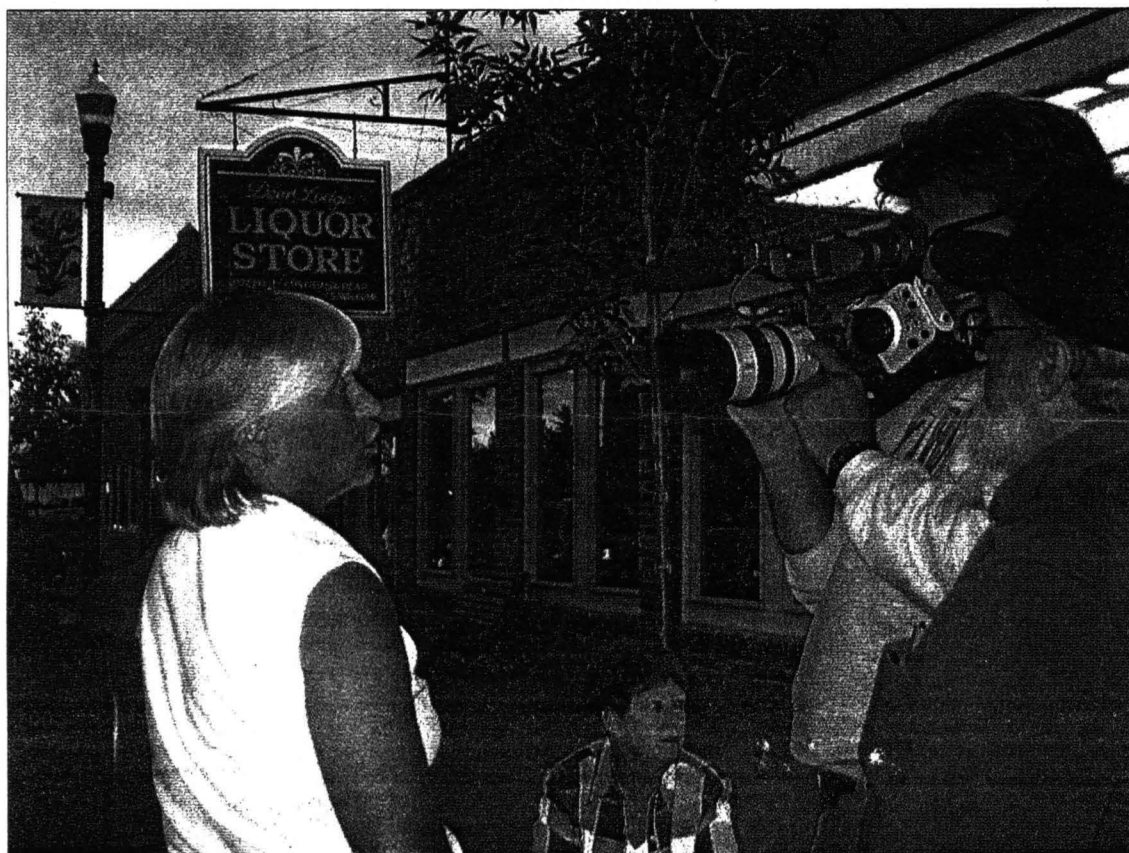
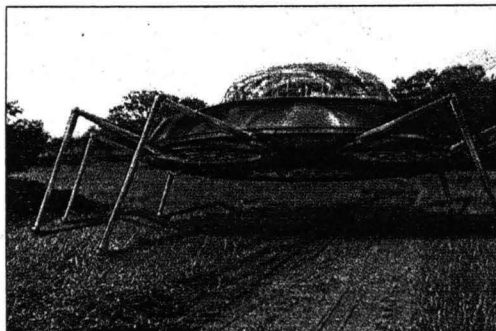
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INDEPENDENT RECORD, Helena, MT - April 14, 2005

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN DEER LODGE

Film claims town attracts alien visitors



Deer Lodge resident Cindy Clawson shares her stories with the film crew during the making of "The Secret of Redgate," which won the People's Choice Awards at the 2004 UFO Congress in Texas. Inset photo: An artist's rendition of the 'spider craft' stands over the road. The vehicle was allegedly seen by several Deer Lodge residents up and down the valley, including areas around Sunnyside near Anaconda where horses were found mutilated in the 1960s.

Hundreds say they've had sightings

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON
IR Feature Writer

DEER LODGE — Stories in this dusty cow town come a dime a dozen, hardly a surprise given its hold on the old prison, the new state prison, its historic cattle ranch, and its fabled car museum.

But here, 50 miles southwest of Helena, stories of a different sort have become the talk of the town — stories exposed by a former Deer Lodge resident and her new docudrama, "The Secret of Redgate."

From her Texas home, Lynda Cowen, a 1963 graduate of Powell County High School, attributed the making of her new film to her brother's own UFO encounters as a kid. The results have propelled Deer Lodge to the front of Montana's most mysterious destinations.

"My brother consciously remembers having a lot of encounters with aliens as a child — playing with them as a child," Cowen explained. "We didn't know anything about them growing up."

The stories came out years later, grabbing Cowen's interest. She met writer Jim Marrs through her "remote viewing" classes in Texas, and together, the two decided to investigate the stories.

Cowen returned to her old stomping ground, surprised at how many Deer Lodge residents were willing to come forward with their experiences. She soon had more stories than she could use in her movie.

"We went back to Deer Lodge for two weeks and found out there were a lot of people with this experience, all the way from young high-school kids to people in their 80s," Cowen

Myrna Loy screening

"The Secret of Redgate" will be screened at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24, at 2 p.m. To find out more, log on to www.secretsofredgate.com.

said. "No one ever talked about this stuff growing up."

Throughout the Deer Lodge Valley, stories of close encounters aren't hard to come by. Over the last 20 years, Cowen said, there have been hundreds of sightings within a 150-mile radius of the town.

Some say there's a vortex nearby while others say it's the area's rural nature. Some even believe that "lay lines," or energy bands, sit close beneath the earth. The water has been suggested, and the Clark Fork River has been blamed.

Whatever it is, the stories have become widely known, but they're not so easy to explain.

Louie Menicucci, a retired Deer Lodge baker, recalled several events that took place down the valley at Sunnyside near Anaconda.

"When I lived in Sunnyside we had some things go on," Menicucci said. "There was stuff landing up there. I'm not sure if it was the Air Force or UFOs, but they left big circles in the grass."

One morning at the bakery, a man saw a Polaroid photo of the mysterious rings left in the grass.

Amazed, he told Menicucci he had never seen such large tipi rings. Menicucci informed him — those weren't tipi rings he was looking at.

The rings, Menicucci said, matched the UFOs he had seen, and the strange lights pulsating underneath.

"They were like big round circles that had a light underneath and it flashed, like red, yellow, blue," he said. "The light went in circles. I heard the same thing was going on over in Boulder at the same time."

Menicucci thinks back, recalling how his neighbor woke up one snowy morning to find two of his horses mutilated, their ears, eyes and lips missing. Strangely, he said, there weren't any tracks in the snow.

"My neighbor raised Ginny hens, poodles and peacocks, and he never heard a thing that night," Menicucci said. "I don't even know if it goes on anymore. But they were landing up in that basin and there's a lot of rose quartz up there."

Gene Hughes of D&L Auto Supply in Deer Lodge hasn't experienced anything firsthand, but he's heard the stories from others.

"My aunt saw some things years and years ago," Hughes admitted. "She's since passed away, but she knew what she saw and I believed her. I don't question her in the least."

Hughes also heard stories from his sister, whose own experiences took place at the nearby ranch. Hughes doesn't doubt the accounts.

"You just don't know about those things," he said. "I think it very well could be happening. I don't know that I could truly say there's nothing going on out there."

Ron Kelly, a local banker, attended high school with Cowen in the 1960s. Like much of the town, he's also heard the stories, many coming from inside the family.

A scene in the film recounts how Kelly's brothers were returning from a late-night dance in 1962. That night, they were pursued and overcome by a bright light. The light filled

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1 -
INDEPENDENT RECORD,
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their car, surrounding them. Then it vanished as quickly as it came.

"I remember them talking about it — being chased by the light, the light coming around," Kelly said. "There are a handful of people who knew about it. At that time, that's what was going on and you didn't think much of it."

Kelly knows where the fabled red gate lies and he's acquainted with the stories surrounding it. Back in the '60s, the events split the community's opinion down the middle. Some accepted the stories as fact. Others passed them off as juvenile pranks — kids out driving around and drinking beer.

"It began to feed off itself," Kelly said. "I believe there are people who see things all the time. There are things that take place. What significance does it have? I don't know. I haven't had lunch with any little green people, I can tell you that. But I'm one of those who think something took place."

Cowen graduated from Powell County High School in 1963 before enrolling in Montana State University's nursing program. Years later she found herself in Texas where she became interested in remote viewing.

"I've been involved in remote viewing for years," Cowen said. "I really believe in UFOs because of that."

Remote viewing is a technique once used by the military, Cowen claimed. Often called psychic spying, the skill allows one to transfer his or her mind to any place at any time to retrieve information.

For the film, Cowen employed the services of Lyn Buchanan, a professional remote viewer, as well as several others. The viewers were asked to look at Bill Kelly's account, but were given no clues.

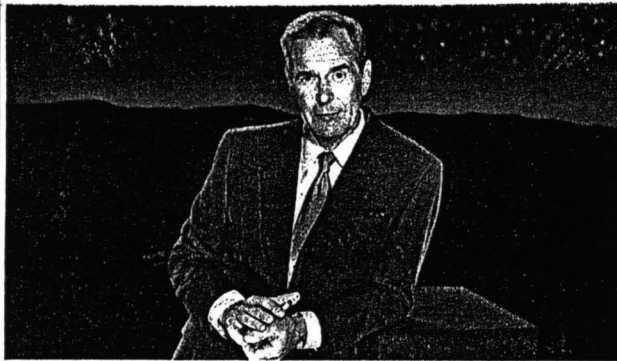
Cowen explained the process, how a person sent a target code representing the UFO encounter to a monitor. Not knowing what the target code represented, the monitor passed the code to the remote viewer. Cowen called it a "double blind" session in which neither the viewer nor the monitor knows the target.

The results impressed even Cowen.

"Three male subjects driving at night in a rural area," the viewers concluded. "The target seemed to be an actual event involving a vehicle and a blindingly bright light. The event involved transporting subjects. The subjects were frightened, shocked and awed... It seemed like an alien abduction by means of a bright light beam."

Those who shared their encounters for the film also underwent hypnosis and polygraph tests, Cowen said. "The Secret of Redgate" won the People's Choice Award at the 2004 UFO Congress in Texas, selected from 15 films by more than 700 participants.

"You can find people here that have heard these stories," Kelly said. "But not everybody has heard of them. They're not a secret."



Donna Svennevik/ABC

Peter Jennings presents a special report on what he calls Ufology.

TELEVISION REVIEW

An ABC Documentary Lands in U.F.O. Territory

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

During a sweeps month, U.F.O. is not solely an abbreviation for unidentified flying object. When a veteran network anchor devotes two hours to the subject in a special prime-time report, U.F.O. can also be code for uncontrollable fear of obscurity.

Tom Brokaw's retirement as the NBC anchor did not drive viewers to ABC en masse; actually, the ratings of his replacement, Brian Williams, are higher than Peter Jennings's. Even Dan Rather's fall from grace and imminent retirement have not significantly benefited ABC's "World News Tonight." And that may help explain the mystery of why Mr. Jennings, ABC's lofty and fastidious anchorman, chose to lend his gravitas to a lengthy examination of extraterrestrial life forms.

Space aliens are not particularly timely. Newspapers are not brimming with fresh reports of mass sightings of bright lights hovering over the Mojave Desert. Steven Spielberg does not have a sci-fi sequel, "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind," in the works. And no one would argue that this is a slow news period.

But the race for ratings is particularly intense in February. Mr. Jennings points out in his introduction that as many as 80 million Americans believe in U.F.O.'s and that 40 million say they have seen one or know someone who has. If even a fraction of those people turn to ABC tonight, "U.F.O.'s: Seeing Is Believing" could do for Mr. Jennings what more somber special reports like last June's "Guantanamo Bay" could not.

Not that this special report is a day at the beach. Mr. Jennings applies the same solemn, impassive tone he used to examine Christianity in his special report "Jesus and Paul: The Word and the Witness" last April. He does not try to prove or debunk the existence of U.F.O.'s. Instead, he handles Ufology, as he refers to it, like a religion whose followers are numerous and steadfast enough to merit respectful treatment.

And that is not inappropriate. Ufology has many of the rites and rhythms of more traditional faiths, and the skeptic-turned-convert is a crucial element in any belief system. The millions of followers of Padre

'Peter Jennings Reporting'

'U.F.O.'s: Seeing Is Believing'

ABC, tonight at 8, Eastern and Pacific times; 7, Central time.

Mark Obenhaus and Tom Yellin, executive producers. Produced by PJ Productions and Springs Media for ABC News.

Pio, a 20th-century friar who was said to have had stigmata and supernatural powers and was canonized in 2002, bolster their case by pointing out that Father Maccari, a Vatican investigator sent to prove the friar a fraud, later recanted and prayed to Padre Pio on his deathbed (at least according to a Capuchin publication, "The Voice of Padre Pio").

The documentary showcases a U.F.O. version of Father Maccari: J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist and a consultant for an Air Force project created in 1952 to assess U.F.O. reports. Early on, he dismissed witnesses as crackpots. He later repented and went on to found the Center for U.F.O. Studies in Illinois. He was one of the first scientists to give the study an aura of respectability. (Dr. Hynek came up with the phrase "close encounters of the third kind," which Mr. Spielberg used for his film title.)

The history of U.F.O. sightings is interspersed with contemporary accounts by witnesses: housewives, pilots and truck drivers who do not look or sound like crackpots and who matter-of-factly describe what they saw that turned them into believers. ("It arched over the top of our car....") The most recent well-known incident was reported over Phoenix in 1997, when hundreds of people said they saw strange lights overhead that did not resemble an airplane or a helicopter. One man videotaped some of what he saw: a row of lights in the sky that he said were atop some kind of spaceship. The tape is not very distinct, however. Mostly, ABC uses animation to recreate what the witnesses say they saw.

The U.F.O. is a topic usually relegated to the tabloids, but Mr. Jennings gives the phenomenon his full consideration. "Seeing Is Believing" is not likely to create a new army of converts, but it may draw viewers who are already convinced and hungry for network affirmation: believing is seeing.

WALL STREET JOURNAL, New York, NY - Feb. 18, 2005

The ABCs of UFOs

By NANCY DEWOLF SMITH
THE ABC NEWS Special Report "UFOs—Seeing Is Believing" (Thursday 8-10 p.m.) would be peculiar fare even if it weren't hosted by the venerable Peter Jennings. There is no real news in it. An ABC press release quotes poor Mr. Jennings as saying that although he set out "with a healthy dose of skepticism," he now believes "after almost 150 interviews with scientists, investigators and with many of those who claim to have witnessed unidentified flying objects, there are important questions that have not been completely answered—and a great deal not fully explained." Not much is explained here either, because there are few signs of hard-nosed reporting.

For instance, we're told that when the Air Force started Project Blue Book circa 1947, Ohio State astronomer J. Allen Hynek investigated UFO sightings for the project as a skeptic. But when the project was disbanding in 1969, Mr. Hynek had become a convert to the very real possibility of UFOs. Voila! Validation by a serious scientist! (No journalists around to ask whether someone who was about to lose his paycheck was tempted to see the UFO light in order to attract funding for a private version of his old investigative job—which Mr. Hynek did.)

Kansas Cornfields

It would seem that flying saucers, and even cigar-shaped objects, have been replaced in recent years by triangle-shaped

GAZETTE, Chillicothe, OH - April 15, 2005 CR: J. Fr

Former VA officer writes 'The Chillicothe UFO Chronicles'

1983 experience
is basis for book

By JONA ISON
Gazette Staff Writer

Tim Hammond, a former officer for the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center, just wanted to do his job. As the first black officer hired at the local VA in 1982, Hammond, who now resides in Dayton, is still trying to uncover what happened when lights appeared in the sky during his watch in 1983. He also has fought the stigma of being crazy like his former chief thought he was, Hammond said. "I received written notices from the chief about it.... In the meantime, I had VA employees coming forth to give me more information," Hammond said. The culmination of Hammond's research has evolved into a book named

"The Chillicothe UFO Chronicles" which he expects to be available within the next few months through Xlibris, an online publisher. Hammond's experience with the supernatural began late one night in 1983 when a ward nurse called security about lights in the sky. As he approached the building, he said he saw yellow lights coming nearer to the building. "I knew to look up to the sky (because of the call). Otherwise, I probably would have driven right by it," Hammond said. "It reminded me of a Xerox machine and it was almost like there were images being reflected back to that craft... It was very scary. I got out of the cruiser and started to run."

After the incident, Hammond, now 48, worked at the VA until 1987 and continued researching similar occurrences. He said some departments at the hospital had been reporting sightings since 1959 and while he was working there, two more occurrences were reported to him in 1986. His curiosity about the occurrence he witnessed has never left him and it took therapy, he said, to rid himself of nightmares about that 1983 night. "I would wake up at 3 and 4 a.m. screaming... I was worried my neighbors would hear me and think I was crazy, but other times I hoped they would (hear me) so they could help me," Hammond said.

