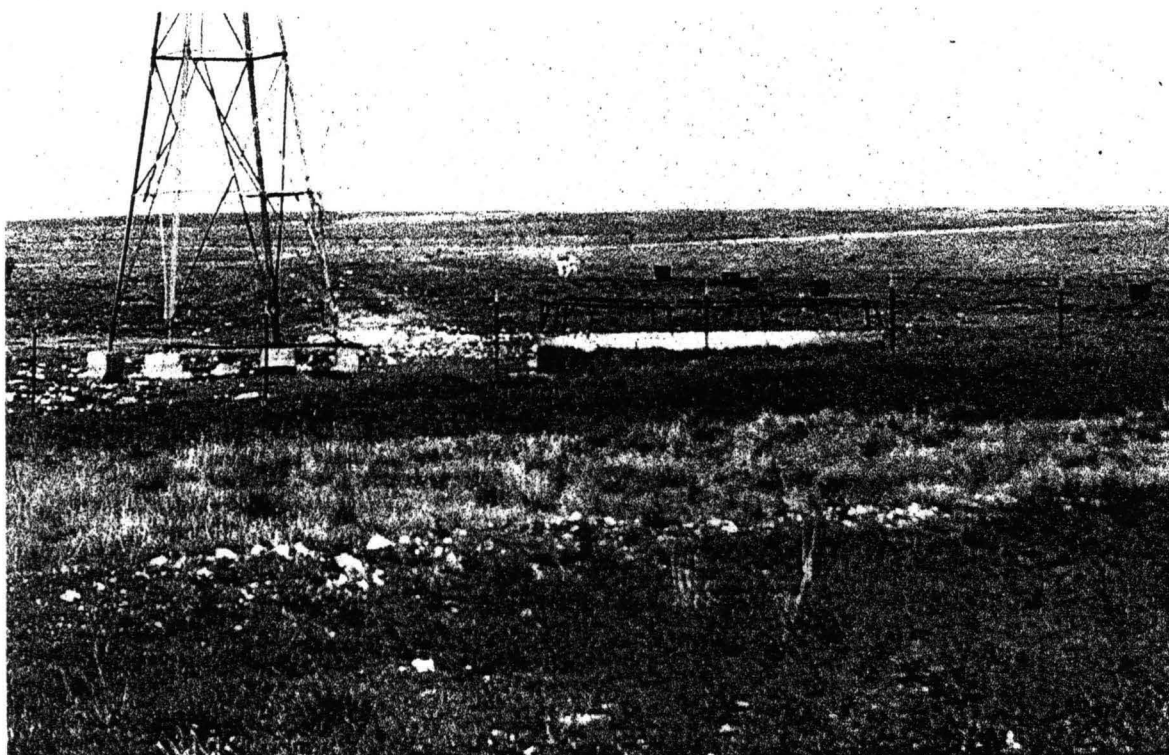


**EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Lucius Farish • #2 Caney Valley Drive • Plumerville, AR 72127-8725 USA**

FREE LANCE-STAR, Fredericksburg, VA - May 7, 2005 CR: T. Good



Photos by KRISTIN DAVIS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR



**Kristin visited the site where many believe a UFO crashed in Roswell in 1947. Officials say it was a weather balloon.**

**By KRISTIN DAVIS**  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

**MILL AROUND MY BEDROOM**, sorting books and clothes for the next school day. I haven't bothered to turn on the lights—a glow comes from the nearby laundry room. But even without it, I know this space. At 13, I spend most of my time hiding out here.

I look outside, through the room's only window, into a clear spring night. The view never changes: a dark cow pasture straight ahead and to the right, a sliver of highway to the left that's quiet now.

Above, a thousand constellations speckle a smear of black. There is little light pollution in this rural section of Goldsboro, N.C.

Tonight, though, something moves at the edge of the field.

I step toward the window.

A football field away, a dark sphere circled in red lights creeps amid the tree line. It must be the size of a helicopter landing pad.

Like a Frisbee in slow motion, it rotates silently toward the highway.

I stand breathless and still, eyes transfixed. I know what I'm witnessing. Nothing of the Earth looks or moves this way.

Then the spaceship—of course it is a spaceship!—lands. Just short of the highway, it descends into a small clearing among the trees. Out of sight.

I rush to the living room and shout my news. "I saw a UFO! I saw a UFO!" My stepfather shakes his head and laughs.

At school the next day, I share my news with anyone who will listen. My audience is skeptical.

But I don't care. I know what I saw, and I'll search the night sky until my eyes hurt. Devour countless books and movies about flying saucers and little men with slanted, oversized eyes.

I read about abductions and experiments. Hunters sucked into ships and returned days later with bizarre markings on their bodies. Drivers whose car radios crackled and went dead just before a glowing saucer descended in front of them. And fictional (I hope) accounts of women birthing half-alien babies that were snatched away in the night.

I grow sleepless and haunted, a camper on my mother's bedroom floor.

A month later, I'm home alone, and have gone outside after dark to feed dinner leftovers to Angel, our border collie mix. Some 50 feet from the back door, I empty the casserole dish in her bowl.

*Something* tells me to turn around.

A huge, triangular object edged in red lights hangs silently above the same tree line I can see from my bedroom window.

Chills creep along my arms, even on this humid night.

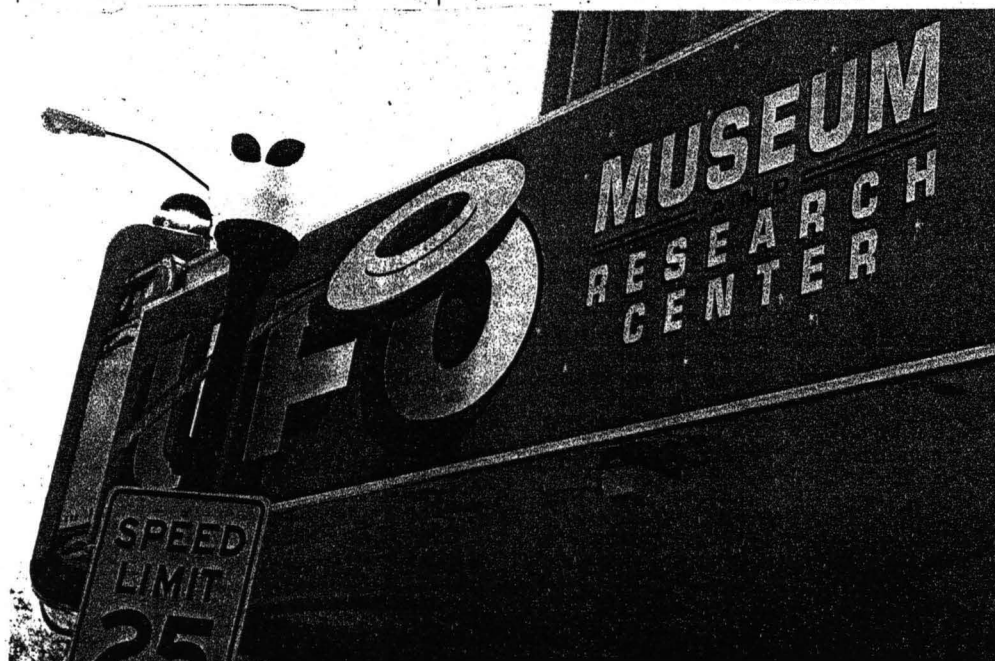
It is looking at me, I think. Maybe they have been watching me all along. Maybe they want to zap me up and chop me up or make me have one of their alien babies.