Hammond's nightmares have dwindled down to just one in the past seven years, he said. However, during that time his research has continued and has now culminated in his book, the second time Hammond has had his work published. "The Public UFO Illuminator Research Package" was published in 1991 and is part of the "William E. Jones UFO Collection" at The Ohio State University Library. (Ison can be reached at 772-9360 or via e-mail at jison@mcginnett.com)

Tim Hammond's book, "The Chillicothe UFO Chronicles" is expected to be available within the next few months through Xlibris, an online publisher.

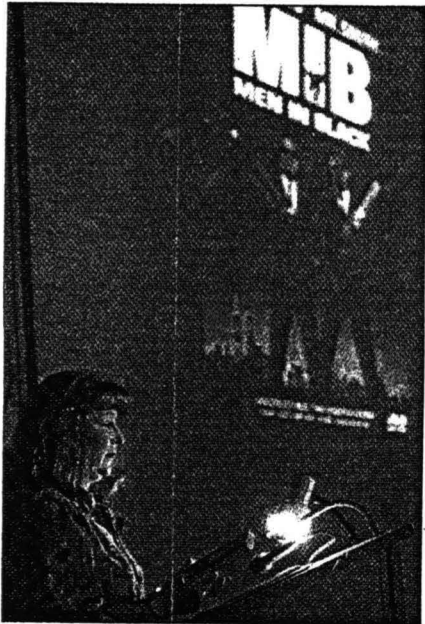
Submitted photo



craft. Yet if such sophisticated machines really do zoom down to earth and hover over Kansas cornfields, how come the galaxy-scanning radio telescopes of SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) have been monitoring the airwaves for 40 years without hearing a peep out there?

For true believers, a UFO program with the imprimatur of ABC News will be in mosty sheer delight (although to its credit, the network does not dive over the cliff on Roswell). ABC claims that almost 50% of Americans believe in UFOs. Even if the real number is far smaller, it won't hurt to have them all tuning in during February sweeps, which is when viewership, and ad rates, are determined. As for Mr. Jennings lending his voice and gravitas to this funky subject, it might have been worse: He could have interviewed Michael Jackson.

Aztec hosts UFO Symposium



Dave Watson/The Daily Times

Susan Swiatek speaks on the topic of "Men in Black," the oddly-dressed strange men often reported by UFO witnesses Saturday morning at the 8th Annual Aztec UFO Symposium. On the screen is the cover of the 1997 film Men in Black, the lead characters of which have little in common with actual MIBs, according to Swiatek.

— By Debra Mayeux —
The Daily Times

AZTEC — Extraterrestrial biological entities, foreign discs and enemy weapons systems are descriptions found in many declassified government reports from the late 1940s and early 1950s.

When the phrases are pieced together with the common knowledge of alleged UFO crashes in New Mexico and the more recent cases of alien abductions, there is a story about government cover-ups and extraterrestrial life possibly living among humans and controlling them. This was the message from Linda Moulton Howe, who spoke Saturday at the 8th annual Aztec UFO Symposium at the Aztec Boys and Girls Club.

Howe, an investigative reporter and expert on extraterrestrial phenomenon, used a number of alleged UFO crashes in New Mexico to tell her point across. She also told her theories of what happened in Roswell in 1947 and in Aztec in 1948.

It was Howe's theory that a "foreign disc" carrying "humanoids" was shot

down in July 1947 near Roswell. It was brought down by "20 millimeter canon fire," after the U.S. Army Air Force received orders to fire upon all hostile "foreign weapons systems" or UFOs.

Aztec was a little different.

Howe said an unidentified military agent told her: "We did not shoot that one down."

Instead the spaceship — a pewter, circular-shaped craft — flew into the path of radar beam. It was brought down in Hart Canyon and discovered by some oil field workers responding to a well fire in the area.

"There were two badly charred bodies, four feet in height" on the craft. The bodies were later described by the military as "dead non-human beings," Howe said.

These two crashes and possibly two more in New Mexico became a part of the big government cover-up that began in the era of Harry Truman, who ordered those in the know to lie, she said.

"The suppression began as a policy of denial," Howe said, adding that was followed

alien antennas.

"If we can be here, why can't they," Robblee said. "I'm totally open to life on other planets."

The symposium opens 9:30 a.m. today with David Rudiak speaking on Roswell. Also on the agenda are Rob Swiatek and John Greenwald, Jr.

Tickets for all day Sunday are \$25. A morning pass can be purchased for \$18 and an afternoon pass is \$9.

Information: Aztec UFO Information Center, (505) 334-9890 or on the Web at www.aztecufo.com.

Debra Mayeux: dmayeux@daily-times.com

Doreen Chavez of Nageezi said she enjoys UFO lectures and museums. She attended the Roswell UFO event last year and decided to give the Aztec event a try.

"It's interesting. UFO crashes have happened all over the world," Chavez said. "I wanted to see what was going on here."

Caroline Robblee brought her grandchildren to the symposium, because the children — aged 14 months to 12 years old — love ETs. "They saw the signs and got excited," said Robblee of Aztec.

She had heard of the alleged Aztec crash and wanted to learn more about it, she said holding the 14-month-old, who was wearing

by a "shoot down" policy implemented by the military.

The "shoot down" policy lasted through the mid-1950s, when according to Howe's military informant, ended because "We lost so many of our own planes and pilots."

The aliens were hostile, and people could not know because there would be a "War of the Worlds type of hysteria," Howe said.

More than 50 people listened to Howe. Those who purchased weekend passes to the annual event will hear more today with speakers talking about Roswell, showing off UFO photographs and sharing more government conspiracies.



Sean Weaver | Special to The Denver Post

Some signs for the UFO Watchtower, among others in southwest Colorado, violate CDOT rules, the agency says.

Sign rule means 2 roadside aliens may not be long for this world

By Erin Emery
Denver Post Staff Writer

The Colorado Department of Transportation plans to seize Judy Messoline's aliens, a move she believes is an invasion of intergalactic properties.

Messoline's aliens are red, made of plywood and stand 3 feet tall. The signs point tourists to the UFO Watchtower, her business along Col-

orado 17 north of Alamosa where tourists watch for UFOs in an area noted for such sightings.

CDOT says Messoline's signs are illegal.

This month, the department sent letters notifying property owners that signs advertising businesses are illegal if located within 660 feet of a highway right of way and not on the businesses' properties.

Now she has to take the signs down within 60 days.

"That's going to hit right at our tourist season," Messoline said. "If we don't have those signs up, the tourist traffic is going to go right on by. To take away our directional signs is going to kill us."

Nancy Shanks, a CDOT spokeswoman, said the state recognizes the need for directional signs for tourism. Blue signs with white lettering are available for that purpose.

"The state law mirrors the national law on roadside beautification. These laws on roadside advertising are in place for very specific reasons, from highway safety, uniformity, maintenance and highway beautification," Shanks said.

She said the Department of Transportation is making a special effort to remove illegal signs in southwest Colorado, where a new employee is taking a fresh look at the violations.

In Messoline's case, the alien signs are on her property. She owns a section of land that is split by Colorado 17. The business is on the west; the signs are on the east. They are therefore illegal because they are not contiguous to the business.

An 8-foot alien on the west side of the road is allowed because it's next to the business.

"I feel it is harassment. I honestly feel it's harassment," Messoline said. "What they want us to do is buy the CDOT signs, the little blue signs with the arrow. Well, you can't even read them. They're \$250 a year per sign."

Darius Allen, an Alamosa County commissioner, attended a meeting Tuesday among business owners and CDOT about the issue.

"We're going to see if we can overcome some of this, but I just need a little time to do some research," Allen said.

ABC special on UFOs — 'Seeing is believing'

By PETE HARTINGER

On the night of February 24th ABC television had a special 2-hour presentation about the ufo phenomenon. This was in a prime time slot from 8 to 10 p.m. Peter Jennings was the host.

The first hour had positive information about the existence of ufos. The Phoenix Lights of March 1997 were discussed. A large triangular shaped craft went over the state of Arizona. A few hours' later flares were seen near the mountain range by Phoenix. The skeptics tried to explain them as the earlier UFO sighting. Thus the descriptions were totally different.

There was an excellent animation of the January 2000 Illinois sightings by 6 different witnesses of whom 5 were police officers. This unknown object was seen in the early morning hours over a large area of southwestern Illinois.

Several airline pilot testimonies were shown of ufos being seen by both military and civilian pilots. One outstanding case was the Minot, North Dakota sighting on 24 October 1968. It was at the Minot Air Force Base where nuclear weapons were stored. Ground personnel saw the strange looking object along with a B52 crew that was in the sky at the time. There was a total of 16 witnesses altogether. The official explanation was stars. Again, this does not fit the eyewitnesses' descriptions.

The second hour of the special involved the usual debunking. The skeptics again said that ufos are just a belief. As I have stated before, "knowledge is not a matter of belief or desire, but a matter of evidence."

Evidence was not mentioned such as; freedom of information documents, car engine failures, landing trace cases, radar returns, etc.

Dr. Frank Drake of the SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) program had misty eyes when he said it would be a special moment when you hear a distant intelligent radio signal. What does he think when eyewitnesses have a dramatic ufo sighting? You might call that a special moment to the eyewitness who never forgets. I know.

The Roswell Incident was shown but the government explanation wasn't given about the bodies being parachute dummies. This was ridiculous because Roswell occurred in 1947 and the parachute dummy program was in the early 1950's.

It was reported that Professor J. Allen Hynek, formerly of The Ohio State University, was one of the few scientists who later stated that ufos were real. That is because he was one of the few scientists heavily involved in the research. He was the chief civilian consultant for the U.S. Air Force for many years.

Scientists talked about the speed of light being the fastest means to travel in space. They

don't like to admit that this is our present day knowledge. A former U.S. astronaut admitted this to me in a personal interview in March 2002.

Peter Davenport was shown at the end of the program. He operates the ufo reporting center in Seattle, Washington. By the way he was presented on the TV special, it made you feel that he was the only one to report ufo sightings. Recently, he has received an increase of sighting reports because of the publicity of the ABC program.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) was not even mentioned on the 2-hour program. It is just one of the largest ufo reporting organizations in the world. Many qualified ufo investigators are in every state in the U.S. I represent Pickaway and Fayette counties in Ohio. I talked to John Schuessler, retired NASA engineer, on the phone and he stated that the ABC crew took a lot of material from Mufon headquarters in Morrison, Colorado. A lot of this material involved some very good ufo cases. John is mystified, as anyone, why Mufon was not even mentioned on the program.

Dr. Steven Greer is head of the Disclosure Project. He claims to know some 400 "insiders" that know ufos do exist. He has taken many video statements of ex-military and government witnesses. This includes 2 former astronauts. They are all favorable to the ufo existence. Like John Schuessler, Steven Greer is also mystified why the Disclosure Project was not even mentioned on the special. The ABC crew has also went over much of the material that he has amassed.

You can read all the monthly Mufon journals dating back to 1994 at the local Circleville Library.

Also there is the 4-hour video Disclosure Project video that you can borrow and take home, if you are a member of the library.

On our web site, www.roundtownufosociety.com you can read Stanton Friedman's response to the ABC Special. It is one of our listed links. You can go directly to Stanton's web site, www.stantonfriedman.com. Stanton is one of the world's leading ufologists. I have met him on a few occasions. He is a retired nuclear physicist.

In conclusion about the program, it makes you feel as if ABC News only wanted you to hear about part of the evidence of the ufo phenomenon, for whatever reason.

Astrophysicist Bernard Haisch contends, "We are in the curious situation today that our best modern physics and astrophysics theories predict that we should be experiencing extraterrestrial visitation, yet any possible evidence of such lurking in the UFO phenomenon is scoffed at within our scientific community."

Jay Young, owner of the Colorado Alligator Farm, also on Colorado 17, estimates that 50 percent of visitors drop by because they have seen one of the attractions' signs on private property.

"Our livelihood comes from those signs. Realistically, we can't survive without those signs," Young said.

"I feel that it's encroaching on our freedom, our freedom of speech as well as our right to promote our tourist-oriented business," he says. "It's going to be hard for us to deal with."

Staff writer Erin Emery can be reached at 719-522-1360 or eemery@denverpost.com.

'I'm nearly 100 percent convinced (extraterrestrial visitors) are already here.'

Bellevue man believes we are not alone

By Mary Swift
Journal staff

The story goes like this: In the fall of 2001 an Enumclaw area woman was headed north on a rural road when she spotted a red orb in the distance.

The light grew larger as the woman's vehicle approached. She flashed her headlights.

The red light moved toward her car, engulfing her vehicle. Though her hands weren't on the steering wheel, the vehicle negotiated a steep curve. Then the orb moved on, crossing the road.

Some people may think the woman was imagining things.

Not Bellevue's Bill Puckett. He thinks what she saw was an unidentified flying object.

Five-year-old passion

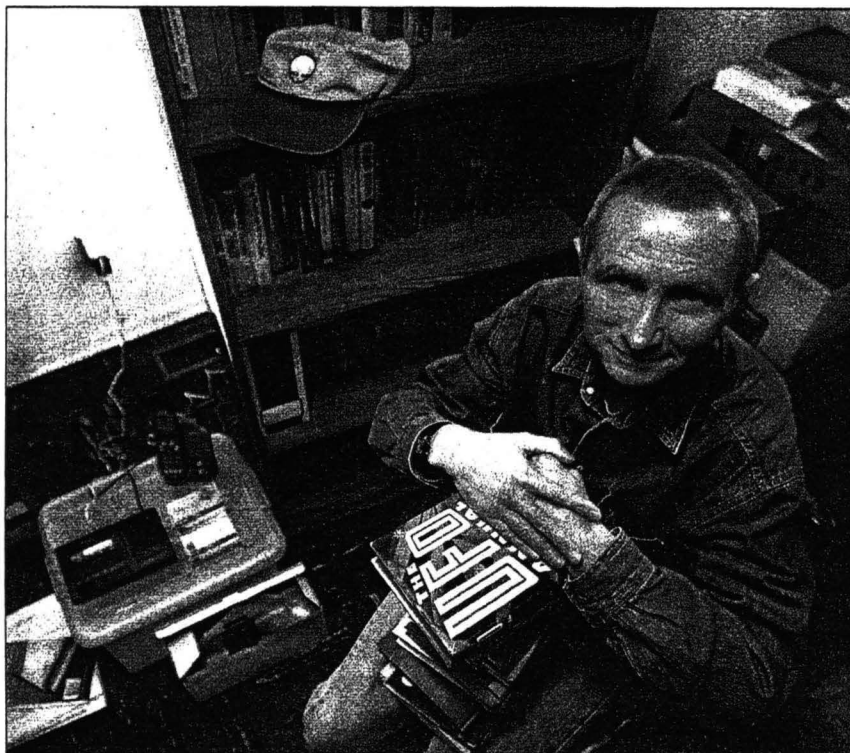
Puckett, now 58, is a professional meteorologist and environmental scientist employed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

But for the past five years, his passion has been researching suspected UFO sightings in the Northwest.

He knows the majority of reported UFO sightings can be explained away as satellites, bright stars, weather phenomena, swamp gas, meteors or secret military aircraft.

(The National UFO Reporting Center estimates that only about 3 percent of sightings remain unidentified.)

He believes that some of those sightings are UFOs or extraterrestrial — space ships or beings from other worlds.



Bill Puckett has a UFO library in his Bellevue home. The professional meteorologist and environmental scientist runs the UFOS Northwest Web site and recently set up the UFO Hotline (866-611-UFOS or local 425-452-UFOS), shown at left on the floor.

And yes, he says, he knows there are plenty of skeptics — and more than a few ready to call people like him crackpots.

Not that it is likely to stop him.

"I've had this fascination with investigating UFOs for a long time," Puckett says. Two years ago he set up a Web site, www.ufosnw.com, to collect and report information on sightings.

"Most sightings are explainable. I prefer local sightings. I'm really focused

on the Northwest. But I get reports from all over the world."

An intelligent orb

That sighting near Enumclaw in 2001 is one he doesn't think can be explained away all that easily.

"Put it this way," he says. "If it was just a red orb, you could say maybe it was something to do with nature. We live in a seismically active area. It's close to Mount Rainier. Maybe you could say it was gas

released by the Earth.

"But when it (the light) behaves intelligently (allegedly guiding the car around the steep curve) then you have to think it's an intelligent entity — or something operated by an intelligent entity."

Skeptics aside, "I'm nearly 100 percent convinced (extraterrestrial visitors) are already here," he says.

"There's been photos. There's been debris that can't be explained. There's been some credi-

UFO CONFERENCE

Bellevue's Bill Puckett will be one of the speakers at the Ocean Shores UFO Conference scheduled for Friday through Sunday at the Ocean Shores Conference Center. For information on UFOs Northwest or to report a sighting, call Puckett at 425-452-8367 or go to www.ufosnw.com.

ble witnesses."

But there's a tendency to discount eyewitnesses, he says, even when they're pilots or in law enforcement.

That doesn't make sense, he argues.

"We put people to death based on the testimony of eyewitnesses," he says. "But here, we discount the testimony of credible witnesses."