(continued on page 2)

# ALIEN

## ADVENTURE

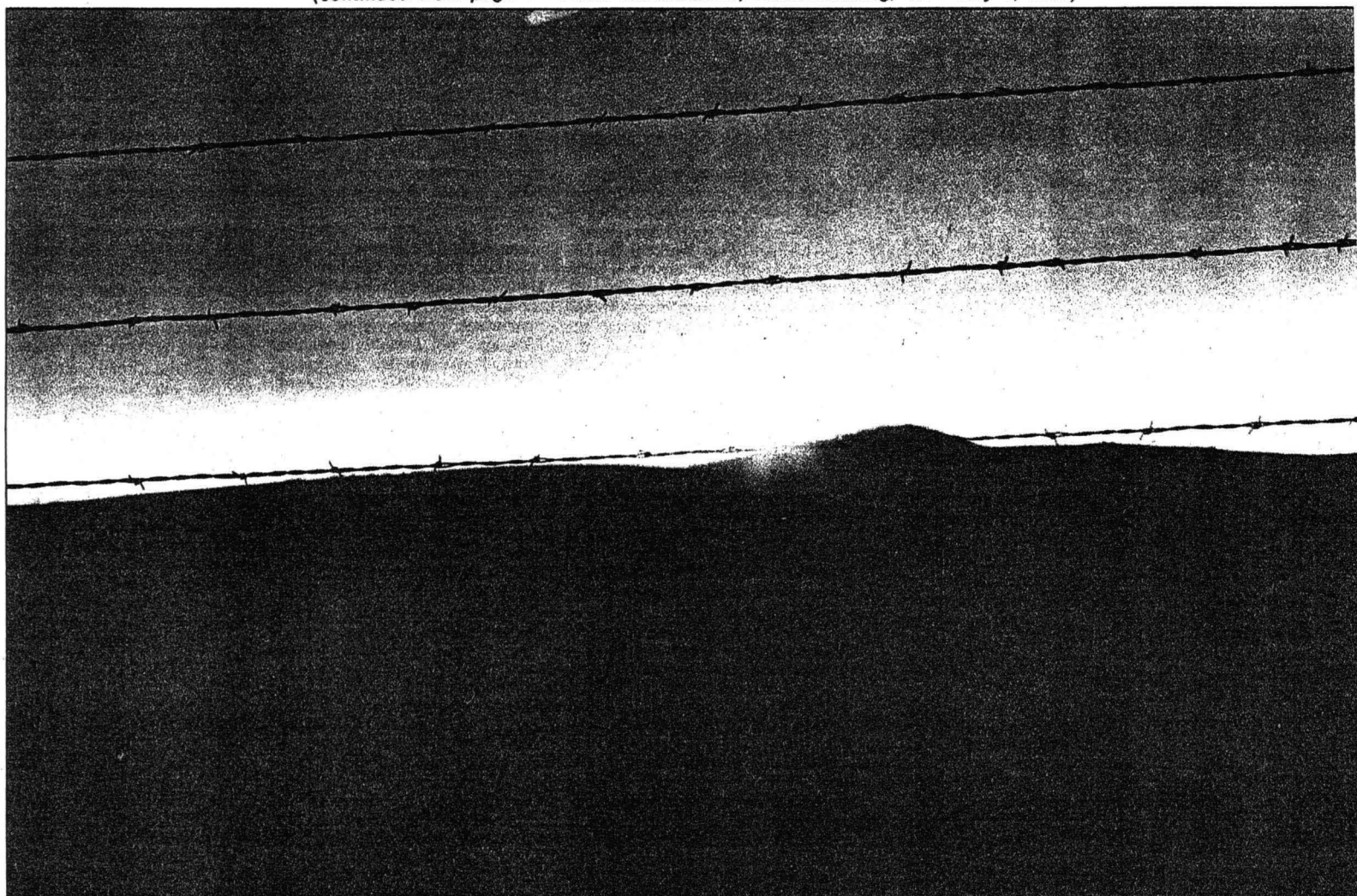
## Trip to Roswell reminds reporter of own 'close encounter'



**ABOVE:** The International UFO Museum is a must-see while in Roswell.

**TOP: The landscape around Roswell, N.M., three to four hours from Albuquerque, is breathtaking.**





On her last day in Roswell, Kristin visited the 1947 crash site, watching the sun rise over the desert.

I scream, sling the dish and spoon somewhere in the dark grass and run for the house.

Inside, I hit the floor. I have never been more afraid. For minutes, I lay still on the cool vinyl while the fear subsides.

This is too weird. Two in a month? I get up and slink back outside. Look to the sky.

It's gone.

#### Journey to Roswell

Eleven years to the month have passed. I'm 2,000 miles from my hometown, a passenger in a rented Hyundai Sonata.

The New Mexico desert zips by at 85 mph. Grass and shrubs faded sepia from wind and sun are scattered across a rugged landscape.

The desert holds the grace and intrigue of an enduring artifact.

There is nothing here but land and cattle and an occasional antelope, and this ribbon of highway that must stretch to the edge of the earth.

My friend and I are somewhere south of Albuquerque, flying down U.S. 285. Destination: Roswell, the infamous site of a 1947 UFO crash.

I first heard about Roswell at 13, after my sightings and during my zealous probe of all things extraterrestrial.

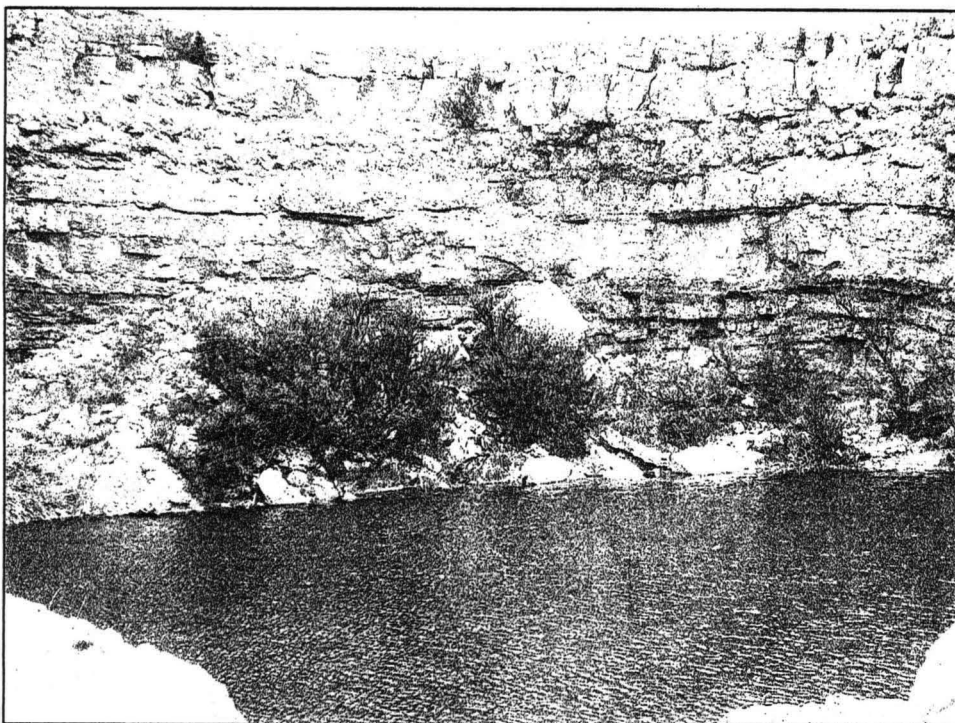
The story goes like this: A shiny, silvery, saucer-shaped object plunged into a rancher's field during a fierce July thunderstorm.

Officials from Roswell Army Air Field were called in. They roped off the crash site and spent days clearing wreckage.

Meanwhile, stories spread like desert wildfire.

They'd be remembered in affidavits years afterward: hieroglyphics on strange metal-like debris. An undertaker who got a request for several unusually small, airtight coffins.

A child whose father was



Devil's Inkwell is one of seven lakes at Bottomless Lake State Park, 15 miles from downtown Roswell. The lakes are 17 to 90 feet deep, but look bottomless because of their dark color.

ashen-faced and tight-lipped after visiting the crash site. A nurse who went missing after she overheard autopsy details of remains that could not have been human.

The Army Air Field issued a press release, calling the debris that of a flying saucer.

People panicked.

A few hours later, the military issued a new statement. The "recovered" rubble was just a weather balloon.

But tiny Roswell was on the map.

It has since become a kind of holy land for the cosmically curious. One hundred thousand people visit each year.

That was just one of the tidbits my girlhood library scouring

turned up. Those details—and my own memories—are on my mind as we speed farther south. Ever since I heard about Roswell, I thought it would be a cool place to see. When I got the chance to go to New Mexico last month, I knew I had to visit.

These days, I laugh off my childhood sightings. "Did I ever tell you about the time when I was 13 and saw a spaceship in my yard? Ha, ha, ha."

People think you're less crazy if you say it in jest. But I can still see a dark sky blotted in red, clear as if it just happened.

#### Down at the Crash Site Café

A green sign says we're less than 60 miles from Roswell. It's

barely 10 a.m. and we've made good time.

I wiggle in the seat like a child. Roswell! I'm going to Roswell!

Until now, it was only a story, a vague spot on the map. I imagine lots of hollow-eyed people in aluminum foil hats wandering around their little bullet-shaped trailers. Caravans of fat, middle-aged men guzzling beer and watching the sky.

This is my image of crazy. I guess I've been taught that only insane people see UFOs.

Roswell will prove me wrong. Finally, a welcome sign. We're here! We're finally here!

At first, Roswell is just another town. Concrete spills across desert; there are chain stores, fast-food joints and a few too

many cars. My eyes are peeled for a visitors center.

Then, a boxy little building right on the main drag. Barely inside, I spurt out, "Where's the UFO museum?"

Just three blocks up, a very nice lady answers.

"Oh, I am so excited. Where's the crash site?"

It's 20 miles outside of town, she says. It's just a sign. Do we plan to eat lunch in town? We should try the Crash Site Café.

"There's a Crash Site Café? That's awesome!"

She hands us a map and highlights the places we want to

They'd be remembered

in affidavits years

afterward:

hieroglyphics

on strange metal-like

debris. An undertaker

who got a request

for several unusually

small, airtight coffins.

see, plus four other Roswell museums that have nothing to do with aliens.

We park a block from the UFO center. Out on the sidewalk, I squeal. Laugh out loud. Point. Jump up and down.

The folks of Roswell have an incredible sense of humor.

A brass alien peeps over a store awning. Silver saucers sit atop several others. Green, inflatable aliens peer out of almost every window. Across the street, there's a coffee shop called Out of This

(continued on page 3) 2

World. The storefront is painted in a solar system mural.

Drink machines are covered in space ships and extraterrestrials. Street lamp fixtures are painted with alien eyes. McDonald's Playland is enclosed by a big, chrome disk.

"Look! Look!" I shout.

Crazy has come to Roswell in jeans and a T-shirt; she is a blonde twentysomething with awe in her eyes and camera in hand.

Inside the museum, two older gentlemen offer a greeting.

Hundreds of people from all over the world have visited in just the last few weeks, according to maps covered in thumb tacks and cleared each month.

Amazing.

The first exhibit details an "Incident" timeline. Here I read dozens of affidavits from witnesses who saw or heard or knew somebody who saw or heard.

A model alien gazes from a glass case. There are copies of old newspaper clippings from around the country, photographs and personal accounts. Pictures of purported UFOs.

"That's the one I saw!" I say when I spot a saucer-shaped disk.

Close by is a triangular UFO outlined in red lights. It's identical to the object I saw that second night at my childhood home.

Over the years, my crippling fear wore into mild fascination.

The turning point came some months after my sightings, when yet another nightmare of backyard aliens sent me flying into my mother's room.

I had another dream, I'd said after nudging her awake. *What if they come get me? Locks wouldn't keep them out. I bet we couldn't shoot them. We couldn't stop them like a regular intruder.*

In a soft, sleepy voice she told me that if they were out there, we couldn't do anything about it. Worrying myself sick wouldn't change anything.

I'm standing at a crash site excavation exhibit as I remember this exchange.

I smile.

Never once had my mother called me a liar or a high-strung adolescent who'd imagined it all.

My friend and I spend an hour

downtown, going in and out of gift shops that sell all things alien. Hats, T-shirts, shot glasses stamps and plush and plastic aliens.

I buy a couple of bags of memorabilia. I eat a turkey sandwich at the Crash Site Café. It's decked out in murals, alien-head planters and space fabric. Inflatable extraterrestrials hang over each table. Menu items have names like Encounter of the Third Kind and Flying Saucer.

There are a few families and couples among us.

None wear foil hats.

#### One last stop

We leave the next morning while it's still dark out. Albuquerque is four hours north and we've got a plane to catch.

But there's one last thing I want to do.

We park just short of a tall, rusting metal sign.

For all the controversy and complexity the crash still stirs, its marker is deceptively simple.

#### UFO CRASH SITE

I mill around cinnamon-colored earth dotted in low, wind-whipped brush. An orange sun rises over the lonely, silent desert.

I am a tiny speck out here. A tiny blip in the universe.

Once I get back to Virginia, I'll ask my mom if she remembers my alien obsession. She does, she'll tell me.

She'll confide that she saw something above the field that spring, too. Dotted in lights, it hovered for a few moments before vanishing in the night. She says she kept quiet because I was already scared to death.

I take a picture of the sign.

What did we see back then? And what really happened on this place where I stand?

Roswell, I think, is not so much a place for answers. Nor is it a centripetal force for nut cases.

Roswell is a one-time destination for a 24-year-old who once saw something and wondered, a place for a grown-up girl who still watches for lights in the sky.

To reach KRISTIN DAVIS:  
540/368-5028  
kdavis@freelancestar.com

want to  
GO?

**Getting there:** A search of Web sites like expedia.com and travelocity can yield round-trip plane tickets from Washington to Albuquerque for around \$200.

From Albuquerque, take Interstate 40 east to U.S. 285 south, which runs into the heart of Roswell. Landscape along this route is breathtaking, and the drive takes three to four hours.

**Accommodations:** Roswell has at least 18 hotels, including Holiday Inn Express, 505/627-9900; Hampton Inn, 505/623-5151; Days Inn, 800/329-7466; and Comfort Inn, 800/228-5150. Rates can be as low as \$40 a night.

**Things to see:** Roswell's biggest draw is the 1947 UFO crash—a \$5.2 million-a-year industry, according to the town's Chamber of Commerce.

**International UFO Museum and Research Center** opened in the early 1990s and is "dedicated to the collection and preservation of materials and information . . . relevant to the 1947 Roswell Incident and other unexplained phenomena related to UFO research." 114 N. Main St.; 505/625-9445.

Visitors must eat at least one meal at the **Crash Site Café**. A huge inflatable alien and his silver spaceship sit out front. A colorful, multipage menu features sandwiches, burgers and pizzas with clever names like Flying Saucer and

Encounter of the Third Kind. 1303 W. 2nd St.

Folks not really interested in the unexplained can find plenty to do near Roswell.

**Roswell Museum and Art Center** houses 11 galleries of Southwestern art. The center features an education center, American Indian and pioneer collections and a planetarium. Another exhibit is devoted to the work of Robert Goddard, a New Mexico native who launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket. 100 W. 11th St., 505/624-6744

**Bottomless Lake State Park** stretches across 1,400 beautiful acres and is home to seven lakes. The park, about 15 miles from downtown Roswell, offers hiking, swimming, fishing and scuba diving. Lakes are 17 to 90 feet deep, but look "bottomless" because of their color.

**For more information:** Roswell Visitor Center, 888/767-9355 or [roswellcvb.com](http://roswellcvb.com); Roswell Chamber of Commerce, [roswellnm.org](http://roswellnm.org) or e-mail [information@roswell-nm.org](mailto:information@roswell-nm.org).



Roswell shows a sense of humor, with even soda machines covered with images of aliens.

RIVER NEWS-HERALD & ISLETON JOURNAL, Rio Vista, CA - March 30, 2005

## New alien book cites Rio's sightings

BY CAITILIN MCADOO

Preston Dennett, author of a new book called "UFOs Over California," claims that UFOs are real and, among other things, that they have been seen in Rio Vista. In fact, Dennett devoted most of chapter six of his book to a 1965 UFO wave in Rio Vista.