Technological proof coming

Puckett believes that technology is changing so fast that within his lifetime — perhaps even in the next decade — there will be proof of the existence of extraterrestrials on Earth.

"Technology is growing exponentially," he says. "Look how far we've come in the last century."

Still, he says, it will take a lot to change the minds of those who don't see the "evidence" the same way he does.

"I would venture to say that they (extraterrestrials) would have to land on the White House lawn during the 6 o'clock news and have coffee with the president before a lot of the scientific community would accept it," he says.

"Personally, I believe the odds of another civilization not visiting us is very low. But you can get into some very big arguments about that subject."

A Norfolk Couple's Mystery. What Was That Ball of Light?

By: Asa Fitch

NORFOLK - At about 10:30 on the evening of Jan. 2, Drew Quale and his wife, Sally, were with a friend at their weekend home on North Colebrook Road, packing up their car for a trip to Bronxville, N.Y., when they say they saw a brightly-lit orb hovering over a 10-acre field nearby. The object zigzagged over the dark landscape, sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly, darting "randomly like a hummingbird" from just above the field to 100 feet in the air, according to a report the Quales submitted to www.ufoevidence.org.

For about 45 minutes, Mrs. Quale took pictures of the object with her digital camera, following it from the backyard as it ranged over a copse of pine trees in the middle of the field and behind a crabapple tree on one edge of the field. The Quales were from 200 to 300 yards away from the object. It made no noise.

About 45 minutes later, at about 11:15 p.m., the Quales decided they ought to leave. It was a Sunday, and they had to make it to Bronxville, a town in Westchester County, that night and go to work the next morning. As they were leaving, they drove to the other side of the field and into an ancient driveway, noting that the shape and intensity of the object didn't change. They left while the object was still visible.

"We were afraid to venture close to it

because we just didn't know what it was and thought it might be dangerous," the report says. "We've never seen anything like this before, and [this has] been our weekend home for over 20 years."

Mrs. Quale, a public information officer for the Bronxville School District, said the object appeared to be about the size of a basketball. The Smith College graduate said she has explored the possibility that it was ball lightning, a vaguely-understood natural phenomenon in which a ball of electrical energy appears and moves horizontally through the air. She now doubts that was what she saw because it stayed so long, even after the Quales left. It remains a mystery, she said.

"It was like someone had a mouse and was moving a cursor," Mrs. Quale said. "It was like you might move the cursor this way and that way and click on the word you wanted to correct. We thought it was so weird we didn't want to go out there."

Mr. Quale, a Harvard Law School graduate and a senior partner with the Seventh Avenue law firm of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, was quoted in *Norfolk Now*, the community newsletter that first reported the story, as saying, "We still have no idea what it was."

Though the object looks like a full moon in pictures, Mrs. Quale said she was certain it was not the moon or any other celestial body. The sky was overcast that night, she said, and everything was black except for the ball of light.

"It was absolutely black, because there was cloud cover and no moon and no stars, and if you looked out at the field with the eye you couldn't see anything but this white light," she said.

A meteorologist at the Western Connecticut State University confirmed that the sky was overcast the night of Jan. 2. Records compiled from a weather station at the Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk show that at 10:31 p.m. the temperature was 35.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and the humidity was at 97 percent, which is very high. The wind was calm to mild, and a very light rain fell sporadically between 8:30 and 11 p.m. that day. Sixty percent of the moon's surface was illuminated on Jan. 2 in Norfolk, but the moon didn't rise that night until 11:31 p.m., 15 minutes after the Quales left, according to data from the U.S. Naval Observatory. The Quales' strange encounter is certainly not the first of its kind in the region, though the Quales appear to be decidedly more credible than the average UFO spotter.

UFOs of all brands—from hot-dog-shaped ships with blue spotlights emanating from portholes to a small star-shaped craft hovering above Main Street in Winsted—have been reported in Litchfield County on Web sites like www.nuforc.org and www.ufoevidence.org.

One story described a "mothership" visiting Litchfield center in 1971. Another reported a "bizarre star" that

moved quickly across the sky in Washington in 2002.

One recent report bears a striking resemblance to what the Quales say they saw. On Sept. 7 of last year at 8:30 p.m., a 50-year-old quality assurance technician from Torrington reported seeing an orb whisk across the sky from the balcony of his second-story apartment. The man, an "amateur astronomer from a very young age," wrote that he saw a globe moving slowly through the air for some time before darting away quickly and disappearing.

It "appeared to be illuminated from within," according to an account on www.nuforc.org. At the last before it faded from view, it was very dimly lit and looked like a crystal ball. It looked transparent, like a globe or sphere. From the time it moved quickly till it faded out could only have been a second or two. This quick movement probably covered 10 degrees of sky."

The man reported seeing the object again a week later, on Sept. 12, and then again another week later. The object looped back and forth and then zipped away.

"It was a very unusual zigzag type of pattern," the man wrote in a report on www.ufoevidence.org, where he also posted a diagram of the object's trajectory. "It did this zigzag pattern about four times before flying off."



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

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Feb. 4, 2005

Visitors from outer space could be blazing a trail across West's skies

Unidentified Fiery Object



Fiery visitor: Artist's impression of a fireball over Stonehenge - ufologists say the UK's longest ley line runs through the area and may have something to do with the spate of UFO sightings in the West

By Steven Swinford
wdnews@bepp.co.uk

THE great bright light first appeared above the village of Iwerne Minster in Dorset, scorching a trail through the night skies.

Just eight days later, an uncannily similar object was seen above Devizes, Wiltshire, and that same evening above Swindon.

This spate of UFO sightings last September was yesterday revealed in previously secret documents disclosed to the Western Daily Press.

The files, released under the Freedom of Information Act, sparked frenzied speculation among UFO experts that the West may have been

visited by extra-terrestrials. "We should not discount the possibility," said James Bazil, a ufologist from Withywood, Bristol. "We've got three different accounts painting a similar picture."

"The West has been a hot spot for UFOs for many years. The longest ley line in the country runs from Dundry, near Bristol, down to Salisbury, and we think this may have something to do with it."

Ley lines are supposedly prehistoric routes across the landscape.

The classified files revealed that last year there were a total of 88 UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence's UFO unit, five of which were spotted in the West Country.

The spree of West sightings began on September 24, when an object

was reported in at 3.50am above Iwerne Minster. The observer said: "It looked like a great bright light and was really intense, like a big ball of fire moving rapidly to the ground."

A report from Devizes recorded an object that "looked like a big ball of fire coming down from the sky with a tail and sparks coming off the end of it."

That same day an orange object was spotted above Swindon.

Denis Plunkett, head of Bristol branch of the British Flying Saucers Bureau, said: "I think it's important we don't dismiss sightings like this out of hand. There is a pattern here, which suggests there could be UFO activity."

Although such reports might be

discounted as meteor showers or astronomical phenomena, other sightings are harder to dismiss.

A report from Surrey on May 20 last year, describes a UFO as having "grooves and windows" but no room for humans. Even the MoD inspector notes that the "witnesses have seen it so clearly".

Det Con Gary Heseltine, of British Transport Police in Leeds, runs the database of police-reported UFO sightings, and he is convinced there is something out there.

He said: "After 28 years of investigating the subject I would have to say yes, and the public don't really get told what's going on."

"To my logical, police-trained mind, the officers provide excellent witness testimony, promoting the

'nuts and bolts' evidence that supports the extra-terrestrial hypothesis."

These latest files to be declassified by the MoD are not as complete as reports from 1976-77, which were released last month.

Hundreds of documents kept secret by the Ministry's special UFO department, known as S4F, detail many reports of a possible visit by extra-terrestrial life forms.

In July 1997, Flt-Lt A M Wood reported "bright objects hanging over the sea". The MoD document adds that the RAF officer said the closest object was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter". The UFOs were reported to be three miles out to sea at a height of 5,000ft.

OBSERVER, Harrow, England - Feb. 3, 2005

Spaced-out speculation builds over the 'flying cross' UFO

by Jo Makosinski

STRANGE lights seen above a house in Willesden have strengthened claims a UFO flew over the skies of north London.

Last week, the Observer ran a story of a possible alien visitor witnessed by a Stanmore resident, who saw bright lights hovering over her house.

The illuminations were spotted in the early hours of the morning on Wednesday, January 19.

And, after reading the account, a

Willesden resident, who does not want to be named, said she, too, had witnessed the phenomenon.

She told the Observer: "I work until the early hours of the morning and I often stay up late. On that day I saw some lights shining brightly through my window at about 4am."

"My father died last year and I often look out of the window to see the stars and I imagine him there. I thought that was what the light was but, when I got to the window, I could see a shape coming

towards me from the direction of Willesden Junction Station."

She watched as the square object hovered low above her home, before setting off in the direction of Harlesden.

She said: "It was like nothing I had ever seen before. We sometimes get police helicopters here, and it definitely was not one of those."

"It was similar to the shape of a Maltese Cross, nothing like the normal shape of an aeroplane."

"But, although it was weird, I didn't

think about it again until I read the Observer."

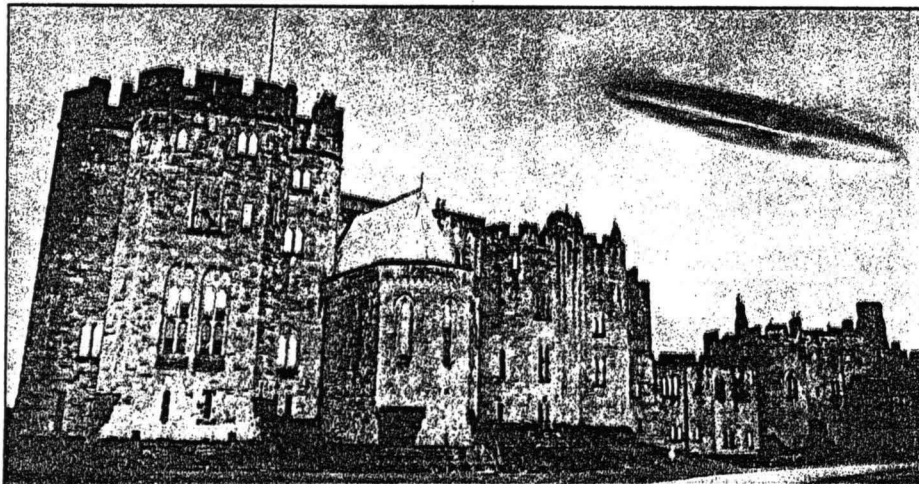
"Then I thought 'I hope that lady doesn't think she is mad because I saw it too'. It made no noise, but it really disturbed me."

Following last week's report Pete Joy, spokesman for South Harrow Police, said they had not received any calls from worried residents, adding: "We had no reports of sightings of UFOs in the area on that day."

"It could have been anything, perhaps a Boeing 747 or some other aircraft."

North's X-FILES

Dorothy's close encounter



STRANGE SIGHTING: Alnwick Castle with an artist's impression of the cigar-shaped object seen by Dorothy Elsey.

UFO over Alnwick

DOROTHY Elsey could not believe her eyes when what she first thought was a plane crashing down to earth started hovering motionless above Alnwick Castle.

The object stood out against the deep blue night sky, a huge black cigar-shaped object surrounded by a luminous green glow.

Shocked, Dorothy pulled her car over on the bank just before the Lion Bridge and watched in stunned silence as the vast shape stayed in view for just under a minute before "fading out" into the darkness.

The retired teacher from Swarland in Northumberland has kept the bizarre sighting to herself for over three decades, almost coming to disbelieve what she had seen on that winter night in 1971.

But following the official release of hitherto top secret government files on the controversial - and often ridiculed - subject of unidentified flying objects, she decided to speak to *The Journal* yesterday about her experience.

"It was black with a luminous green strip around its edge"

By Robert Brooks

Now 74, Miss Elsey says she still has no idea what the mystery object was, or what it was doing above the quiet market town. "It was very strange indeed," said the long-serving primary school teacher. "It was a dark night and I was driving to Newcastle from Belford to pick up my parents from a dance."

"As I came down the bank I could see Alnwick Castle silhouetted against the sky, but then something caught my attention. I first thought it was an aeroplane coming down, but then I realised it was not moving."

"It seemed to be right over the castle. I certainly didn't imagine it. It was shaped like a fat cigar, black and with a luminous green strip around its edge. It was easily the length of the castle in the sky."

"I pulled the car to a stop and sat watching for a minute, before it seemed to fade out. I was amazed."

But the pensioner says she still doesn't believe in spacemen.

"I keep an open mind about what it could have been," said Miss Elsey. Her sighting came six years before a reported encounter with UFOs by servicemen at nearby RAF Boulmer.

The official reports, which spent more than 25 years under lock and key in the Ministry of Defence's UFO department - SF4 - were only declassified and released to the public last month under the Freedom of Information Act.

They state that 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".

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 two other servicemen at the station, who 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 at Staxton Wold, North Yorkshire.



OPEN MIND: Dorothy Elsey.

FLYING DISCS & GREEN MEN

1942: A man claims to have been abducted by aliens from his home in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and is given a medical examination.

1963: A father and daughter driving to Alnmouth see a huge, glowing object with porthole-style windows 100ft above their car. The object shoots off towards the North Sea.

1968: A man claims to see a silvery disc hurtle to Earth and crash alongside the Roman Wall, near Haltwhistle in Northumberland.

1976: A woman and her grand-daughter see a translucent object moving alongside them while walking in County Durham. The girl catches a glimpse of two spectral figures next to it before they all vanish.

1978: Several Gateshead children see 3ft tall green people digging on top of a haystack. One of them is seen riding a cow.

1997: A Northumberland man witnesses a "flying triangle" over Howick at around 6pm. It flies slowly in the direction of RAF Boulmer. On the same evening, a couple on Alnwick

Moor independently report the same object 10 minutes earlier.

1997: A crop circle appears in a field in Rothbury, Northumberland. Two American visitors claim to have seen a red "laser light" flashing over the hills the night before.

1997: An Eyemouth trawler crew sees a triangular flying object while fishing about 90 miles offshore.

1998: A Seghill man and wife are out walking their dog at around 6pm when they spot 12 white lights moving in a perfect line, one behind the other, "almost like a train in the sky with white windows". It flashes beams down to the ground, one after the other.

2000: A UFO is spotted over Wearside. Witnesses describe it as "silvery grey in colour, very flat, pear-shaped and about four to five feet long". Newcastle Airport officials are alerted after a sighting three hours later above Penshaw Monument, near Washington.

2004: A driver on the coastal road near Alnmouth spots "multi-coloured dancing lights" far out to sea.

Another sighting in UFO mystery

Mystery surrounds the origin of a bright light seen streaking through the Shropshire skies at the weekend after two late night cinema-goers claim to have spotted the phenomena 10 hours earlier.

Several county residents reported the light at about 10am on Sunday, with many believing they had seen a meteorite.

But Rachael Jones, of Harlescote, and Bryony Morgan, of Castlefields, cast further intrigue into the sighting after they saw the object as they left Cineworld, in Old Potts Way, at 12.30am on Sunday.

Miss Jones said: "It was a sort of yellowy-white colour and then tailed off to nowhere, it went across the sky and then disappeared. We didn't know what it was, but it was weird."

But motorist Richard Gorton today stuck with original reports, saying he had seen the blazing trail from Craven Arms at 10.15am on Sunday.

"My wife and I saw a bright light with a long streaking tail whizz horizontally across the clear blue skies in front of us," he said.

Meanwhile David Galvin, president of the Liverpool Astronomical Society, said a similar bright light in the county sky seen earlier in the month was likely to have been a "bright satellite".

"These satellites have huge solar panel wings which catch the sunlight and reflected it back to the ground," he said.

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.

Mystery of the alien encounter

At around 11.30pm on the evening of December 10, 1963, a dome shaped UFO touched down at RAF Cosford, bathed the surrounding area in a beam of green light and was seen at close quarters by at least two RAF apprentices.

At least, that has been the accepted story for the last 40 years.

In accordance with the British Government's '30 year ruling' the Ministry of Defence's eight-page file on the case has now been declassified and is available for inspection at the Public Record Office. Its contents make for interesting reading.

Rumours that something extraordinary had happened at the base surfaced immediately, but it was not until January 1964 that matters escalated.

On January 9, Wilfred Daniels, a UFO investigator from Stafford, spoke with the Rev BG Henry, chaplain at RAF Cosford, about the alleged Close Encounter.

We cannot be sure what was said, but a controversy was created that raged for months.

In an April 13, 1964, letter to Waverney Girvan, editor of 'Flying Saucer Review', Mr Daniels reported: "Flight Lieutenant Henry said the publication of his name would cause him trouble, that it was more than his job was worth to arrange a meeting between me and the two RAF apprentices, that security had dropped right down on the whole thing."

The Rev Henry's recollections were opposed to those of Daniels. A letter from Flying Officer RA Roberts, at Cosford, to the Air Ministry stressed the cleric denied all statements attributed to him and was seriously considering legal action.

To his credit, 'Flying Saucer Review' editor Waverney Girvan resolved to get to the bottom of the mystery, firing a barrage of letters to both RAF Cosford and the Air Ministry.

He discovered a welter of contradictory explanations from the authorities to explain the UFO: 'two drunk apprentices', 'a hoax' and, amusingly, 'a British Railways steam train'

RAF Cosford, one of the military's leading training bases, is probably best known for its huge aircraft museum.