A headline in a 1965 edition of the River News-Herald reads: "Shots Fail to Ground Flying Object: Strange Lights Draw Youth's Fire in 'Saucer' Quest." The article reports on two teens who tried to shoot down what they believed to be a UFO. "Flying saucers" are becoming so common in the Rio Vista area that some residents are even attempting to bring them down with gunfire," the paper says. The newspaper story said that two youths, Tom Springs and Danny Bland, had shot at the mysterious flying object six or seven times. "They heard a definite sound 'like the bullets

struck steel,' they said, and the object got brighter each time a bullet struck," the newspaper said. "But the shots apparently didn't have any major effect, since the object took off."

In the paper the following week, on Wednesday, October 6, 1965, the headline read, "The Saucers—One is Venus, But Mystery Still Remains." Dennett's book cites accounts that a crowd of over 200 people gathered by the water tank out on Drouin Drive to see the UFO, which had become a nightly occurrence. When the news of the UFOs got out, personnel from Travis Air Force Base came to see what all the fuss was about. Together with amateur astronomers, the Air Force officers were able to determine that the mysterious object was actually the planet Venus.

"I don't think it was Venus," said Dennett. "The Air Force comes up with a lot of explanations that they

think are reasonable, but it's not hugely conclusive." The newspaper, however, reports otherwise. "It became certain early this week that Venus has been responsible for some of Rio Vista's sensational experiences with unidentified flying objects," the newspaper article says. "But everything wasn't explained yet; not by any means." The story goes on to tell of several additional accounts of UFO sightings in Rio Vista.

Dennett said he had been skeptical of the existence of UFOs until 1988 when his sister-in-law told him about the two extra-terrestrials she had seen. "I know she wasn't lying to me," said Dennett. He said his sister-in-law had told him that she was out walking late one night when she saw what looked like two children standing next to each other. She thought it was too late for children to be out. Then she saw that they didn't have any hair, that they were identical, and that they were

hovering off the ground. According to Dennett, "This is your typical gray-type ET." He said he had read books about this type of ET, but that his sister-in-law hadn't. Nonetheless, she described them exactly as other people had before her. After that, Dennett's brother and a coworker of his also told him they had seen UFOs.

"Usually UFO stories are treated with a little bit of nervous laughter," said Dennett. "A lot of people keep it from family and friends." Then he added that it's harder for him to believe that we're the only ones than it is for him to believe that UFOs exist. He also said that there is a lot of evidence, including photographs, video footage, implant removals, and thousands of coinciding accounts.

The fascination with UFOs is nothing new. In his book, Dennett refers to sightings in the 1800s at Mount Shasta, and a 1912 sighting in the town of Alameda.



## URBAN LEGEND

*Editor's note: Because of the nature of this subject, it's not possible to verify the authenticity of the following accounts nor is it our intent. Instead, the purpose of this article is to simply compile the various accounts of local UFO sightings both collected as documented in the News Graphic and outside sources.*

Perhaps you've been driving late at night on one of our area's many rural roads and see something you can't quite explain. You think at first that it might be a plane but quickly discount that thought because of the speed at which the object moved across the sky. To ease your mind, you figure it was a shooting star or maybe just your imagination but in the back of your mind you can't help but wonder — was that a UFO?

Many people have experienced that situation but few are confident enough to share it with others. Over the years, though, some have documented their local encounters with unexplained phenomena and a few of those accounts have even made it into the pages of this newspaper. Here is a rundown of some of the more interesting local sightings of UFOs and extraterrestrials.

### July 5, 1947

Many people don't realize that Grafton has an indirect connection to the infamous Roswell, New Mexico incident of July, 1947.

Although it wasn't documented by the News Graphic, United Press International picked up the story of the Rev. Joseph Brasky of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grafton, who claimed that he had found a piece of flying saucer in the church's yard. Upon further investigation, the piece was determined to be a circular saw with the stamped words "steel, high carbon, 100 percent steel." The incident was one of many paranoid incidents in the wake of the Roswell "alien" crash, which had occurred just two days later. This story finally found its way into the News Graphic when correspondent Laurie Arendt reported on it in October, 2003.

### Sightings in the 1950s

One of the more interesting local encounters is that of a Cedarburg farmer who wished to remain anonymous. He told his story to Laurie Arendt in October, 2003 and described hearing first and then seeing a UFO that had windows. He claimed that he could even see inside the windows

to see aliens, "that all looked the same like they were clones. They looked grey and sickly; their heads were larger than ours and they had skimpy little bodies."

### Sightings in the 1970s

Per a UFO research site on the Internet, several local people claim to have experienced a similar type of encounter near Northridge in the 1970s.

One account, submitted by a local woman named Kathy K. claims the following experience:

and stopped. When we stopped, so did the object. More lights went on, and I remember them to be white, not colored. I could be wrong; it was a long time ago. They did resemble windows. I wanted to get out, but my daughter was very young at the time, and ready to panic. We drove on to Northridge, and it followed us. I parked at Boston Store, and we could see it very clearly hovering above the stores across the street. We stood there for a while looking at it, then went in the store. The whole incident lasted about half an hour."

This experience is similar to that of another woman in 1972, who claimed that she followed a similar object from Northridge to her Cedarburg home.

### March 26, 1984

Following up on a UFO sighting the previous December, this story appeared in the March 26, 1984 edition of the News Graphic Pilot under the headline "UFO sighting being probed."

A Cedarburg woman who claims to have seen an unidentified flying object here in December was featured last Tuesday on More, the WISN-TV hour magazine program.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, was westbound on Pioneer Road near the I-43 on-ramp on Dec. 7 when she claims she saw "the biggest, brightest light I have ever seen in my life." She was returning home to her apartment with her two children, ages 13 and 7.

In a telephone conversation with a Cedarburg Police dispatcher shortly after the alleged sighting, the woman described the UFO as "round, but not perfectly round."

The UFO was hovering not far from the ground, according to the woman, "about two telephone poles high."

The woman went on to say that the flying object had blue and green lights, and windows in front, with a nose cone shaped like a wok handle. When she got out of her car, the UFO disappeared to the southeast.

### Recent sightings

As is the case with other kinds of paranormal phenomena, sightings of UFO's have increased over the last several years. The Web site [www.ufowisconsin.com](http://www.ufowisconsin.com) has documented 13 accounts since 1998 as opposed to just four accounts prior to 1998. For that reason, it's hard to determine whether the accounts are genuine or just pranks. Still, the amount of unexplained sightings in our area over the last 60 years should be enough to keep you looking to the skies on a dark night and wondering what else is out there.

# UFOs in the O.C.?

## A look at local sightings of UFOs and extraterrestrials

Story by Christian Williams

"I believe it was in 1978 - I was with my young daughter and first noticed the object above my house in Mequon. It was about dusk. Back then Brown Deer Road east of Highway 57 was a two lane road, and we followed the object down 57 and east on Brown Deer Road. There were no other cars around. The object was round with some white lights, silent, and couldn't have been more than 100 feet overhead. It was large, but I couldn't guess the size. We followed it to about Range Line Road,

POST-JOURNAL, Jamestown, NY - Feb. 23, 2005 CR: D. Munson

## Information Center

### IN YEARS PAST

• In 1955, a wispy radioactive fuzz that settled like dew over Horseheads, N.Y., had the scientific community in something of a dither. The substance, long and cobwebby, fell over a residential area half a mile square covering trees, shrubbery and houses. The stuff was radioactive and Dr. Charles B. Rutenber, professor of chemistry at Elmira College, said this could be because of the atomic tests now under way in Nevada. The manager of the local dairy plant stated that the dairy could very well be at the bottom of the mystery. The plant's process called for putting the milk under intense heat. A scum formed on top of the milk, and some of it may have escaped up a defective flue.

50  
years ago

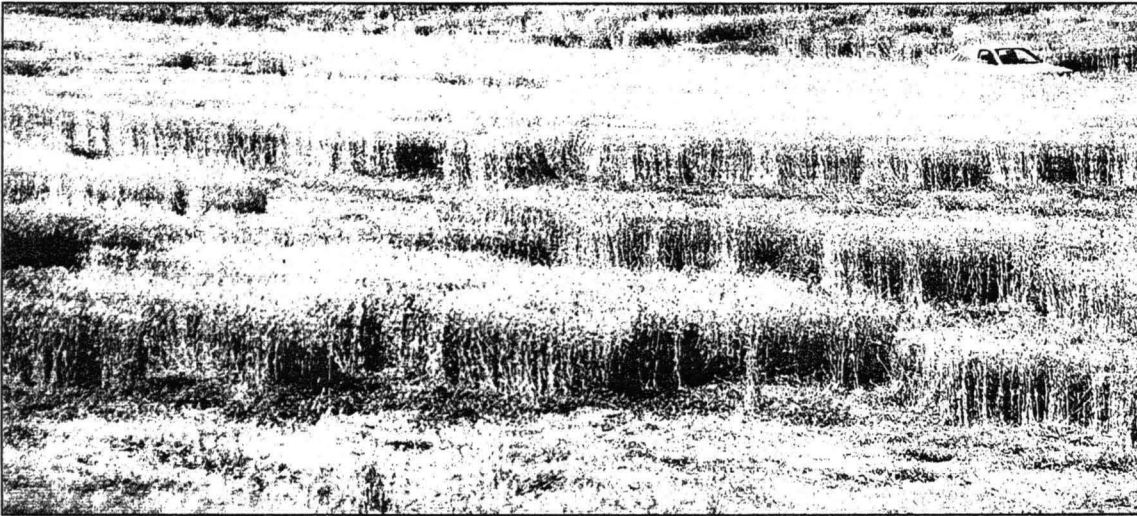
STANDARD-DEMOCRAT, Sikeston, MO - March 1, 2005

## UFO challenge

With the airing of the two-hour prime time special with Peter Jennings "UFOs - Seeing is Believing" on Feb. 24, the time seems right for this inquiry. Genealogical research uncovered unexpected coincidences between my father's history and a Missouri legend of an alleged 1941 UFO crash and retrieval. In an attempt to dismiss this connection, I chose to investigate the incident further. Personal research only adds to the intrigue. Although millions of people claim to have seen a UFO, many people are apprehensive to speak of the subject due to the skepticism and ridicule that surrounds the topic. Some individuals are even fearful of retaliation. If anyone wishes to contact me regarding knowledge of this topic, your name will be held in confidence. Do you, a relative, or acquaintance recall this incident or recall any conversations regarding the crash of an unidentified object in Southeast Missouri in 1941? Please contact [info@SeekingMoInfo.com](mailto:info@SeekingMoInfo.com) or [SeekingMoInfo@yahoo.com](mailto:SeekingMoInfo@yahoo.com) or visit [www.SeekingsMoInfo.com](http://www.SeekingsMoInfo.com)



# Crop circles? No, just wind



Recent storms brought high winds and heavy rains that left strange patterns, which some say resembled crop circles, in three Hickory barley fields.

NATHAN W. ARMES | RECORD PHOTOS

## Mysterious shapes found in fields

BY ANDREW MACKIE  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

### HICKORY

The mysterious shapes first appeared about two weeks ago. Neighbors woke up to more random designs Sunday morning in two nearby fields.

Downed barley in three fields about a 1.5 miles down Robinson Road from U.S. 70 caused questions among motorists driving along the road. A few people called the Record newsroom. One person dropped by to mention the curious phenomenon.

Are alien spaceships visiting Catawba County?

Maybe it's a farmer out joy riding on his tractor?

The answer is less glamorous. The wind is to blame.



Pete Robinson, 75, walks through waist-high barley on his land in Hickory on Monday. Recent storms left patterns in the field.



NATHAN W. ARMES | HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Pete Robinson, 75, inspects a field of barley on his land in Hickory on Monday. Recent high winds and rains have left patterns in several fields.

A storm a couple of weeks ago blew down barley in a six-acre field. Saturday night's storms further damaged the field and two others.

It was nothing unusual to Pete Robinson, who owns part of the land.

"I've never given any thought to it other than the wind doing it," he said Monday afternoon, between chuckling about the thought of the designs being crop circles. "It's not uncommon for grain to get blown down."

The three fields, only a few hundred yards apart, cover about 25 acres.

Brent Teague rents the fields. The fallen barley will just make the crop more difficult to harvest early next month.

"If you have a real good thunderstorm and the grain is heavy, the wind will just blow it down flat," he said.

Shelly Shook is manager of S & S Community Mart on Robinson Road, about a half-mile from the fields.

She saw the fields Sunday and thought a farmer had some time on his hands.

Seeing there were no tracks into the field, her father, Jimmy, joked to a friend that aliens had landed.

Surprisingly to Shelly, no customers mentioned the shapes.

"I guess most people around here don't think much of it," Shook said. "It's nothing to them."

## EXTRATERRESTRIALS

# Flying saucer group looks to the skies

By LINDSAY SONSKY

Special to East Memphis Appeal

At age 7, Mark Gilley had an experience that would change the way he looked at the sky forever.

In the backyard of his home in Central Gardens, it was spring and nearing dusk when his aunt called to him.

"She said 'Come here and see if you see what I see,'" recalled Gilley.

He remembers spotting an illuminated object like a teardrop moving across the sky. He watched until it disappeared behind a cluster of trees.

At 58, Gilley is employed Downtown at the Clovernook Center for the Blind on St. Paul Avenue, where he helps those who have lost their vision become independent.

He still believes it was a UFO he saw that day. He's not alone.

As a longtime member of the Memphis UFO Discussion Group, which meets at the Poplar-White Station Branch Library at 5094 Poplar on the second Wednesday of each month, Gilley is in agreeable company with many others who believe Earth is being visited by extraterrestrials.

Attracting up to 30 people to meetings, the Memphis group has been together for nearly 25 years.

Gilley is also the state director of Western Tennessee for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a 3,000-member international organization that investigates sightings.

Manning the region hotline (the phone number dials his cell phone), the East Memphian anticipates calls that send him and Marcia Prince out of town for closer inspections.

Prince, also an East Memphian, is assistant state director of Western Tennessee and chairman of the Memphis UFO Discussion Group.

But that doesn't happen very often.



Members of the Memphis UFO Discussion Group, which meets at the Poplar-White Station Branch Library on the second Wednesday of each month, include 'Hondo' (front left), Marcia Prince, Shorty Stuart (back left) and Freeland Neal.

Most are hesitant to admit they might have spotted something unearthly, said Prince. "I call it the 'giggle factor.' You say 'UFO' and people giggle," she said.

But as ridiculous as some may think it is, every year tens of thousands of people claim to spot UFOs, she said.

The folks who are certified by the state group to look into such cases are called field investigators.

Gilley and Prince are investigative trainees, who will soon be taking the official MUFON examination, which will cover 35 scientific fields. Instructed by certified investigators, they learn how to take steps such as conducting interviews and collecting soil samples.

Their first assignment sent them to North Mississippi, where a resident captured a photograph of a sphere in the sky.

"It looked like a worm hole," said Prince, who sent it on to a MUFON specialist who ended up discrediting it as a product of the way the film was developed.

Other sightings have sent them investigating occurrences all over Memphis and in areas such as Berclair, Bartlett, Whitehaven and Shelby Farms.

The trainees are investigating a rural town outside Memphis, which they wouldn't disclose, but which has had several accounts of UFOs and cases of dead cattle.

Like Gilley and Prince, many "Ufologists" don't believe that the government or mainstream media are revealing everything or reporting fairly about extraterrestrial encounters. That leaves believers scouting out information from publications such as MUFON's monthly journal and books and local radio shows.

A big part of the Memphis UFO Discussion Group is keeping members updated on sightings, studies and investigations. They do this by handing out articles and hosting guest speakers from scientists to abductees. The Memphis UFO Discussion Group had booth at the MidSouth Con (the annual Science, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and Gaming convention) hoping to reach a range of open-minded folks.