But there's one part of its history that is still shrouded in mystery - a 'close encounter' that still has experts scratching their heads 40 years after the event. Here, leading UFO researcher Nick Redfern looks again at a real-life X File that refuses to go away...



He discovered a welter of contradictory explanations from the authorities to explain the UFO: 'two drunk apprentices', 'a hoax' and, amusingly, 'a British Railways steam train'.

Smelling a rat, Girvan gave the incident pride of place in the next issue of 'Flying Saucer Review' and wrote a lengthy article on the case for the Kensington News and West London Times.

Local press picked up on the story - much to the displeasure of the Air Ministry. "The Express and Star of Wolverhampton, despite seeking the station's views, reported the boys'

claims," grumbled a ministry internal memo of March 12, 1964.

So what exactly did happen on that long gone winter's evening in December 1963?

On the plus side, Waverney Girvan was much respected and well-known for his diligent research. In addition, Wilfred Daniels had served in the military at the level of captain - an equally credible source. Moreover, it is fact the Air Ministry offered a variety of contradictory explanations.

On the other hand, Flight Lieutenant Henry was adamant he'd been misquoted. Furthermore, a hand-written note received by the Air Ministry said of the two apprentices who reported the UFO: "I believe the two boys wanted to get out of the service - and we should not have been sorry to see them go."

■ Can anyone out there shed more light on the Cosford UFO? Contact The AdNews on 01922 636666 or email mike_lockley@mrn.co.uk

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England - Feb. 23, 2005

More light shed on the UFO mystery

MORE people who saw the strange blue lights above Wrexham at the weekend have come forward.

People throughout Wrexham, and parts of Shropshire, saw the unexplained phenomenon just before 10am on Sunday.

John Phillips saw the lights while he was working at the former Brymbo Steelworks site.

But he was not alone. Eight-year-old Scott Jones, of Gresford, also saw something strange in the sky while travel-

ling along the A483 with his dad.

He also described seeing blue lights streaking across the sky.

His dad, John, said: "Scott shouted 'look, Dad, at that in the sky', at which I glanced up and personally saw nothing. However, I asked Scott what he saw and he replied 'blue lights zooming across the sky'."

"As I have said I did not witness this sight but on arriving home later that morning I told my wife, Sharon, just in

case we were not alone on this one and it would appear we were not.

"As in Mr Phillips' case Scott, at the age of eight, had certainly not been drinking the night before."

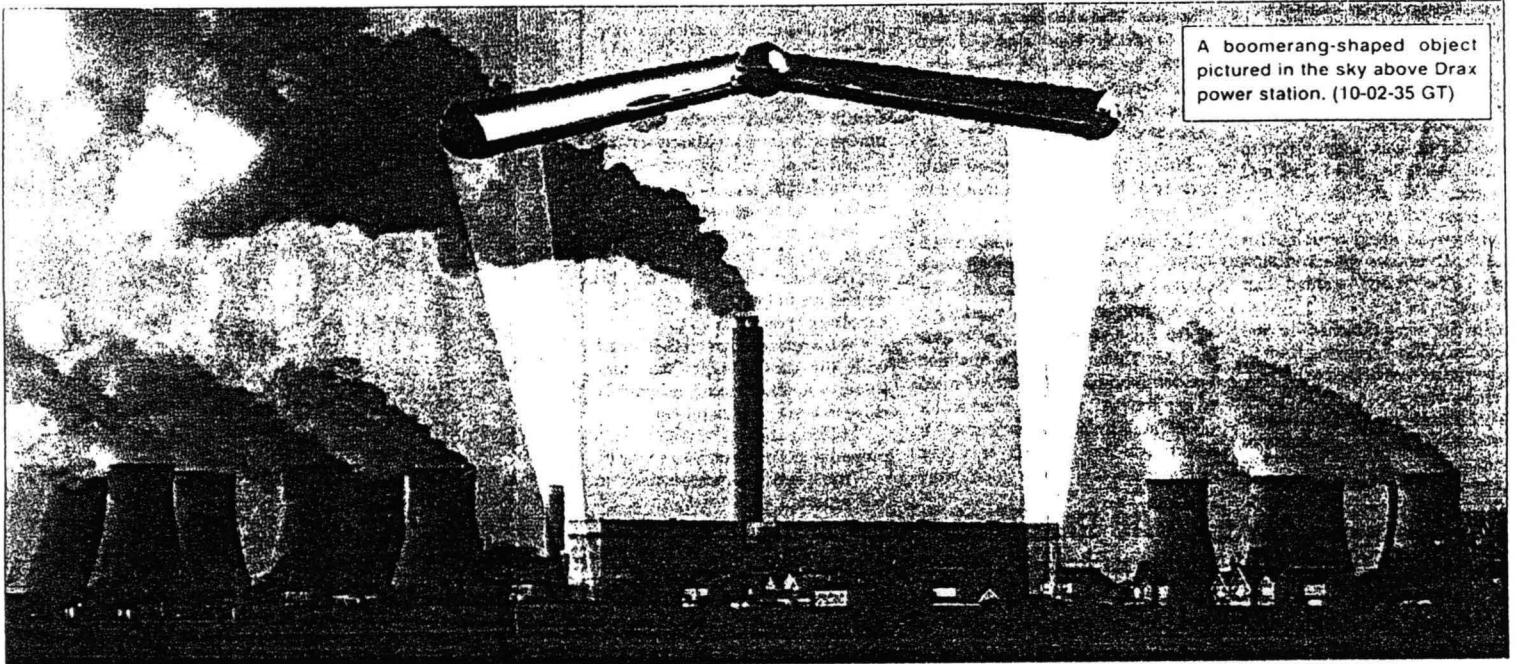
One explanation has been put forward, but it is a little less exciting than a meteor storm or strange visitors from another planet.

A situation that could explain the sightings is leakage from the toilet on a passenger plane.

The waste freezes outside the plane and breaks up when it hits warmer air. The fallout is often blue in colour, depending on the chemicals used in the waste system, and there have even been cases of solid pieces hitting the ground.

Has the mystery of the Brymbo blue lights been solved? If you saw the lights or have another explanation for the sightings contact the Leader news team at 01978 355151.

UFO spotted hovering over Drax



A boomerang-shaped object pictured in the sky above Drax power station. (10-02-35 GT)

by Julie Shillito

Declassified documents recently released by the Ministry of Defence have revealed that a UFO was sighted over Drax power station last year.

The sighting, which took place last April 22 at 4.30pm, was of an object which looked like a boomerang. The unidentified person who sighted it said that the UFO remained stationary over the power station whilst an aircraft circled the object.

Some 88 UFO sightings were made in the UK last year. Whilst many can be dismissed as meteorite showers or other astronomical phenomena, other sightings refer to objects which change colour, speed and shape.

Criticisms have been made that these latest files, which have been de-classified by the MoD, are not as complete as they have been previously when, back in the 1977, Flt-Lt A. M. Wood reported seeing 'bright objects hanging over the sea', with the closest object being 'luminous, round and four to five times larger than a whirlwind object'.

The recent reports have brought back memories for Goole fundraiser Ollie Hunt and Swinefleet resident John Cowling of the UFO they sighted 30 years ago. They both

EXCLUSIVE

saw an unusual object hovering over Reedness/Swinefleet. Mrs Hunt was walking back from a bus stop when she saw what she describes as a flying cylindrical object: "It was really eerie, it was just hovering in the air." John Cowling said that the object was something he would never have expected to see. "It was unusual and looked like the side of a plate at 30 to 40 yards. It was a pale fluorescent green." He said that he was not the sort of person given to an imaginative mind and he was glad that someone else had also seen the object. "It was there!" he insisted.

Other sightings in the area include a gigantic UFO seen in November, 1999. Described as larger than a four-bedroomed house, it was seen hovering 150 to 200ft above Humberside Airport by two experienced flyers.

They first noticed the bright multi-coloured lights flashing in the night-sky. "The lights were coloured red, green, yellow and blue," they said. "It was the blue lights that were unusual."

Describing the craft as being as big as a four-bedroomed house lit underneath by lights, they said it hovered silently in the air until suddenly a very bright light shone down from the craft, illuminating a farm house. After several seconds, all the lights on the UFO went out, as if nothing had been there at all.

The MoD states that it does not investigate UFO sightings, nor does it have any expertise on the subject, about which it remains totally open-minded. Whilst reports sent to the ministry are examined, most reports are very sketchy, and only a handful warrant further investigation. They consider that none has revealed any threat.

SIGHTINGS

Did **YOU** spot the UFO looming over Drax power station last April? Report your eerie extra-terrestrial experiences to Julie Shillito at the Goole Times on 01405 720110

SELBY TIMES, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 24, 2005

New UFO sightings are reported over power plant

MORE mysterious sightings have been reported of alien spacecraft in Selby skies.

The Selby Times revealed earlier this month how the town had recorded an unprecedented 33 cases of X-File phenomena last year alone, shooting the district to third spot in the British UFO Hunters' activity top ten.

One of the most significant incidents involved two independent observations of an unexplained silent "boomerang-shaped" object hovering at about 2,000 feet above Drax Power Station.

Witnesses reported how on April 19 and 22 last year they saw a fighter jet circle it several times before the mystery craft disappeared from view.

British UFO Hunter Russell Kellett claims to have dramatic footage of district incidents, much of which will feature on the *Video Vigilantes* documentary, scheduled to be screened on the Bravo TV channel on March 7. Now he has received reports a similar shaped craft was spotted above Drax

Power Station again last Monday.

Russell said: "A sighting was reported at 7.05pm. This time it was more of a half-moon shaped object, grey in colour."

"We're now getting reports every couple of weeks in this area. Something is happening and we're keeping a close eye on it. It can't all be a coincidence."

The Selby Times was inundated with accounts of unexplained incidents after we published our findings.

One of those also charting a huge rise in local alien activity is Selby resident Tony Topping, who believes Selby is on the verge of becoming "another Roswell".

The 34-year-old says he has experienced a lifetime of paranormal activity, which really took off when he moved back to the town in 1996.

One of the most incredible incidents occurred on February 11 2002 as he stood on the river bank near the Ideal Flour Mill.

Tony said: "What I saw that night will live with me forever. I

will never forget it.

"I heard the sound of a Tornado jet and followed in the direction it was heading. As a second jet came into view, suddenly there was an almighty flash of light. I was staggered and I think the pilots were as well. The UFO was just a ball of light and headed off over BOCM with the planes in pursuit."

Tony claims there is a major conspiracy of silence to cover up incidents and keep them from the public.

He added: "I believe beings from another dimension are observing us. Perhaps Selby has a different type of genetic make-up, and that's what they're interested in. I know some people ridicule those who say they've seen UFOs, but they would be very wrong to imagine they don't exist because they do. I've had enough UFO experiences to fill a book, but I'm keen to hear from anyone else about their experiences."

Tony can be contacted via e-mail at wingmaker2@hotmail.com with reports of sightings.

STAR, Shropshire, England - Jan. 18, 2005

Woman baffled by beam of light

A woman was left mystified this morning after she saw what she thought was a UFO over Telford.

Sue Oliver, 37, of Briarwood, Brookside, said she was walking her dogs at Nedgehill at 6.40am when she saw a "massive" beam of light. She is now trying to find out whether anyone else saw it.

"It was clear but pitch black and then this massive beam of light made me stop dead in my tracks and look up," she said.

"It was a massive long beam of light which came to a point at each end."

She added: "I wasn't sure what it was, I don't usually believe in weird things but I knew it wasn't a shooting star. After talking to my colleagues we think it might have been a UFO."

The Meteorological Office said it was unlikely to have been caused by the Northern Lights because of the cloud cover.

It's unlikely we're alone in the universe, but no need to fear our neighbours from space, claims researcher

Since building an observatory at Newchapel with his brother Michael more than 40 years ago, Tony Pace has been on a remarkable U.F.O. space odyssey that has led



Tony Pace, who is postmaster at Eccleshall, Staffordshire.

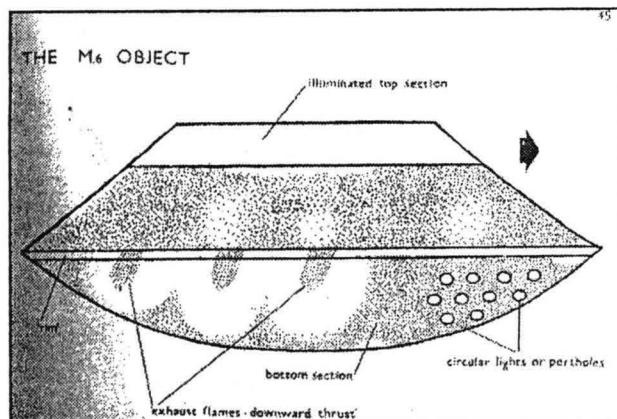
him to conclude that, while we may not be alone in the universe, we really shouldn't see our intergalactic visitors as alien to us.

Until he resigned owing to a career change in 1980, sub-postmaster Mr. Pace was research director of the British U.F.O. Research Association, where he helped build up its reputation as the leading amateur U.F.O. investigation unit and push for the subject to be taken seriously by the wider scientific community.

He explained that, growing up in Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, in the early 1950s, he and his brother first acquired a telescope built out of cardboard by a neighbour, which gave the brothers their first glimpse of the moon's surface.

Mr. Pace said: "It brought it so much closer. We could see how rugged it was, with all the craters and mountains.

"We successively made bigger and better telescopes ourselves, ending up with a 14-inch reflecting telescope in a stone observatory, complete with a roll-off roof, in our back garden.



The M6 object: A drawing of the craft witnessed by a lorry driver, Mr. Stotter, over the motorway at Holmes Chapel in 1967, according to "U.F.O.s - Unidentified, Undeniable", by Tony Pace and Roger Stanway.

"But with light and smoke from industry the conditions in the Potteries were poor, so in 1964 we advertised for a piece of land somewhere outside the area where the conditions were better and the sky clearer and ended up at Newchapel."

Mr. Pace said he joined the association in 1964 during his investigations into whether a spate of U.F.O. sightings were natural phenomena or something more extra-terrestrial, meeting the research partner who would go on to become chairman of the organisation, with Mr. Pace as research director.

Then, after another series of sightings in the skies above Staffordshire and other parts of the U.K. in the summer of 1967, Mr. Pace and his partner found themselves at the centre of a media frenzy.

He said: "We investigated and questioned witnesses, then put together a report, called "U.F.O. - Unidentified, Undeniable", in 1968, sent copies to newspapers and television stations around the country and got an enormous response.

Big articles

"We held a Press conference in the North Stafford Hotel in Stoke and all the national media turned up. There were big articles written and we did television interviews. It must have been a time when editors and people in general were interested in U.F.O.s."

Asked to join the organisation's committee, Mr. Pace helped take it in a more professional direction, producing a "Handbook for Investigators" giving budding U.F.O. researchers guidance on what to look for in the sky and how to conduct interviews, and introducing the six-monthly "Journal of Transient Ariel Phenomena", which publishes serious science-based articles on U.F.O.s and eyewitness accounts.

He said: "Members of the organisation would meet in Kensington Library, London, once a month, with a committee meeting in the morning and a lecture in the evening.

"The organisation already had a small A5 publication called 'The B.U.F.R.A. Journal' but we wanted to publish something more serious and scientific. The idea was always to raise our standing in the eyes of the scientific community."

However, it would be 1975 before an international conference organised by the group in Hanley led to "flying saucers" being taken seriously for the first time by the scientific establishment.

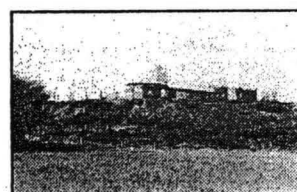
U.F.O.s

Mr. Pace explained: "In 1975 we put on the first two-day international scientific conference on U.F.O.s at the Grand Hotel in Hanley.

"Scientists from America, Europe and all over the world attended and, at the time, only a few wanted to study the phenomena seriously.

"We had physicists, astronomers and psychologists. It was a fantastic conference and a great step forward. We established more permanent contacts with people overseas and members of the scientific community and a conference held every year in different parts of the country.

One story of local interest that Mr. Pace remembered from his days as a U.F.O. investigator came from the 1967



The Newchapel observatory, built in 1964 by brothers Tony and Michael Pace.

sightings, which he said was "one of the biggest waves on record."

They included a sighting over the motorway at Holmes Chapel by a lorry driver.

Mr. Pace said: "One man, a lorry driver, was travelling on the northbound M6 when he noticed an object hovering over the fields that was keeping pace with him and seemed to be following him.

"He said the object of the body was dark, but that it had portholes from which light was being emitted, illuminating the outside of the object.

"It followed him for several miles, still keeping pace, before suddenly seeming to veer off into the darkness and disappearing. He drew a sketch of it.

"Originally he had been very sceptical — he told me he had never had an interest in the subject before — but was amazed by what he saw and reported it to us."

Fascinated

Although no longer a member of the organisation, Mr. Pace said he was still fascinated by the subject and planned to write a book recounting eyewitness reports of occupants of craft that had landed.