"We believe this is the truth and we want to prove that it's out there," Prince said.

To report a UFO or extraterrestrial encounter, contact Gilley at 484-2972.

## Peter Jennings' out-of-this-world topic

The ABC news anchor's two-hour special examines the puzzling lore and legends surrounding UFOs.

By Mark Washburn

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

Peter Jennings has never seen a flying saucer, and when he started working on tonight's two-hour special on UFOs, he didn't believe aliens were among us.

Nothing he learned changed his mind. But Jennings thinks something's up, unidentified-flying-objects-wise. He just doesn't know what.

Jennings points to two of the most compelling cases in recent years.

One is the 1997 Phoenix mystery, captured on video, in which thousands of people saw a huge delta-wing craft drift over the city. "There has never been a satisfactory explanation," Jennings says.

Another is the 1968 case in North Dakota in which ground observers, radar specialists, and the crew of a B-52 observed a strange luminous craft hovering over Minot Air Force Base.

Peter Jennings Reporting: UFOs — Seeing Is Believing, at 8 p.m. on ABC, is a balanced and

at times provocative treatment of the UFO issue, one that covers the spectrum between hard-ball science and hard-core crackpots.

It touches on alien abduction, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, and the odd career of astrophysicist J. Allen Hynek, the government's chief debunker of UFO reports until his contract expired and he spent the rest of his life urging scientific study of the close encounters. And Jennings' program aims the spear of reason at enduring myths, particularly the 1947 report of a crashed alien spacecraft at Roswell, N.M.

In Roswell and in other cases, Jennings says, the government became an unwitting partner to conspiracy theorists and fringe elements of the UFO community by repeatedly covering up evidence or offering ludicrous explanations.

"What struck me at the end was how much harm government can do when it disses people," he says.

Fifty years after insisting what was found at Roswell was merely a weather balloon, the military admitted that the device that crashed was a top-secret, high-altitude probe designed to monitor Soviet nuclear tests. But by then, skepticism was too entrenched to shake in the circle of believers in the spaceship theory.

"The government took away the evidence, thereby allowing the conspiracists and the exploiters to own the field for years," Jennings says. "And then the government came along X years later and said, 'There was this super-secret program called Program Mogul.'"

"In some respects, the government just helps conspiracists, almost like it's a sport."

The media have exploited the public's interest in UFOs as well, Jennings says, through movies, TV shows such as *The*

*X-Files*, and sketchy documentaries.

"One of the most ridiculous of all was when Fox did this autopsy of an alien," Jennings says, referring to the highly hyped 1995 special *Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?* (Fox got additional mileage out of the film for the 1998 special *World's Greatest Hoaxes: Secrets Finally Revealed*.)

"Fox managed to have it both ways," Jennings says. "They put it on as a serious piece in the beginning, and later put it on as one of the great hoaxes."

Jennings acknowledges being defensive about tonight's special because of its topic, but he points out that polls show nearly half the American public believes in UFOs.

"I hope that at the end of the program people say, 'That was really interesting.' Because, at the risk of sounding like a PR guy, that's what I felt."





IRISH INDEPENDENT, Drogheda, Ireland - Feb. 10, 2005

## IS THE GOVERNMENT HIDING UFO FILES? SECRETS FROM OUTER SPACE

The British Ministry of Defence has just de-classified some of its top-secret files on unidentified flying objects — but who keeps an eye on what's happening in Ireland? **Conor Feehan** reports

**T**here are no flying saucers hovering over Ireland — and that's official. But maybe we should qualify that — there are no UFOs and there never have been, according to the Government, the army, the Garda and other State agencies.

If you go looking for any X-Files in the dusty drawers of the Department of Defence, the Department of Transport, Garda HQ or the Irish Aviation Authority, you will draw a blank, despite claims by many hundreds of Irish people who claim to have spotted flashing lights and whirling spacecraft.

The only people taking note of such sightings in this country appear to be UFO spotters and, if any of them have ever tried to make an official report of a sighting, it seems there was no note ever taken, never mind filed away.

Conspiracy theorists would call it a cover-up. Images of CIA and FBI goons working frantically to keep the lid on Area 51 would spring to mind.

After all, even an organisation as sceptical and sober as the Ministry of Defence in London has just released some of its files on thousands of sightings of UFO activity, under the Freedom of Information Act. These de-classified documents detail credible observations of unidentified flying objects reported by people, including Royal Air Force personnel, British Airways pilots and senior police officers.

The files, previously held by the Ministry of Defence's special UFO department, known as SF4, are now public property. Among the most credible reports of a possible visit by life-forms beyond our galaxy is one made by an RAF pilot and two NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers) at an RAF base in Northumberland in July 1977, when Flight Lieutenant A M Wood reported "bright objects hanging over the sea".

The Ministry of Defence document adds that the RAF officer said the closest object was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter". The UFOs were reported to be three miles out to sea at a height of about 5,000ft.

The officer said the objects, separated, then one went west of the other and, as it manoeuvred, it changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs.

The men were able to observe the strange objects for an hour and 40 minutes, more than a passing glance by anyone's standards.

At the same time a radar station detected the objects in exactly the same position as the men had observed them.

There would appear to have been doubts in the minds of the people making the report but they went to lengths to describe Flt Lt Wood as "reliable and sober". This account was deemed so sensitive to the national interest that the MoD delayed its release for an extra three years. But under

**HE THINKS THAT AT LEAST ONE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HERE HAS FILES ON POSSIBLE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE BUT THAT IT DOESN'T WANT THE PUBLIC TO KNOW ABOUT IT IN CASE THEY COULDN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH...**

the Freedom of Information Act, which came into force in the UK on January 1, the file has been reviewed and de-classified.

There are other sightings detailed as well, one involving a British Airways Tri-Star on a return flight from Portugal in July 1976, which was involved in an incident that led to the scrambling of fighter jets.

There are even reports from police superintendents seeing silver lights. If there are UFOs being noted officially in the UK, why aren't they warranting even a scribble on a Post-It here?

**W**hen the *Irish Independent* contacted the Department of Defence here, the response was: "There is no information pertaining to UFO activity." The last silver flying object the Department of Transport had queries on was the Luas. Martin Towey, of the Irish Aviation Authority, said: "We don't have anything." The Garda Press Office said: "There are sightings of things in the air and things in the ground every day but they would be reported to local stations. There is no centralised file or database for these." The army also drew a blank.

But not everyone is convinced. Eamonn Ansbro is searching the skies for extra-terrestrial-type probes that may have been sent from far-off stellar systems. Eamonn, who lives in Boyle in Co Roscommon, is qualified as a meteorologist and astronomer. In 1974 he discovered a hydrogen envelope around the rings of Saturn and is currently studying for a Doctorate in the Planetary Space Science Research Institute in the UK. He has also published several works on optics and astronomy.

He thinks that at least one Government Department here has files on possible extra terrestrial intelligence but that it doesn't want the public to know about it

in case they couldn't handle the truth. "I think the Irish Government is under some constraints from other governments and that there is some sort of invisible agreement between them," he explains.

On the release of the de-classified files in the UK, Eamonn says: "You can bet that if there are de-classified files, there are classified ones as well."

Eamonn's research system uses infra-red light to monitor the skies for probes. "If you had infra-red eyes, you would see 10 times more space activity than with the naked eye," he says.

Asked if his research was purely scientific, open-mindedness or a belief that there is life out there, Eamonn says it is both. He believes, like many other international scientists, that governments worldwide should review and change existing policies to one of increasing openness, disclosure and cooperation with civilian research teams.

"I've been doing this for 14 years now," says Eamonn, who says there is physical evidence of UFOs, although he uses the term Anomalous Observation Phenomenon because he fears the name UFO carries too much of a 'crackpot' inference.

**E**amonn is trying to evaluate if what is observed is a new energy form or an ET-type intelligence. He believes that a percentage of what is seen is, in fact, man-made craft being secretly constructed by military bodies.