He said: "The sighting of U.F.O.s is a global phenomenon and in reports describing the occupants of landed objects they are generally described as humanoid — some as small beings, some large and some the same size as an average person, with differing accounts of clothing, helmets worn and even the number of fingers these creatures were reported to have had, but most of the time they are described as human-like figures.

"To me, this shows that, everywhere in the universe where complex and intelligent life has evolved, in other star systems where similar conditions to those on earth exist, then ultimately, human-like creatures evolve.

"You only have to look at evolution on our own planet to see a convergence. Similar carnivorous animals have evolved completely independently from each other in different places. Evolution is not blind and the form of a creature is determined by the function it has. I believe our humanoid form is just a pattern."

He said that, following years of research into U.F.O. sightings, he believed that extra-terrestrial travellers had visited the earth on a number of occasions.

Mr. Pace said: "I would be more surprised if we hadn't been visited. These people seem to be highly intelligent and more advanced than us in terms of their technological advancement and in conquering space travel from the stars."

phil.mccabe@chronicleseries.com

24 HOURS, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Feb. 22, 2005 CR: G. Duplantier

UFO reports on the rise

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.

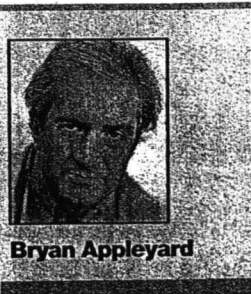
Ontario led the country with 254 sightings, British Columbia was second with 247 and Manitoba was third with 112.

In most cases, a sighting can be explained, he added. More often than not it's a satellite, a piece of flaming asteroid or some kind of military training exercise.

But in 2004, about 15 per cent of all UFO reports remained a mystery. Even when only the most high-quality cases are considered, seven per cent still weren't explained.

- The Canadian Press

The aliens at the end of my garden



Bryan Appleyard

Since June 24, 1947, when a businessman called Kenneth Arnold saw a squadron of alien spaceships in the Cascade Mountains in Washington state — generally regarded as the first authentic UFO sighting of the post-war era — aliens have poured from the abyss that lies between ourselves and the world.

We know them well. They are the grey aliens with slanting, black eyes and vestigial nostrils whose corpses are kept at Area 51, a secret military base in the Nevada desert. They are the tall "Nordics" who gently oversee complex surgical procedures on human abductees. They are ET, the Borg, the Klingons and the Vulcans, the Pleiadians and the Nines.

"You've really taken on a monster here. Careers are really derailed by an interest in this subject," Professor John Mack of Harvard University said when I told him I was writing a book about these real, dreamed, hallucinated or imagined creatures and the humans who have met or found themselves involved with them.

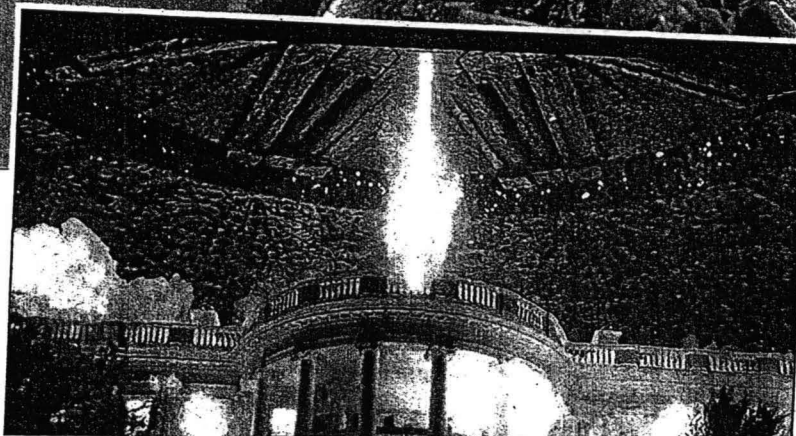
Mack spoke from experience. His own interest in alien abductions led to an inquisition by the Harvard authorities. He survived, though with many scars.

Mention aliens and you will at once be thought either mad or stupid, deluded or naive. Extraterrestrial visitation is the faith of rural hicks in the American Deep South or of lonely English teenage nerds who can't get girlfriends.

People who think there may well be intelligent life elsewhere in the universe are not mad. People who have made contact with aliens, been abducted or who have seen flying saucers probably are. But I'm not mad and I have seen an alien spaceship in broad daylight in Norfolk. It was on the ground and I saw it as a glowing oval behind some trees. It was about 300 yards away.



ET and the aliens in *Independence Day* are Hollywood fantasy but many people believe they have seen the real thing. Can they all be wrong?



The catch is that I was in a deep hypnotic trance in London at the time. David Oakley of University College London, who had hypnotised me, would say that what I saw was a product of the hypnosis. Others would say it was a buried memory and that I have been abducted by aliens who had tried to ensure that I would never remember what happened. The hypnosis retrieved that memory. Who is right?

In the 1950s Budd Hopkins became important in the abstract expressionist movement in New York. But, latterly, he has become better known for his other work. For Hopkins, 73, is a gatekeeper in the vast, strange otherworld of alien abduction: the temporary removal of thousands of people, if not millions, by extraterrestrials.

There is nothing weird or crazy about him. He looks like an adman's dream of an East Coast grandfather. He has not been abducted himself, but he is the leading believer in abductions and he insists that very few of the abductees he has met are remotely disor-

dered. He came into this field, as most do, because he saw a flying saucer. "It was a daytime sighting over Cape Cod. Up until that moment I had absolutely no interest in or knowledge of the subject, nothing. It came out of nowhere; I sure wasn't looking for it."

There were three of them in the car, on their way to an artistic party in Provincetown. Mark Rothko, among others, would be there.

"We were on high ground and we saw to our left, not terribly high up, a small object, lens-shaped and a dull aluminum or pewter colour, not highly reflective. It was just sitting there. There were clouds blowing by, coming in from the ocean. We couldn't really tell if it was moving. I said maybe it's a flat balloon. It didn't seem huge."

It was circular and entirely featureless. And then it flew off at "about the speed of an airplane".

At the time, neither aliens nor their activities were widely discussed in respectable ufological circles. The general view was that the UFOs were most likely to be secret

military craft or natural phenomena. Then in 1966 *Look* magazine published the story of Betty and Barney Hill, a respectable couple who were driving south on Highway 3, to their home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, when they noticed something that looked like a star, but which seemed to be following them.

They heard a beeping noise from the boot of their car which seemed to make them tired. The beeping sounded again and they returned to full wakefulness, finding themselves some miles further south.

Two-and-a-half hours had elapsed. They reported the incident to Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, and it later emerged that an unidentified object had been registered on the radar at the same time.

Under hypnosis, the Hills told identical stories about what had happened in those hours of missing time: their car had stalled, they were at once surrounded by humanoid in black uniforms and taken on board the craft. A circular device was attached to Barney's groin, and semen was extracted. Betty was given a tour of the craft

and shown a star map. They were told they would remember nothing and returned to their car. The UFO then flew away.

Budd Hopkins mulled this over for 11 years. Then he fell into conversation with the man who ran the liquor store near his apartment. "He said, 'A man can be driving home from work and a thing comes out of the sky and little people come out.'" It had happened nearby in New Jersey. Hopkins investigated, found other witnesses to what appeared to be a clear case of an alien landing and published

the story. People started contacting him. Soon he found himself gathering together hundreds of accounts.

In 1991 Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas businessman, suggested to Hopkins and David Jacobs, another abduction investigator, that a poll should be conducted to find out how many abductees there were in America. The problem was that, if the aliens had made people forget abduction experiences, like the Hills, then whether a person was an abductee could not necessarily be established by a direct question. So the pollsters sought to discover peripheral incidents or experiences that suggested an abduction had taken place.

Almost 6,000 people were questioned and the results were startling: 18% had woken paralysed and seen a strange figure in the room, 15% had seen a frightening figure, 14% had had an out-of-body experience, 13% had missing time, 11% had seen a ghost, 10% had flown through the air, 8% had inexplicable scars, 7% had seen a UFO and 5% had dreamt of UFOs. A further sifting of the figures indicated that 2% of Americans, some 5m people, "have experienced events consistent with those that abductees experienced before they knew they were abductees".

The figure was bizarre, wild, improbable and the image it evoked surreal in the extreme. If 5m people had been abducted, many repeatedly, there must be hundreds of thousands of people who periodically vanish and return without comment. And yet this whole, vast industrial project seemed to have left no trace of physical evidence.

On the other hand, a large number of otherwise mentally undisturbed people were having extremely strange experiences that seemed to have much in common. The information about these experiences was quite amazingly consistent. It was scarcely adequate to dismiss this vast human airlift as a mass hallucination.

Many, perhaps most, alien abduction accounts are retrieved under hypnosis. Hypnotic regression — taking people back to past events — can, it seems, break down the barrier of imposed amnesia. It has been suggested that memories are present in every part of the brain. All the aliens can do is block them. Hypnotism can unblock them.

There could be an explanation in which no amnesia effect occurs, however. In this case, what we see under hypnosis is a glimpse into a "third realm", neither of the world

nor of the human mind. The aliens are inhabitants neither of our minds nor of matter, but of something else that we are unable to grasp or apprehend except under hypnosis.

Or the accounts narrated under hypnosis must be artefacts of the hypnosis itself. If this is true, then the effects of hypnosis are quite staggeringly powerful. Thousands of people have been so convinced by what they have "remembered" under hypnosis that it has persuaded them that their previous recollections in normal states of consciousness have been utterly false.

Hypnosis is not something that can be understood in abstraction. So I asked David Oakley to hypnotise me at his office in Bloomsbury. Oakley has hypnotised people who have never claimed to be abducted by aliens. Yet, under hypnosis, they have produced compelling and detailed abduction accounts. I had never previously been hypnotised and had always assumed I would be a poor subject, possibly because I would be too analytical. In the event, neither analysis nor perversity proved a defence against Oakley's powers.

I provided him with a description of a special place, the riverside garden of my house in Norfolk, in which I felt comfortable. He then put me under remarkably rapidly and, as far as I could tell, remarkably deeply. Hypnosis has the power to put you in two minds which, normally, do not so easily coexist. Or perhaps it simply intensifies the imagined at the expense of the real. I knew I was imagining Norfolk, but I was doing so with heightened capacities of evocation and memory. The real, Bloomsbury, had simply become a blurred background.

Oakley said: "Now take the calm feeling to your special place, sitting on that bench in the sunshine." I returned to Norfolk. Then he simply asked if I noticed anything odd about it. At once I did. About 200 yards beyond the river rises a small hill topped with a dense thicket of trees. In the midst of these trees I now saw a glow. At first I tried to interpret this as a memory of a fire I had once seen up there. But that was at night and some way to the left. In any case, this glow was not fire-shaped, it was distinctly oval — flying saucer shaped, in fact.

I had made up my mind that it was, indeed, a UFO, but, just as I did so, Oakley quickly brought me out of the trance. He felt he didn't know me well enough to take me further and he didn't wish to add an overtone of anxiety to a place where I felt relaxed.

This didn't matter. What did matter was the certainty with which I saw that glowing UFO. It was, quite simply, there. Obviously, I knew of Oakley's past creation of abduction narratives under hypno-

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10
- SUNDAY TIMES, London,
England - March 6, 2005)

sis and, equally obviously, UFOs were on my mind. I was predisposed to see this. But there is a big difference between thinking such things and seeing them.

There is, however, a nuance here. I knew I was in Bloomsbury and was merely evoking Norfolk in my mind. But is evoking the right word? Perhaps I was remembering an occasion on which I had seen a UFO in Norfolk but my conscious mind had suppressed the memory or it had been suppressed for me. Or I was imagining Norfolk with a UFO attached. I could do such a thing in a conscious state, but it would involve an effort that constantly reminded me it was not real. Under hypnosis, there was no doubt in my mind that I was really seeing this.

Of course, the simplest explanation is probably true. I had never actually seen a UFO. I had simply imagined one under three distinct influences: my knowledge of Oakley's experiments, my own preoccupations and the effects of a deep hypnotic trance. But the point is: I didn't feel as though I was imagining anything. Listening to myself on the tape I made of the session, I can hear my voice sounds tentative, investigatory, not as though I am idly inventing.

This means that if Oakley had been determined to convince me that what I was seeing was a recollection and not an invention, then he could have done so, assuming I did not resist too fiercely. He would merely have confirmed what I felt to be true, that this was a flying saucer.

Evidently, therefore, if a large number of people who are convinced alien abductions are real are hypnotising even larger numbers of others who suspect they might be, then it is likely there will be many alien abduction narratives flying around, as, indeed, there are. Of course, this is not proof they are not true, but it does provide a persuasive context for a simple psychosocial explanation. Hypnotism is a technique that triggers a mass storytelling project in which all the stories are linked.

On the basis of my experience, I cannot argue with this. But I do believe it does not say enough. All it tells us is that we are prone to see such things in a hypnotic state. It does not tell us why, and it does not answer the deeper questions about the nature of human experience that are implied by the phenomenon of such visions.

These questions become even more profound when we remember that many people see these things in full consciousness and without any suppression of the memories they inspire. These are questions about the way we apprehend the world, not about the truth or otherwise of alien experiences.

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Extracted from *Aliens: Why They Are Here* by Bryan Appleyard to be published tomorrow by Simon & Schuster at £15.99. Copies can be ordered for £12.79 plus £2.25 p&p from The Sunday Times Books Direct on 0870 165 8585

NEWS & STAR, Carlisle,
England - Dec. 20, 2004

UFOs

Caldbeck crash

I AM the principal UFO investigator for the island of Tenerife and I have been told that there was a UFO crash at a place called Caldbeck that happened in 1954.

Is there any more evidence to support this incident?

CARLOS DIAZ

177 comatre center los
christianos, Tenerife
caletoway806@hotmail.com

■ Do you know anything
about the "Caldbeck UFO
crash"? Contact us on 01228
612300

HERALD, Tamworth, England - Jan. 13, 2005

More witnesses to strange activities in our skies

More UFOs seen over Tamworth!

HERALD readers have proved they've got their eyes on the skies after coming forward to say they've also seen strange lights hovering above Tamworth.

Since the Herald published a photograph last week which its author claimed was an unidentified flying object, other readers have confirmed they have also been mystified at unusual celestial sights.

Janet Westwood from Stonydelph was walking to work at 8.15am on December 21 and saw what she thought was an aircraft or a star quite a way away.

"It didn't appear to be moving. I thought it was unusual but didn't really think any more of it until I opened the Herald and saw it staring back at me!"

Tina Sewell of Leyfields was in

by Lindsey Smith
News Reporter

her garden one evening in December, around the date of the first sighting when she saw what she initially thought was a plane in trouble.

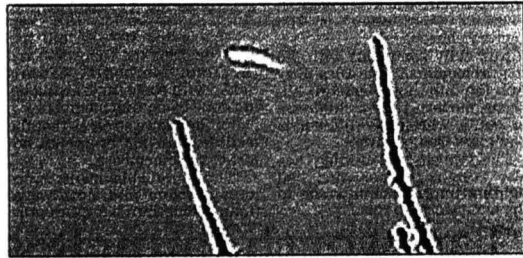
"It was dark, sometime between 5pm and 6pm. I walked outside and saw this bright orange light."

"I turned around and kept looking at it, it was really, really bright and very orange."

"Then it just disappeared as if someone had turned a light off. I can't explain it," she added.

Even a Tamworth police officer has come forward to claim that she too, has seen something she cannot fathom.

"It was New Year's Eve, around 9.10pm and I was driving to



■ The picture published in last week's Herald has attracted a lively reaction from readers.

work.
"In the sky close to the horizon I saw the most incredible harvest moon I'd ever seen, a massive bright orange disk with lines or clouds across it."

"I stopped the car to get a closer

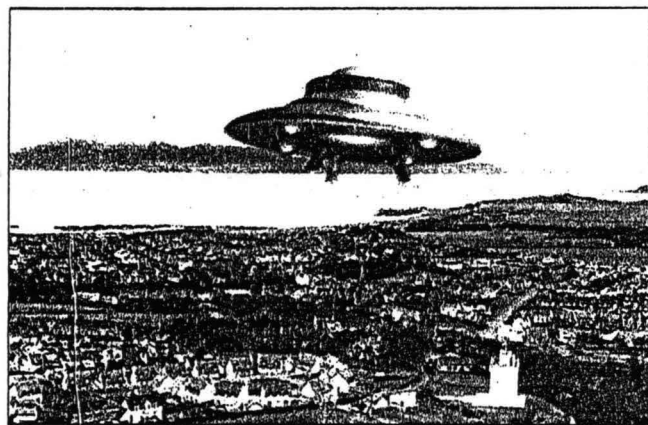
look it was so unusual.

"But just 10 minutes later as I was driving towards Hopwas I saw the real moon high in the sky just like it always is - it definitely wasn't the same object I'd seen. I have no idea what that was."

SUNDAY TIMES, London, England - March 13, 2005

Residents aren't spaced out by their alien visitors

Lucy Sweet finds the locals of West Kilbride unmoved about their UFO-friendly reputation



Sky's the limit: West Kilbride reported 12 UFO sightings last year

Although there are many good reasons to live in the small Ayrshire village of West Kilbride — handy for Prestwick airport, good rail links to Glasgow, fine schools, two pubs and a chemist — it's difficult to see its appeal when set against the entire cosmos.

Yet, according to local residents, extraterrestrial beings are flocking there in their droves. Last year there were no fewer than 12 separate sightings of glowing spheres in the sky, and records released by the Ministry of Defence show that it has had more close encounters than anywhere else in Britain.

Of course, it's not the first time that hovering hubcaps have graced the nation. Prior to last year, the highest number of UFO sightings occurred in the glittering metropolis of Bonnybridge, where it seemed residents couldn't leave the house without being probed by the glowing fingers of marauding ETs. But now reports released under the Freedom of Information Act attest that West Kilbride is now the preferred choice for holidaying non-earthlings. Which can only prompt the question: why?

"Well, West Kilbride's got everything," says Elizabeth McLardy who, as a local councillor, is admittedly a partial observer. "The sea, the hills, the glens. And about here you get some astonishing sunsets."

Indeed. Armed with possibilities of intergalactic travel, I know I'd plump for the west coast of Scotland.

According to the MoD report, the reported lights in the sky are spherical and often glowing, sometimes appearing on their own or in clusters of up to 25, and can travel at "tremendous speed." Although the MoD abandoned inquiries into the UFO phenomenon in 1951, the organisation says that it is "totally open-minded" about the possibility of life existing on other planets. But if they're not aliens, what are they? Rogue Ryanair flights on route to Stansted? Stray golf balls?

Whatever the cause, there's going to be trouble in the central belt over this new flurry of alien activity. Bonnybridge's UFO sightings are legendary, spurred on by the town's over-excitable councillor, Billy Buchanan, who has appeared on countless chat shows talking up the town's reputation as the focal point for extraterrestrial enthusiasm.

After hearing from hundreds of residents, he called for the town to be twinned with Roswell, New Mexico, the conspiracy theorists' global centre of extraterrestrial activity. He even proposed the building of a UFO visitors' centre.

Unlike Buchanan, McLardy isn't about to set herself up as a champion for people adversely affected by the little green men. She feels that there's no reason to call in Mulder and Scully just yet.

"I know most of the people in the village, so I was gobsmacked when I heard how many sightings had been reported," she says. "I heard that a woman in Portencross was adamant that she'd seen an object floating in the sky, but I suppose some people might not want to say in case they get laughed at."

Either that, or the citizens of West Kilbride are simply less easily impressed with a few lights in the sky than the scores of impressionable UFO loops and conspiracy theorists that descend on Bonnybridge every year. Talking to West Kilbride's straightforward residents, it soon becomes clear that the aliens have a tough PR job on their spindly hands. Villagers seem so resolutely

sceptical that not even a pink unicorn walking down Main Street would cause them to lift their eyes away from their pints.

Jim Cook, the landlord at the King's Arms, who talks in the weary tones of somebody who has listened to a lot of drunken nonsense in his time, isn't having any of it. "I don't believe it — I'm a non-drinker," he says. "Some folk come in here and say they've seen lights and things like that. I'm not convinced."

Finding a person who is convinced is no easy task. So it seems that before West Kilbride can really put itself on the map as a celebrated extraterrestrial hotspot, the aliens themselves have work to do. The town might be streets ahead in the flying saucer statistics, but these mysterious "visitors" are going to have to pull out all the stops to rival Bonnybridge's alleged midnight abductions. There, if reports are to be believed, a man once had his trousers mangled by the inhabitants of a sinister craft, and cigar-shaped objects hurtle through the air with alarming regularity.

The West Kilbride golf club can't throw any light on last year's reported incidents. "It's all news to me," says the receptionist, briskly.

If the aliens do decide to reveal themselves, though, McLardy is happy to take on board visitors of all galaxies. "I would welcome everybody," she says, diplomatically. "Mind you, I've been shouting the odds about getting more signage in the town for years now, so maybe they're just lost."

UNEXPLAINED SIGHTINGS - Freedom of Information Act will be used to dig deeper



WATCHING THE SKIES:
 Michael Hoffman and Joe Hoffman, of the Sky Lights UFO research group. (SAS0209009) Picture: ALAN STORER

UFO hunters closer to the 'X files' truth

JACK GROVE NEWS REPORTER

THE truth is out there, and it could be closer than ever.

A UFO enthusiast plans to use the Freedom of Information Act to access previously secret government documents to uncover the truth behind unexplained sightings of flying objects around Peterborough.

Michael Hoffman, of Brucers Close, Conington, near Peterborough, who runs the UFO research group Sky Lights, hopes that the release of so-called "X files" held by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) will finally shed light on why there have been so many alien sightings in the area.

He said: "I think the Act will give us quite a lot of information about UFOs, and it is something our group will definitely use."

"The MoD will not be very forthcoming with information and will find ways to block it, not release it. But I will use the Act to get information."

"They have a Freedom of Information Act in the USA, but still manage to hold stuff back which they want to keep a secret. I hope it will be different here."

This week, the MoD released secret papers under the Act showing that 91



ARE THEY OUT THERE? Secret documents may shed more light on alien activity around the city.

sightings were recorded last year in the UK, including a report of "four dull red lights" hovering above Peterborough.

The latest files also revealed that a government meeting was held to investigate the existence of aliens in June 1951, but dismissed sightings of UFOs by RAF personnel, as well as a series of reports of "luminous bodies" by members of the public.

Minutes of the Government's Flying Saucer Working Party show that they

The paranormal in Peterborough

The first UFO sighting in Peterborough occurred in 1909 when two police officers reported a strange object hovering above the cathedral. It is thought to have been an early Zeppelin craft.

A Peterborough postman claimed a pyramid-shaped cosmic craft performed acrobatic tricks just yards above his head. Thomas Thompson, of Lincolni Road, Peterborough, said he witnessed the glowing orange spaceship at a friend's house, in St Neots, in 1981.

A jet black triangular-shaped UFO hovering

above the A47, between Peterborough and Wisbech, in November, was seen by a student, his girlfriend, his mother and a friend, in November 1997.

Bizarre crop circles, hundreds of metres wide, appeared at Sibson Airfield, near Wansford, in 1990.

Brian Dunnnett, from Nether-ton, saw strange lights in the sky at his Heaton Close home, in 1995.

Two black shimmering discs were spotted gliding above Millfield, Peterborough, in November 1997, by Graham Palk, of Gladstone Street.

of sightings around Peterborough, but that is probably because they have been testing new aircraft in the area.

"We concentrate more on ghost sightings and have not had any reports of UFOs since we set up a few years ago."

Anyone who has witnessed any strange flying objects can contact Michael Hoffman at www.skylights-paranormal.co.uk

regarded the pursuit of UFOs to be a "singularly profitless enterprise" and recommended no further investigation of mysterious aerial phenomena.

However, a spokesman for the Peterborough Paranormal Society was not convinced that the Act would yield any great discoveries.

He said: "It depends what they release, but normally they just block out anything controversial."

"In the '80s and '90s there were a lot

'Incredible' UFO hot spot

MYSTERIOUS sightings of alien spacecraft in Selby skies are soaring so rapidly the town is set to become the country's UFO capital.

Leading underground amateur enthusiasts this week made the out of this world revelation after results of their first national survey in more than a decade revealed an unprecedented 33 cases of X-File phenomena recorded locally last year alone.

Such a cosmic explosion in observations of unexplained objects has shot Selby district to third spot in the British UFO Hunters' activity top ten. While Filey remains in first place, experts predict 2005 will witness record intergalactic incidents in the area.

Intelligence network founder and co-ordinator Chris Parr said: "It's nothing short of incredible to have this many reported sightings in one town.

Exclusive: Richard Parker

Some incidents can be attributed to military aircraft manoeuvres but that still leaves many with no earthly explanation.

"We've sent teams down to Selby on many occasions to check reports. We're very excited about activity there. I think 2005 will be the year it overtakes Filey as the UFO capital of the country."

Ministry of Defence chiefs have even been alerted to strange lights in the sky, with findings released this month under the new Freedom of Information Act that came into force this year.

One of the most significant incidents involved two independent observations of a unexplained silent "boomerang-shaped" object hovering at about 2,000 feet above Drax Power Station.

Witnesses reported how on April 19 and 22 last year they saw a fighter jet circle it several times before the mystery craft disappeared from view.

Fellow British UFO Hunter Russell Kellett claims to have dramatic footage of district incidents, many of which will feature on the *Video Vigilantes* documentary, scheduled to be screened on the Bravo TV channel on March 7.

"It was me who sent the Drax report to the MoD but it claims investigations revealed no such incident. I spoke to a travelling salesman who spotted the boomerang-shaped object hovering above the power station at 4.15pm on April 19 but he lost sight of it as he travelled towards the M62.

"Then to have a second sighting in the same week was extraordinary. Selby is a real hot spot. Perhaps it's to do with the energy source from the power stations that could be attracting UFOs."

UFO claims stirred up by real-life X-files

By Steven Bowron

THERE'S been a flurry of reports about UFOs in the past week — thanks to the Freedom Of Information Act which came into effect at the beginning of the year.

For the first time, the public can access hitherto secret official documents. To mark the occasion some 50,000 files have been released by the UK's National Archive.

These include paperwork relating to sightings of mysterious silvery flying objects and flashing lights in the sky — inevitably labelled the X-Files.

The information was all collated by a department of the Ministry of Defence with the mysterious title of S4f (Air) — the Secretariat for Air.

Dangerous

Set up in 1950 just as the Cold War was turning glacial, its brief was to collect and examine any inexplicable phenomena and determine if they were a danger to British forces.

The department still exists, though now it's called the Defence Air Secretariat. But there's no shadowy underground organisation — and no Mulder or Scully!

It's just one desk with a telephone in Whitehall and a female civil servant who spends her time examining reports from credible sources such as service personnel, airline pilots or police officers.

Then she rings round the RAF, Navy and Army to see if they had any manoeuvres happening at that time that could explain the incident.

Dr David Clarke, a lecturer on supernatural subjects at the University of Sheffield and author of seven books on UFOs and related topics, has seen inside.

"It's ironic that Britain is one of the few countries to have an X-Files desk. Even the US doesn't. Their official UFO body, Project Blue Book, was wound up in 1969."

David dismisses people who automatically associate unidentified flying objects with extraterrestrial beings. He reckons weird sightings can frequently be explained by rare phenomena like ball lightning.

And he's scathing about the way some cases that have emerged from the newly-opened files have been presented by experts.

"There was the report of the three RAF Tornados on a routine flight from the UK to Germany on November 5, 1990, whose crewmen saw a mysterious craft emerge at their wing tips.

"It was described as massive and covered with blue and white lights. It accelerated away at unimaginable speed.

Explosions

"But that was actually part of a Russian rocket body that re-entered the earth's atmosphere over Europe at precisely the time those Tornado pilots made their report.

"They are also spectacular and have a whole row of lights.

"It was seen all over Europe, and even by a Trident airliner leaving Turin. When these things break up at

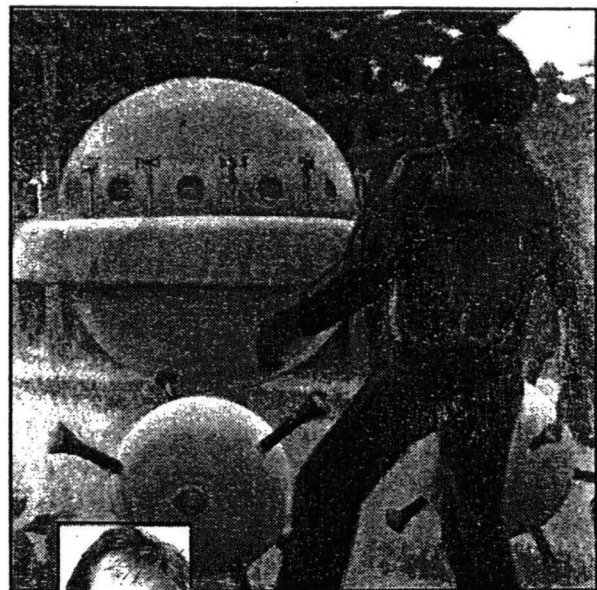
high speed they cause massive explosions and there were sonic booms heard over Germany.

But it's a rare occurrence, so even Tornado pilots were probably caught off-guard."

There are 200-300 reports of UFOs every year in Britain, the vast majority of which David estimates have a down-to-earth explanation.

"In 1978 the number of sightings went up to 750, the largest ever recorded. Why? Because *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* came out that year!"

But there are some incidents that remain a mystery. One of the most eagerly awaited of the Defence Air Secretariat reports is that relating to the experience of Livingston's Robert Taylor on November 9, 1979.



■ (Right) An official artist's impression of Robert Taylor's close encounter near Livingston in 1979. (Inset) UFO expert David Clarke.

"He was a forestry worker and was going to work at Dechmont Law with his dog," David explains. "He entered a clearing and saw a huge, semi-transparent, spherical object.

"As he walked towards it, two circular objects peeled off and rolled towards him. They looked a bit like wartime mines with spikes."

"Mr Taylor felt them attach themselves to his trousers before he passed out for about 20 minutes. When he awoke, his head was pounding and his dog was barking. He staggered back to his house.

"The police cordoned off the area. Marks were found on the ground.

"Robert Taylor moved away from the area but still sticks by everything he said at the time."

While some suggest the sphere was ball lightning, David believes that doesn't explain all aspects of the case.

"That file should be in the next batch of 'X-Files' released later in the year. It will be fascinating to see what they say about it."

Others report spotting unidentified flying object

SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England - March 4, 2005

TWO other East Sussex residents saw the strange object in the sky that was spotted by Bodle Street Green man Philip Hale on February 20.

Mr Hale was driving past Laughton, between Hailsham and Lewes, at 9.55am when he saw a white object with a blue tail flame travelling very fast on a trajectory of about 45 degrees down to earth.

It was in his sight for several seconds, he told the *Express* last week. Andy Willcocks of Heathfield also saw it. He said: "My wife and I both saw the object as described by Philip Hale on Sunday morning."

We were on our way to Drusillas and saw the object as we were coming off the Green Lane estate where we live. The object was visible for a few seconds travelling at tremendous speed. I checked the astronomy sites but could not find any objects that might be visible at that time. Nice

to know we are not going nuts," Betsey Gunner wrote. "On that Sunday we were travelling east to west on the Brighton bypass, my husband driving, at about 9.55am when I saw an object travelling very fast across the sky, going from south to north. It was much faster than a jet plane. It was white in front with a turquoise-blue tail. It was a long way off, and disappeared over the Downs. I told my husband but, as he was driving, he could not look. I have certainly never seen anything like it before. I am glad someone else saw it too. It was well west of Brighton."

Would chew believe it?

By DAVID HIGGERSON

A UFO has been reported hovering over Nelson — and described to the Ministry of Defence by a witness as looking like a 'chewy mint'.

Secret 'X-Files' documents released by the MoD have revealed the incident, which was reported to them.

A request made by a UFO enthusiast under the Freedom of Information Act by a national newspaper has prompted the MoD to reveal all cases of possible alien space-craft reported to them in 2004.

The department has subsequently released details on their website.

According to their files, the report was made on May 20, at 11.15am.

The caller claimed the object was 'white in colour and chewy mint in shape'.

A spokesman for the MoD today said they could not say what, if any, action had been taken after the call was made.

But he added: "The MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of UFO/flying saucer matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded."

Details of the case have been reported around the world, with details of 88 incidents in total released.

A call about a 'white ring' seen above Skipton was also made on May 20,

'Mint shaped' UFO reported hovering in East Lancs sky

the documents reveal. A UFO report was also recorded for Preston last year, while one of the more unusual ones reported was the arrival of aliens in Newcastle-upon-Tyne early in the morning. It isn't the first time that UFOs have been reported over Nelson.

John Birtwistle, from Colne, posted details of an alleged UFO he saw flying over Nelson on September 12, 2002. He claimed he saw 'a vivid green light similar to an arc welder but green slightly pear shaped leaving a trail of light moving four times faster than a jet fighter'.

He said: "It was in vision for approximately two seconds and seen by two people, travelling from Nelson towards Settle in Yorkshire." He

reported seeing something similar in Colne in March 2003. A case of a red flashing circle is reported to have been seen in Bacup in 2002, while something similar was seen in the Mellor area of Blackburn in 1998 before heading off towards Burnley. A spokesman for the Horwich UFO Society said: "It is important people report things that they see, so they can be investigated."

"Sometimes there is a logical explanation. At Rivington, several people reported seeing an object in the sky but we later worked out it had been an image created by a laser in Rivington Barn."

dhiggeson@lancashirenewspapers.co.uk

WE ARE NOT ALONE

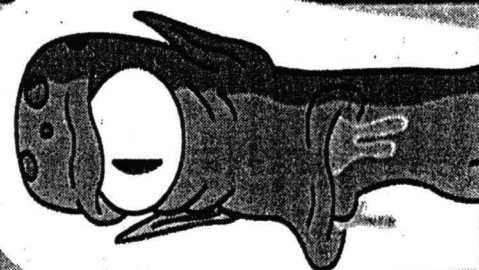
A UFO is an unidentified flying object which has been identified as a possible alien space-craft.

Since 1947 approximately 150 million people claim to have been witnesses to UFO sightings throughout the world.

There are an estimated 10,000 photographic cases of UFOs.

The most famous story in UFO history is the Roswell incident, when an alien craft allegedly crashed in the New Mexico desert.