He says: "Of course, when people report these sightings, they are told 'we don't know anything about that' because there is secrecy around such projects."

While no official sightings of UFOs are recorded here, a cursory phone call to the Ministry of Defence in the UK yielded a list of around 100 reported UFO sightings in 2004 and three sightings so far this year.

SUNDAY MIRROR, London, England - Jan. 23, 2005

## WE SAW FLYING OBJECT

Dear Sandra,

I HAVE been interested in UFOs since an experience myself and my friend had about 10 years ago.

Myself and my friend were lying in the garden, it was a warm August evening, and we saw mysterious objects with lights hover in the sky, then shoot towards the beach nearby.

We both had the strangest feeling that they were UFOs.

The following Sunday the newspapers had reports of people seeing the same objects over the beach at Malahide at the same time we had seen them head towards that direction.

Everyone said they were heading West, and 12 minutes later sightings were reported in Galway.

Since then I've been really interested in the subject, and recently saw a TV programme saying that sealed files about UFOs are due to be released this year.

Do you know if there is an Irish UFO organization, I would really like to talk to other people who know about these things?

Yours, Sandymount.

Dear Tony,

YOU could contact UPRI, UFO and Paranormal Research Ireland, founded by Carl Nally

and Dermot Butler in 1998.

They document, report and research all the information they receive in an impartial, objective way.

UPRI research and is interested in all types of unexplained phenomena, and we have worked together on several projects involving hauntings, Spirits and Poltergeist activity.

In my dealings with them over the years I have found them to be serious, scientific researchers who are extremely knowledgeable in their field.

They also produce a quarterly publication packed with information on national and

international reports and invaluable sources of information.

UPRI welcome reports and contributions from members of the public.

The annual subscription for the Newsletter is 30 30cent stamps (no cash as this is a non-profit-making organisation).

● Enquiries or subscriptions to: UPRI, PO Box 7041, Harmonstown, Dublin 5. (Subscriptions should be sent by registered post.)

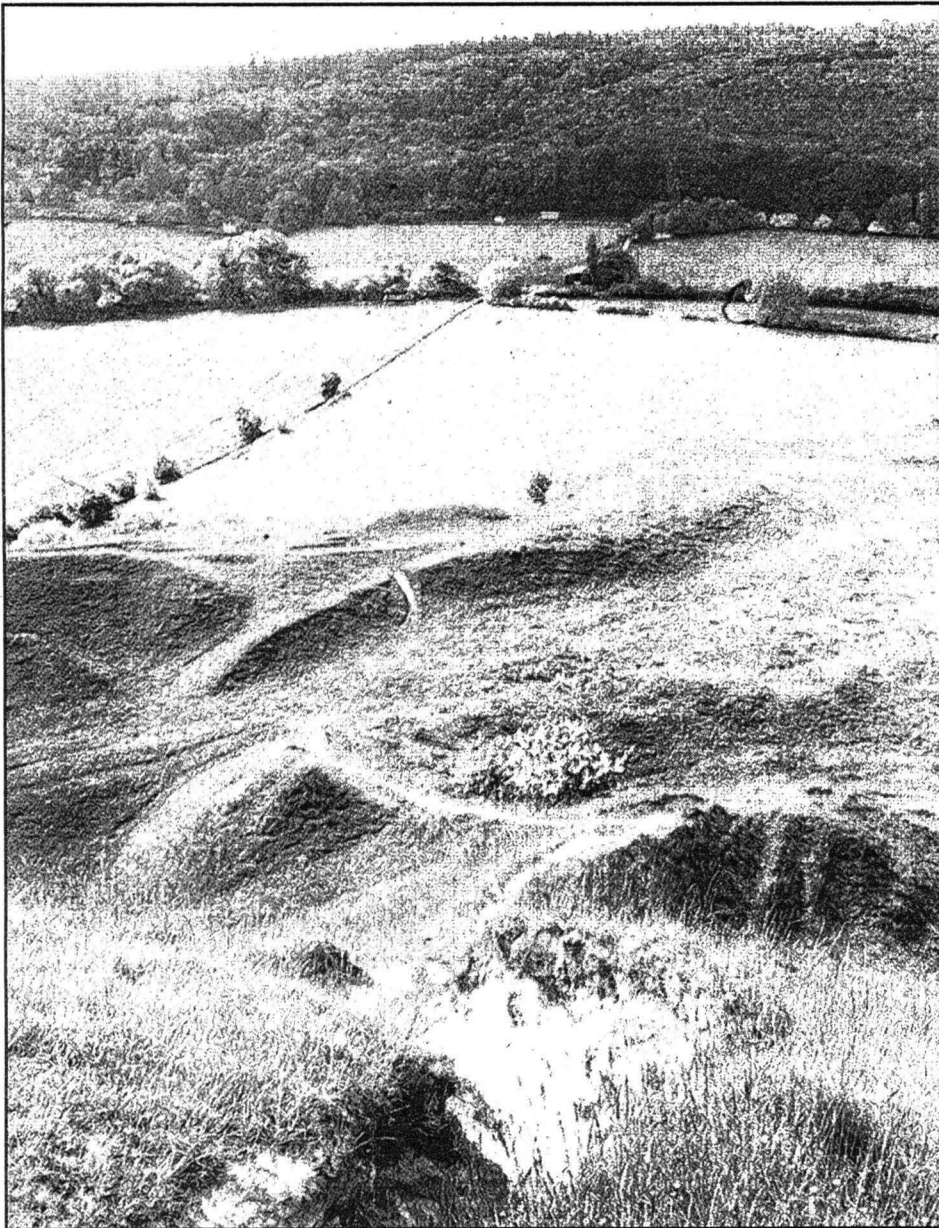
E-mail: [UPRI@Ireland.com](mailto:UPRI@Ireland.com)  
International Phone +353 87 2144009 (Ireland 087 2144009) from 10am to 10pm, Monday to Sunday.



# Area no longer tops for spotting UFOs

By Wendy Walker

**ALL'S QUIET:** Cley Hill, in Wiltshire, had been known as a UFO hotspot, until the Ministry of Defence released its first log of information - requested under the new Freedom of Information legislation - which revealed that there were just four sightings in Wiltshire and Somerset, and none of them were at the landmark



**WILTSHIRE'S** Cley Hill and the Somerset countryside have taken a knock as top-notch places for spotting Unidentified Flying Objects.

The Ministry of Defence has released its first log of information requested under the new Freedom of Information legislation.

One of the most popular requests out of 700 received, after queries about military and personnel matters, was for information about UFO sightings.

Reports received by the MoD for 2004 and in the first weeks of 2005 totalled 95, but people in Wiltshire and Somerset only reported four sightings, and none of them were from UFO hotspots like Warminster.

On July 31, 2004, a spotter in Shepton Mallet reported "three very strange, bright orange objects, which were quite large and going in an upward direction".

On September 16 an object which "looked like a great, bright light and was really intense, like a big ball of fire, rapidly moving towards the ground" was reported from Iwerne Minster, Somerset.

A week later there was a report from Devizes of something which "looked like a big ball of fire coming down from the sky, with a tail and sparks coming from the end of it".

The most recent Wiltshire sighting was reported from Swindon, where someone told the MoD that they saw a big orange disc going from east to west, and said it was totally silent, moving slowly.

The MoD's Directorate of Air Staff, which is the focal point for reports of UFOs, has also published a statement from a spokesman who said the ministry had no expertise or role in respect of UFOs, or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrials, and remained open-minded.

"I should add that, to date, the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena," said the spokesman.

[w.walker@westnews.co.uk](mailto:w.walker@westnews.co.uk)

WEMBLEY OBSERVER, London, England - Feb. 3, 2005

## Second UFO sighting

STRANGE lights seen above a house in Willesden have strengthened claims of a UFO (unidentified flying object) over the skies of north London.

Last week, the Observer ran a story of a possible alien invasion 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.

"It was like nothing I had ever seen before," she said.

"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, South Harrow Police spokesman Pete Joy said police had not received any calls from worried residents.