According to a Gallup poll in 2001 belief in visitations from aliens increased from 27 per cent to 33 per cent over the last decade of the 20th century.



DO you believe in UFOs? Have you ever seen one? Do you know someone who has?

That might not be the most discussed topic among your family and friends but it certainly beats Celebrity Big Brother and who is doing what to whom in Emmerdale.

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

The people more likely to be accepted as a reliable witness were reported to be RAF personnel, British Airways pilots and senior police officers.

These were more or less similar in that the objects first hovered, then moved at colossal speeds. They were mostly saucer-shaped and surrounded by, or displaying, very bright lights.



Fred Shawcross

Gives it to you straight every Saturday

Dingle deterrent to foil the UFOs

It is also worth mentioning that on one occasion, a sighting by RAF servicemen was supported by reports that unidentified objects had been spotted on defence radar screens.

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

rise on the back of my neck. And it is the absolute truth.

It was my turn to drive, so I was alcohol-free. My two companions had had a few scoops but were by no means "bombed".

It was early mid-summer when a bright light appeared above my vehicle, to the right.

It was round, very brightly lit and appeared motionless, as if

sizing up the car. I didn't need to tell my two friends.

They had spotted it and looked as scared as I was. Being beamed up and transported to the Planet Zog without a tearful goodbye to the wife and kids, or a change of underwear, isn't a particularly enchanting prospect, though it would probably be considered a Godsend by all parties now.

However, I digress. After what seemed an eternity, but could only have been minutes, the UFO zoomed off at an incredible speed and vanished.

We all saw it. The UFO could not have been imagined or an alcohol-fuelled illusion.

If we can land a spacecraft on planets light years from Earth, what reason is there for doubting life forms from other solar systems are dropping in to have a look at us?

They could land on Emmerdale and have tea with the Dingle clan - that would be enough to abort the mission and bring a premature end to plans for a global takeover.

TRANSLATIONS

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

April 6, 2005 — *www.infobae.com* — URUGUAY: ENIGMATIC FIREBALL CAUSES CONCERN — Windows shuttered at Colonia de Sacramento and a powerful beam of light was seen in the heavens. The hypotheses were put forth by a military man on Radio 10.

Uruguayans are still wondering what it was. An hitherto unexplained event occurred in recent days.

Residents of Puerto Sauce and Colonia claim having seen "a very intense beam of light that appeared suddenly in the heavens." They also claim that there was a deafening sound and that windows rattled in the communities' homes.

In a dialogue with Radio 10, Col. Jose Luis Vignoli, press officer for the Uruguayan Air Force, said that "a missile was involved."

The military man said that "the control tower at Carrasco Airport received signals from two airliners." One of the pilots, a Lufthansa captain, reported seeing a luminous object.

The airliner had taken off from Buenos Aires' Ezeiza Airport and was in the vicinity of Carrasco. The pilot contacted the tower again, describing the object as "very luminous," as if resembling "a fireball."

Later on, another aircraft—a courier flight by a Uruguayan air force pilot—also reported a luminous object crossing the heavens.

This pilot reported seeing an intense reflection against the waters of the River Plate and that it could be a rocket or missile. The man further described tongues of flame in an ascending direction.

The second pilot also said that the flames could be from the afterburners of another aircraft. Afterburners enable pilots to obtain maximum acceleration in a matter of seconds.

It is based on these descriptions that the UAF believes that the unknown object could be a "missile," although the mystery deepens, since Uruguay lacks missile bases or launching facilities.

Vignoli explained on Radio 10: "We can neither confirm nor affirm anything at this time," rejecting the possibility that it could be related to matters "extraterrestrial." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

April 6, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — MORE UFO ACTIVITY OVER MEXICO — This report was received earlier today from our correspondent in Mexico City, Prof. Ana Luisa Cid:

Juan Antonio Lopez, a young man from the city of Culiacan, Sinaloa, managed to obtain excellent footage of unexpected UFOs over his city. Upon viewing the film, strange shining structures can be seen moving around at high speed.

I myself managed to photograph two unknown objects flying in the Tlanepantla region of Mexico State on April 5, 2005 over Mario Colin Ave. The time was approximately 13:00 hours.

[TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: Our readers will recall that Prof. Cid has obtained video of strange objects flying over this vicinity in previous occasions.]

April 6, 2005 — *El Sol Matutino*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: PHANTOM AIRCRAFT CRASHES? — A police detachment from the Concordia Department of the Entre Rios Police searched for the wreckage of an alleged airplane in the vicinity of Termas Vertientes de la Concordia using a high-power searchlight. The aircraft would have crashed in that vicinity around 23:50 hours last night.

Argentinean Air Force personnel requested information from all airports as to where an aircraft headed for Concordia could have departed, and reported it to the 3rd Aerial Brigade headquartered in Parana. No aircraft had departed in this direction, although its call numbers suggest that it could be an experimental plane. A mobile unit of EL SOL Tele-5 was sent out immediately to the thermal baths in the location, ascertaining that neither employees of the baths, nor the tourists visiting them, had witnessed the collision of the alleged airplane.

Police officers, after combing the thermal baths and their vicinity, decided to return to their stations after alerting the National Police and the Naval Prefecture to be alert to a possible appearance of the "phantom aircraft" in their respective spheres of influence.

To make matters worse, residents of Salto claimed having seen a low-flying plane that, according to the Uruguayans, showed signs of being "in trouble."

Could it all be a prank?

As of this morning, it remains unknown if the distress call was a prank or if an aircraft in distress flew over the skies of Concordia. — CREDIT: Christian H. Quintero

April 6, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE LIGHT IS PHANTOM AIRCRAFT? by Christian H. Quintero — Buenos Aires Channel 13 interviewed Alvaro Gestillo of the Uruguayan Air Force at noon, and upon making reference to the object seen over the River Plate, he spoke of "a missile or advanced combat aircraft". Perhaps there is no direct relationship here, but it reminded me of the story picked up by several newspapers of [the province] of Entre Rios regarding a "phantom airplane" that experienced technical problems near the city of Concordia. For those who live outside Argentina, the province of Entre Rios is on the border with Uruguay, and Concordia is located on the Uruguay River, which serves as the border between our two countries.

But returning to the phantom aircraft: the alert was issued by the Victoria volunteer firefighters, who picked up a distress call on their VHF equipment from an aircraft identifying itself with three numbers and claimed to be flying near Concordia. They immediately advised the control tower at the Comodoro Pierresteguy Airport and personnel from the Argentinean Air Force (FAA) requested information from all airports from which an aircraft headed to Concordia could have departed, but no flight with that destination was confirmed.

The strangest thing is that upon verifying the numbers given by the alleged pilot, they learned that the call numbers belonged to an experimental aircraft. Despite the search, nothing was ever found, but residents of the Uruguayan town of Salto claimed seeing "an airplane in distress" flying at low altitude.

In short, the Argentinean-Uruguayan frontier region has received reports of "missiles," experimental airplanes and unknown lights that light up the night sky as though it were daytime. Whether or not UFOs are involved, it is clear that something strange is occurring in this area. — CREDIT: Christian H. Quintero

April 8, 2005 — *El Llanquihue*, Puerto Montt, Chile — STRANGE ANIMAL TERRIFIES OFFICIALS AT LLANQUILHUE HOSPITAL by Mauricio Burgos Aguirre — Since this weekend, medical center officials have witnessed the presence of the strange creature that has even tried to attack workers.

Terror and mystery have enshrouded the Llanquihue Hospital after a strange animal threatened to attack officials and even penetrated the offices of the medical center after dark.

The strange presence of this species was noticed last weekend, when feathers began turning up in various wings of the hospital, mainly in the sterilization room and in the boiler room.

Things remained a mystery until three functionaries saw an unknown animal wandering in broad daylight between the woodpiles in the back of the medical center.

"We had no idea what it was. I was with two colleagues and we saw this animal biting pieces of wood and then hiding," said Armin Levican, a boiler operator.

During the week, the animal was seen in the sterilization room, where it supposedly spent the night, and where strange prints had already been seen.

According to initial hypotheses, the animal (allegedly a mink, originally believed to be the mythic Chupacabras) entered the Hospital through a pipe in a poor state of repair.

The animal remains at large. However, it is hoped that it will be caught in coming days to avoid possible attacks against people or animals living in the vicinity of the medical center. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

April 21, 2005 — *El Dia*, La Serena, Chile — SPECULATION ON ALLEGED CHUPACABRAS ATTACK IN COQUIMBO by Patricio Borlone — At 04:30 hours yesterday, an unknown animal attacked and killed 11 rabbits, two of which have gone missing, at a property in Penuelas. The involvement of a dog has been discarded.

With extraordinary strength, able to break and shatter a 2 x 2 beam and the metal mesh of a 6 x 2 meter rabbit hutch, a strange animal slew six large rabbits apparently for the hell of it.

Minutes earlier, it had sated its hunger destroying two so-called "maternity hutches," devouring four of the five bunnies within, after destroying and fragmenting the two rear boards of the structure, which had been hammered together, displaying a physical strength not found in a large dog or any similar animal.

The event took place around 04:30 hours on Wednesday when the property's foreman, Carlos Adiazola, heard soft knocking sounds that caused him to take a look in the backyard with a halogen beam, casting light on the area. A dense fog, however, kept him from seeing anything. The noise died down after that action. Adiazola noted that "my room is only a few meters away from the pens. There are rabbits, hens, geese, llamas and a good number of little beasts to care for. When I got up I didn't feel anything. Of course, I was awakened by a sound of impacts against wood that isn't common here, much less at that time. I lit the area with my torch and since there was nothing to see, I went back to bed."

When he got up in the morning, he did his rounds and was confronted by the scene of ravaged cages and pens and the deaths of the rabbits. A total of thirteen animals was involved, two of them missing. Entrails of the species were also found.

"The fury with which the animal attacked leads us to think it wasn't a simple dog. I couldn't tell you what it was. I can't imagine a normal dog grabbing a thick wooden beam in its jaws, or else tearing out the mesh and lifting it. The small cages are made of interlocking wood, so it's hard to imagine a dog was involved, since they don't have that kind of strength. Furthermore, there are fang marks on the boards and claw scratches. As a foreman, I know a lot about animals and I can tell you that a dog wasn't involved."

Doctor Vilma Valdivia Trujillo, a veterinarian with the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), took samples for subsequent study, but would not venture a diagnosis of what occurred and limited herself to saying that she would maintain her silence. Eduardo Quiroz, the SAG's provincial chief, followed her action during the evaluation of the events. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

April 21, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: Animal Mutilations at La Arana by Raul Oscar Chaves — Two mutilated animals were found on April 19, 2005 at a rural establishment located on Provincial Route No. 14, jurisdiction of "La Arana," some 35 km west of Toay (La Pampa, Argentina).

One of them - a Shorton breed cow weighing 400 kg and pregnant - was found dead and missing its udders, the left eye and its tongue.

The other animal - a horse - showed an incision on its lower jaw, missing tongue, missing ears, absence of hide, flesh mass and muscles on the right side of its head.

Part of the horse's hide was also seen missing from the right wither to the leg, and from the back to the belly, as well as a lack of muscles and flesh on its front left leg. The animal, while lying on its left side, presented signs of having been mutilated on both sides of its body. It also presented advanced signs of deterioration, being practically desiccated. This may suppose the existence of some type of radiation or microwaves at play.

According to the animals' owner, their deaths occurred some 15-20 days ago. Remains of the horse's mane, separated from the body, were also found. There were no tracks or traces suggesting the involvement of carrion animals. As in other cases, this could be due to the presence of radiation on the carcass.

It should be noted that both animals were standing close to each other, separated by an 8 meter distance, within the same premises and adjacent to a creek.

It is known that during night hours, animals rest in the open field or, as they do in this area, seek shelter in among the trees and approach the water to drink in the morning. Having found the animals' carcasses near the water reinforces the hypothesis that the mutilations occurred during the day.

April 22, 2005 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE SPHERE SEEN TWICE OVER SANTA ROSA by Raul Oscar Chaves — Two eyewitnesses—Julieta Pereyra and Cristina Diaz—walking along downtown Santa Rosa (La Pampa, Argentina) noticed the movement of a spherical object of a light grey color that stood out for its shape: presenting two protrusions or extensions shaped like a bow or a "U" on its upper section, with its tips pointing upward.

The witnesses stated that the strange object was seen some seventy degrees over the horizon and to the northeast of the city, descending vertically. Their view of the object was hampered by the city's buildings.

Regarding its size, they said that it was "as wide as a hand, with the arm outstretched," specifying that the sighting took place "at 12 noon on April 11, 2005, on a very beautiful and clear day."

On April 15, 2005 at 1600 hours, Lorena Urban and Matias Bonifacio witnessed a spherical object moving east from the west over Santa Rosa, and some 30 degrees over the horizon.

They noted that the object "was shaped like the full moon and had a glassy or shiny appearance, with two projections shaped like an open 'U'," remarking that the base of this sphere was flat.

The witnesses added that some sort of "belt" could be seen in the sphere's midsection and some sort of opening or "door" on its side, also having a glassy appearance, but darker grey in color.



DAILY SUN NEWS, Sunnyside, WA - Oct. 13, 2004

Mystery rock leaves local folks with questions

by Julia Hart

This past Monday morning a loud crash startled long-time Sunnyside resident Della Vasquez, leading her to the discovery of a mysterious rock resting on the roof of her South Hill Road home. Vasquez, who had never seen the rock on her roof before, thought it may have caused the large noise.

"At first she thought a car had crashed into her house, the noise was so loud," said Vasquez's daughter, Yollie Hernandez.

But the rock was the only thing which seemed to be out of place when she investigated the cause of the crash.

"We don't know how it got up there," said Hernandez. "It is too heavy to have been thrown up there to cause the noise," she said.

"At first we thought it might be a piece of fallout from

Mount. St. Helen's, but that seemed improbable," she said.

The rock, which weighs about 20 pounds, isn't a part of a meteorite either, according to Wayne Cone, a Sunnyside High School science teacher.

It's a pretty interesting rock, but it's not from outer space, he said.

Cone, who along with fellow science teacher David Beals examined the rock Tuesday afternoon, said it also is not volcanic in nature.

Cone said the rock is not basalt, as is normally found in the Yakima Valley. "It likely dates to the ancient Missoula flood, which formed much of the Yakima Valley," he theorized.

The rock appears to be formed of grandiorite, which accounts for its crystallized specks, Cone said. Now cov-



Julia Hart/Daily Sun News

Yollie Hernandez holds a nearly 20-lb. rock that was discovered resting on the corner of her mother's South Hill Road roof this past Monday morning. "We thought it might be a part of the Mount St. Helen's eruption," Hernandez said.



Mike Kantman/Daily Sun News

This large rock was discovered resting on the corner of Della Vasquez's South Hill Road home this past Monday morning. The rock, which is not volcanic in nature, caused a bit of a mystery as to how it came to be located on the Vasquez roof.

ered with slow growing lichens, the slightly elongated rock may have been a part of a rock wall at some point.

"There appears to be some type of sealant near the flat side of the rock," he noted.

But just how it came to be on Mrs. Vasquez's roof is still a mystery.

"Someone may have placed it on the roof to hold something down," Cone suggested.

But Mrs. Hernandez said no work has been done on her mother's roof in over a year.

"Still, it is a pretty cool rock," Cone said.

"But we still don't know what caused that loud noise my mother heard," Hernandez said.

Julia Hart can be contacted at (509) 837-4500, or you can e-mail her at jhart@eaglenewspapers.com

Noise disturbing woman's peace

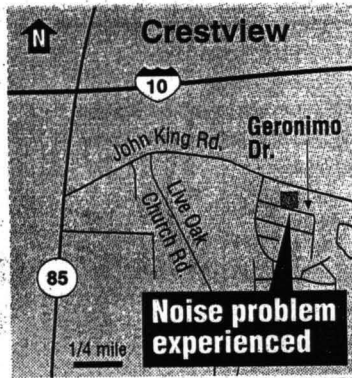
By ISAAC SABETAI
Daily News Staff Writer

CRESTVIEW — For the last six months, Kathy Ferris hasn't been able to get rid of a nearly constant thumping sound in her house.

Just about every day, she has heard what sounds like a loud booming stereo, but she can't find where it is coming from. In addition, not everyone can hear what Ferris hears.

Ferris has searched her neighborhood. The problem, she said, is that the noise is subsonic and only a small percentage of the population can hear it.

"I feel it smacking me in the chest all the time," Ferris said.



Daily News/KEN MAINES

"My personality has changed. I can't stand to live here. People shouldn't have to live like this."

Several of her neighbors have heard the sound.



Daily News/DEVON RAVINE

Crestview resident Kathy Ferris believes the mystery noise she is hearing is coming from a stereo somewhere in her neighborhood.

New Bigfoot video attracts attention

A new sasquatch video is raising interest in northern Manitoba and throughout Canada.

People have been flocking to Georgina Henry's house in the remote community of Norway House to watch two minutes and 49 seconds of video shot by her son, Bobby Clarke, on the banks of the Nelson River shortly after dawn Saturday morning that shows a "big, black figure" on the opposite bank.

"It's pictures of Bigfoot," Henry said.

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"I hear it when I'm out at night," said neighbor Melanie Cisco. "You can hear and you can feel it, and you don't know where it's coming from ... My kids have heard it in their rooms."

Jackie Baumgardner has heard it in her daughter's closet.

But Cisco said her ears aren't as sensitive as Ferris', and that she can't hear the sound when she's inside her house and the television, air conditioning and radio are all on.

Ferris has called the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office many times about the issue, but none of the deputies has been able to hear the suspect sound.

"The big problem we've got is that none of us can hear it," said Maj. Larry Donaldson. "I've been out there. I can't hear it. Without being able to hear it, I don't know what

you do."

Donaldson said he is sympathetic to Ferris' plight but added that the police are hamstrung until they can determine if someone is breaking the law by causing too much noise.

Ferris has enlisted the help of NoiseOff, which bills itself as "the citizens coalition against noise pollution." The organization, formed in 2004, has sent a letter to the Sheriff's Office prodding them to investigate.

The letter notes that "people who are not particularly sensitive to low frequency noise may not fully appreciate the suffering it causes." The letter goes on to state that women seem to be more susceptible to the sounds.

Ferris said she has never experienced anything quite like what's happened to her the last six months. She's lived in her house for about 10 years and also lived around the country with her husband, who is in the Air Force.

"I've been around bombs, airplanes and helicopters without something happening," Ferris said.

Ferris has seen an audiologist. She said she's been diagnosed with hyperacusis, which means she hears things at a higher volume than most people. The noise has bothered her so much that she sometimes has to take sleeping pills to fall asleep and has considered moving.

NoiseOff says noise pollution affects more than 16 million people in the country.

Donaldson said noise issues would become more of a factor as Crestview expands into a metro area.

"In the north county area, as the population grows people are going to experience things that were not experienced in the past," Donaldson said.

But Ferris said she wants to stay in her home and have someone find the suspect sound and make it go away.

"I'd like to stay here," Ferris said. "I just want a little help to turn that stereo off."

■ Staff Writer Isaac Sabetai can be reached at 682-5608 or isaacs@nwfddailynews.com

POST, Denver, CO - Nov. 8, 2004 CR: P. Noonan

True believers gather at Paranormal Expo

By Ann Schrader
Denver Post Staff Writer

Lakewood — Hairy animals called "Bigfoot" display a sense of humor. Aliens can be found among us. Crop circles are based on strict geometry.

Such contentions are found not only in supermarket tabloids but also were discussed Sunday at the World UFO and Paranormal Expo attended by several hundred people at the Sheraton hotel in Lakewood.

"The Skeptics Dictionary" by Robert Todd Carroll debunks such claims, saying there is "scant" evidence of Bigfoot, there is no evidence supporting UFO landings and

pranksters are to blame for crop circles.

Yet most WUPE attendees would agree with John Scheussler of south Jefferson County. "I always learn something new," he said. "I like it when they report on real work and not just tell stories."

Bigfoot research by Thom Powell, an Oregon middle-school science teacher, attracted Scheussler's attention.

Powell said investigation into the creatures, also referred to as sasquatches, should focus on evidence other than casts of tracks, since there have been numerous hoaxes.

Powell said he would like to see images of Bigfoot that

aren't blurry and to get information gained through contact with the creatures.

Powell says Bigfoot speaks with a friend of his who lives near Mount Rainier. Powell has learned there are about 1,000 Bigfoot who enjoy playing tricks to shield themselves.

The Rev. Robert Short of Arizona seeks contact with aliens, who speak to him via beams.

He said President Eisenhower and military and intelligence personnel met with the aliens in 1954 in California at what is now Edwards Air Force Base.

They worked out the Ganado Compact, allowing the aliens to explore Earth's flora, fauna and citizenry as long as they

did no harm, Short said.

Then a horse was found dissected in Colorado, Short said, and the aliens were told they had violated the pact. The aliens replied, "That's too bad. We're here, and there's nothing you can do about it," he said.

"There are a lot of people walking our planet who are from other solar systems," Short said.

Elaborate crop circles can be found where electromagnetic lines converge, much like ancient temples, said Freddy Silva of England. The crop circles follow mathematic theorems that only about 1 percent of the world's population understands, he said.

'Winsted Wildman' resurrected

Former Region 7 educator to discuss lost civilizations, legend of man-like creature at library

By RICK KLIMANOWSKI
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — New England is known for many ghost tales and lost civilizations, and people like Walter Landgraf are making sure such folklore remains fresh in peoples' memories.

Tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Beardsley & Memorial Library at 40 Munro Place, Landgraf will use the famous tale of the "Winsted Wildman" as the basis of his slide show-illustrated talk on the trails and byways of the Kitchel Wilderness Preserve in Algonquin State Forest. The 2,545-acre forest is located within Colebrook and Winchester.

"In the forest there are civilizations lost. Nothing is left of any of these."

Walter Landgraf
Retired Northwestern
Regional 7 High School teacher

A retired biology and environmental technology teacher from Northwestern Regional 7 High School in Winsted, Landgraf uses tales such as Winsted's version of Bigfoot to educate people about communities that are no more.

Using the 1929 book "The Winsted Wildman" by Frank Wentworth as a guide, Landgraf, a Pleasant Valley resident, will talk about the early 19th century communities along Sandy Brook

Road and Corlis Mountain.

"In the forest there are civilizations lost," Landgraf said, referring to the many foundations that still stand deep inside the forest. "Nothing is left of any of these."

Landgraf's slideshow will



Photo courtesy of the late Rene Dahinden

A frame from the infamous Roger Patterson/Bob Gimlin film, made on Oct. 20, 1967, in the Bluff Creek riverbed in northern California, shows what is alleged by some to be 'Bigfoot' or 'Sasquatch,' an unclassified bipedal primate. Local legend in Winsted tells of a similar creature, called the 'Winsted Wildman' that roams the region's forests.

feature remains of 15 homes and three mills within the Sandy Brook community. He uses the Wentworth book because tales from the work

provide a very human story for what are today lonely ruins vanishing in the forest.

The earliest published report found of the mysterious "wildman" was in 1895, when a selectman, Riley Smith, encountered the six-foot creature while headed to Colebrook on business. It is said that the wildman ran past Riley and into the woods. Over the next century, tales of the wildman's reappearance have emerged. The last encounter seems to have occurred in 1974 when two Harwinton residents flagged down former Winchester Police Officer George Corso after seeing something near the Rugg Brook reservoir. Unfortunately, Corso never was able to verify what the men saw.

"I believe there are real kernels of truth in these stories," Landgraf said, who said the tale could have generated from a former artist who lived in the woods as a hermit. "There is something there that initiated the story."

Using Wentworth's records, Landgraf said some of his research has been able to further the story by adding more details. Continuing the research only allows the possibility to make additional connections to these tales, he said.

As for the 100 years of the "Winsted Wildman" sightings, Landgraf can only guess.

"It's a cultural thing that happens," he said. "Someone sees something. Their neighbors see something. Then the whole community sees something."

Rick Klimanowski can be reached by e-mail at winsted@registercitizen.com.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 8, 2005 CR: J. Fry

ASTRONOMY

Life on Mars: Does methane in Spain back scientists' claim?

A tempest in a celestial teapot precipitated a rare public disclaimer from NASA recently.

The story begins with a "private meeting" on Feb. 13 between NASA officials and Carol Stoker and Larry Lemke of NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.

At the meeting, Stoker and Lemke outlined their research around the Rio Tinto, a river in southwestern Spain. In nearby caves, they found evidence of an underground system of microorganisms existing in an inhospitable environment.

It turns out that Rio Tinto's underground biosphere has a lot in common with conditions beneath the Martian surface. The scientists also detected airborne methane, one of those telltale markers of life.

Stoker and Lemke also examined atmospheric data generated by the European Space Agency's Mars Express, currently in orbit around the Red Planet. They discovered changing methane signatures that seem to confirm the existence of microorganisms living in standing water deep inside Mars.

Stoker and Lemke presented their data to NASA in an attempt to persuade the agency to send a specially designed lander to drill beneath the Martian surface. News of the meeting leaked out on Feb. 16, leading to Internet headlines such as "NASA Researchers Claim Evidence of



TOM BURNS

Present Life on Mars" on space.com.

The Web frenzy had begun.

Of course, NASA realized that the methane data, although promising, were preliminary at best. Besides, methane can be generated in a variety of ways not associated with microorganisms.

But by Feb. 18, NASA was scrambling to undo the damage. The agency does "not have any observational data from any current Mars missions that supports this claim," NASA said in a news release.

"The work by the scientists mentioned in the reports cannot be used to directly infer anything about life on Mars."

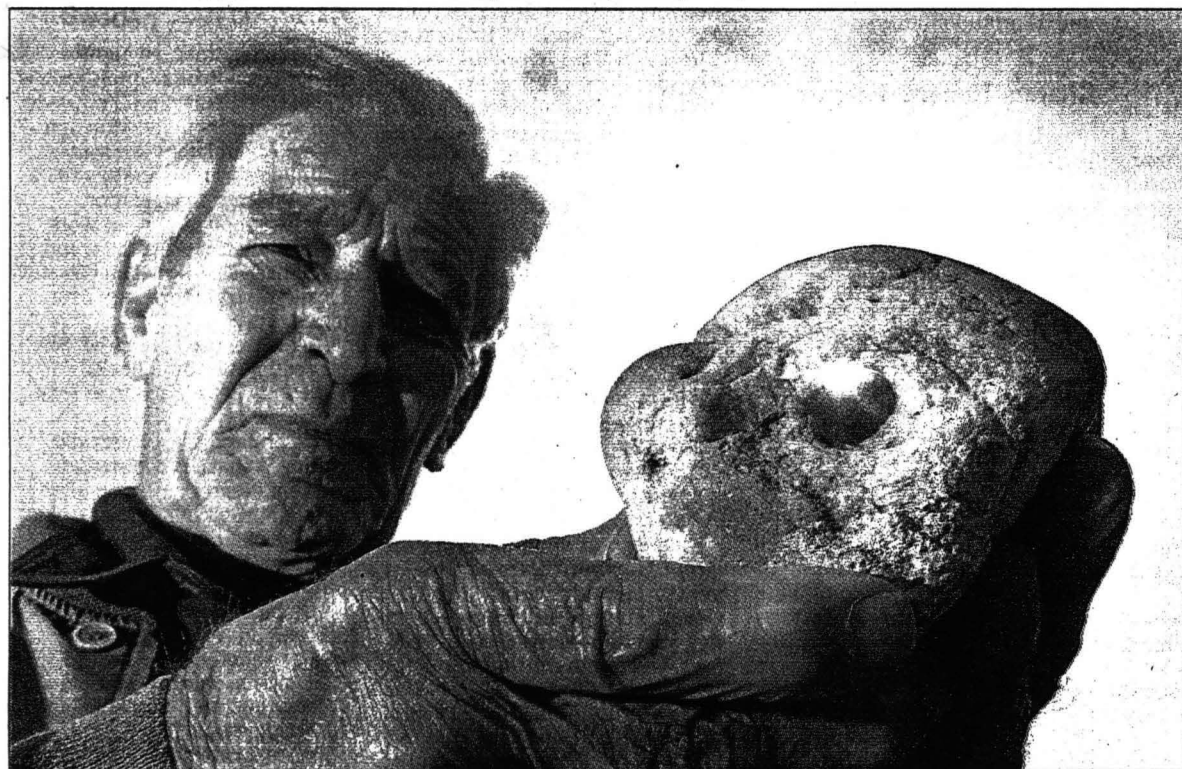
By contrast, the European scientists on the Mars Express team were ecstatic. In a Feb. 25 poll of the 250 scientists associated with the spacecraft, 25 percent agreed that the methane data indicated not only that life existed in the past on Mars, but that it exists right now.

Some were willing to go even further.

"Life is probably the only source that could produce so much methane," said Vittorio Formisano, lead scientist for the Mars Express Planetary Fourier Spectrometer, which is investigating Mars' atmosphere. "The question is not, any more, was there life on Mars? The question is, is there life on Mars today?"

And that, my friends, if it's true, would rank among the greatest scientific discoveries in human history. Stay tuned, but don't hold your breath.

Tom Burns directs Ohio Wesleyan University's Perkins Observatory in Delaware.
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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZNAK

Roland Ritter shows off a rock he found near his home in Rudyard. Ritter is curious about how the hole could have been made in the rock.

search of answers.

But so far, no one has offered a definitive theory.

"I think it was done by human beings," said Ritter, who believes that small rings inside the hole look like borings.

"I could be wrong," he said. "But that's just my imagination working."

If he's right, Ritter wants to know who drilled the rock — a homesteader or a Indian hundreds or thousands of years ago? How did they do it and why?

"I'm still looking for the answers to those questions," he said.

Do you have a theory?

Send e-mail to

kogden@greatfal.gannett.com or send letters to Great Falls Tribune, Attn: Karen Ogden, P.O. Box 5468, Great Falls, MT, 59403.

— K.O.

Mystery rock fascinates farmer

Roland Ritter, of Rudyard, has a complicated relationship with rocks.

"Years and years ago when I was young — I'm ancient now — I took a course in stone masonry," said Ritter, 88.

Over the years, he has left his mark on the world with a number of stone projects, from fireplaces to the stone fence outside the Rudyard Depot Museum.

But as a farmer, Ritter despised the stones scattered across his fields, dropped there by glaciers

AROUND THE REGION

Karen Ogden

Jared Miller



that vanished long ago.

Every fall, he walked his land, hauling off the most offensive chunks.

"I've picked a million of 'em in my long and exciting life," he said.

Like weeds, more of them sprang out of the earth every year.

"I don't think there's anything farmers hate worse than picking rocks," said Ritter, whose son now farms the place.

"Some of 'em have to be chiseled out of the ground and some of 'em are so large you have to use a front-end loader," he said.

But it was a small rock that caught Ritter's eye one day as he combed the crop rows.

Roughly the size of two fists, it was pierced by a

perfect hole.

"I've never seen another one like it," said Ritter, who has been trying for more than a year to find someone who can tell him who put it there: man or Mother Nature?

He's been told that it's not igneous, meaning that it's not the volcanic variety.

He's taken the stone to Montana State University-Northern in Havre and consulted rock hounds, friends and strangers in

TELEGRAM, Dixon, IL - Feb. 17, 2005

Splash!

Loch Ness Monster has been spotted

If you live long enough, life has a way of balancing out. Disappointments of an earlier time morph into happiness in a later time.

Case in point: My wife and I moved into our dream home. It is larger than the two of us need, but it is quite lovely. One of its perks is a 60-foot lake frontage.

We are pretty well settled in. Nevertheless, it has taken time to adjust to the new floor plan, where the light switches are, and finding stuff that we stored away never thinking that we would ever need it. However, the noises of the house still startle us once in awhile. We are still aware of the sump-pump kicking on or the strange sound of our state-of-the-art washing machine makes.

These sounds soon will go unnoticed. However, on several occasions, we have been awakened by a strange sound outside our bedroom. We didn't notice any strange sounds for the first several months because the windows were closed and the air conditioner was usually humming

allenCAMPBELL

Dr. E. Allen Campbell is a columnist for the Telegraph. His columns appear every two weeks.



quietly in the background. With the approach of the fall and being Scottish, I open the windows for fresh and cheap, cool air. Over the past couple weeks, we have been scared enough to look for the source of these unusual sounds. I told my wife that it sounded like the amplified slurping noise that my old Irish setter, Ginger, made when she would drink water after a long run. But alas, it wasn't Ginger — she has gone to her reward years ago.

Then I cryptically added, "Or perhaps it is a dinosaur slurping up lake

water having just devoured some of our neighbors." Little did I know that I was partially correct about my theory. The loud slurping sound was made by a dinosaur — a plesiosaur to be accurate.

Years ago, when in graduate school in Edinburgh, Scotland, I spent many an hour looking for the monster that lurked in the depth of Loch Ness. All my efforts were to no avail in Scotland. I didn't even see a ripple on the loch to say nothing of seeing or hearing the monster, A.K.A. Nessie. After the disappointment of an earlier time, finally success came my way. There is a lesson in my experience for all of us. Life does seem to balance things out — in time.

We never saw the monster at night, although we surely heard it slurping down the lake water in the wee small hours just before dawn. However, I was up early one foggy morning working at my computer when suddenly I saw Nessie out there the lake. After years of yearning, finally, I saw my monster.

I immediately snapped a couple of pictures and after it disappeared, I went online to do research on this illusive denizen of the deep. I came across an account of an ancient sighting in 1527 by Duncan Campbell. My ancestor described it as "a terrible beast seen on the loch shore."

My plesiosaur sighting occurred the week after my third unsuccessful attempt to meet and interview His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. For years, I had wanted to visit with the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists and the leader of millions of Tibetan refugees. I traveled to Dharamsala, India, and failed. Then he was to come to America, but he got sick and canceled his trip at the last minute. He finally came back for the dedication of a temple dedicated to world peace in Bloomington, Ind. Again, I failed to reach my goal. However, I got within 50 feet of him this time. I salve my disappointment of not getting the interview with the epiphany of the plesiosaur. Perhaps, if I live long enough, my disappointments surrounding the Dalai Lama will someday be rewarded. Life does seem to balance out over the long haul.

You may contact Dr. Campbell at www.wolverton-mountain.com.