He added: "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."

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - March 8, 2005

## Town is new UFO capital

where four reports of UFOs were logged.

Hamilton and Dumfries and Galloway were also included in the list, each with two reported sightings.

However, many West Kilbride residents laughed off suggestions it was a "hotspot" for flying saucers.

One resident said: "I have lived here since birth and I've never heard of any sightings."

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, said: "UFOs tend to be attracted to regions that are fairly remote."

"If you have a remote area, look out for air bases. Scotland is littered with them."

FORGET Bonnybridge - the best place to spot UFOs is in Ayrshire.

West Kilbride has topped the list for UFO sightings in the UK last year.

Ministry of Defence files, released under the Freedom of Information Act, showed there were 12 reports of "yellow spheres" flying alone or in groups.

The Clyde coast town has ousted Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, as Scotland's flying saucer capital and closest rival to Roswell in New Mexico - site of an alleged spacecraft crash in 1947.

And it beats second-placed Wellingborough in Northamptonshire,



# Mission to inner space

**W**e need other eyes to see ourselves and, where they are not present, we invent them. This is the message at the core of Bryan Appleyard's intelligent survey of the 20th century's vast mythology of the alien: the non-human "Other". It is a sensible one. Sometimes, aliens are a threat – unsympathetic intellects that kick our world as we would an anthill, or cruder creatures here to pilage or rape us. Sometimes, they are our better angels – here to instruct us in environmentalism, in a more humane diet, or simply to tell us to play nicer.

And sometimes they are here for their own inscrutable purposes, to stare back at us with eyes dark as night. Early in the last century, the poet Rilke told us that every angel is terrible; that beauty is terror we can still just endure. He spoke, presciently, about all aliens, not just people with rubber bits stuck on faces.

Appleyard could have mul-

**ROZ KAVENEY**  
**Aliens: Why They Are Here**

*By Bryan Appleyard*

SCRIBNER £15.99 (321pp)  
£14.99 (free p&p)  
from 0870 079 8897

tiplied examples endlessly. As it is, he contents himself with a lot of tales told twice, or far more often. We get *Star Trek* and UFOs, robots and cyborgs and nanotechnology and Satanic abuse: this is not so much book assembled from cuttings as one which contents itself with touching a lot of bases and being mildly sardonic all the while. "What fools these mortals be," is a perpetual refrain. We are left at times with a suspicion that Appleyard quite likes the idea of being cool and unsympathetic.

Among his tales is the complex story of UFOlogy, of abductions, higher beings, and memories of lost time recov-

ered in ways that Proust never dreamed of. Appleyard spent a lot of time talking to the late Professor John Mack, and is minded to agree with Mack that, in some sense, the experiences of people who believe that they have been taken and returned are more than merely subjective.

The trouble is that we are all liable to experience the uncanny in some form or another: whether aliens, God, the voices of the dead or the inexorable laws of economic history. To say that these experiences are common is not to say that they are true; they are certainly no very sound reason to change our lives. Ap-

pleyard's aesthetic distaste for the measurements of technology lead him at times into a tolerance for the merely foolish. This is, as Mr Spock so often remarked, illogical.

Appleyard's reading and viewing of science fiction are extensive, but not always as insightful as he might wish us to believe. He is not entitled to patronise the SF novels of Philip K Dick as he does, treating Dick as much as a case study in amphetamine-fuelled paranoia as the creator of some of the best explorations of the American nightmare. There is a common decency at the core of Dick's work, a compassion for

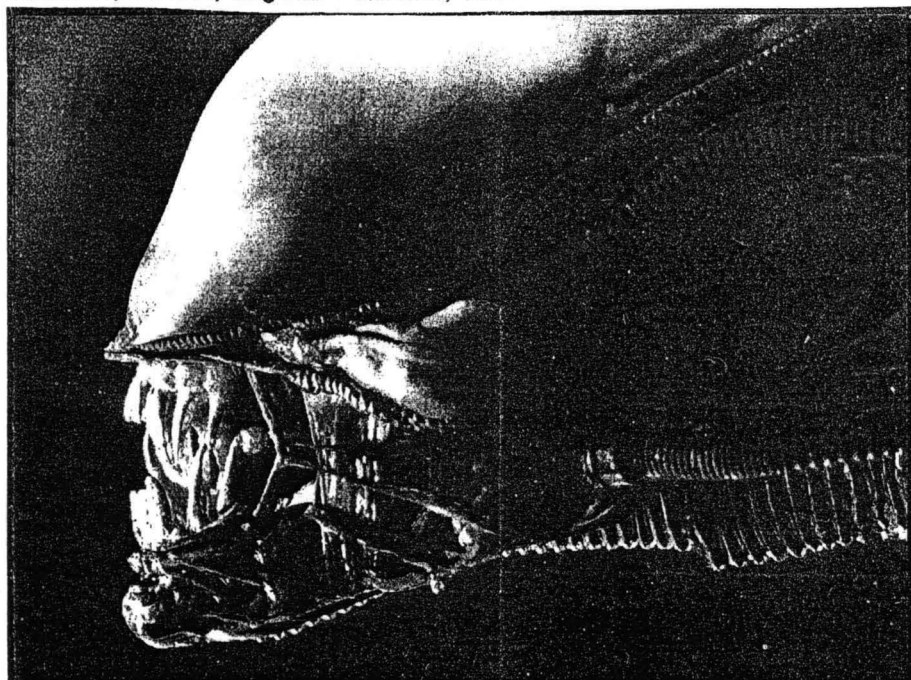
doomed junkies and scrapped robots, which Appleyard perhaps underrates in favour of the colder decorums of the Polish writer, Stanislaw Lem.

Appleyard joins Lem in the assumption that the Alien is ultimately incomprehensible, that any hint of anthropomorphism is sentimental and colonialist. In the absence of actual aliens, without whom the debate is somewhat academic, this is a dangerous assumption. After all, in our daily dealings with human Others, to explore difference is also to explore common experience.

If a lion could speak, we could not understand him,

Wittgenstein said. Appleyard agrees. An intelligent lion, however, would notice, sooner or later, that the square on the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the two adjacent sides. Certain things are shared knowledge because they are how the universe is constructed. The world, as Wittgenstein also remarked, is everything that is the case. Lions, robots and Bryan Appleyard all inhabit and negotiate that interpreted world.

*Roz Kaveney's 'From Alien to The Matrix: reading science-fiction film' is published by IB Tauris*



Alien intelligence: Just because they don't look like us doesn't mean they can't share similar values

DORSET & SOMERSET WESTERN GAZETTE, Yeovil, England - Feb. 24, 2005



STRANGE SIGHTING: Damien Moore and John Smith look skyward for more UFOs similar to the one they saw at RNAS Yeovilton. Picture by Len Copland.

## UFO was 'flying faster than a jet'

by Adam Stones  
Staff Reporter  
e-mail: newsdesk@westgaz.co.uk

A CHURCH leader had an unexplained close encounter as he travelled to worship on Sunday morning.

Baptist lay preacher John Smith of Wincanton was driving with family friend Damien Moore on

the A303 on his way to church in Crewkerne when they encountered the strange sight near RNAS Yeovilton.

What they saw as they passed the airbase has left them completely bemused.

"We saw what, at first looked like a missile or rocket fly past us to our right, towards the area of the village of Kingdon," said Mr Smith.

"My first impression was that it was some sort

of missile. It was most definitely propelled, and at a fair speed.

"I would say that it was flying as fast as any jet that has been based at Yeovilton; probably faster. It looked like it was being fuelled as there was a sort of trail behind it."

The sighting occurred at 9.55am. He said the object was making no noise but it is possible it could have been masked by the noise of the

car.

"The object was approximately 300 to 400 feet above us, cigar shaped and possibly 20 feet long. I could accept this so far; however the problem I have is that the object was gleaming.

"It was a sky blue or turquoise colour. It was as if someone was holding up a mirror causing a gleaming sky blue reflection."

Mr Smith said he checked with his companion who confirmed he was witnessing the same phenomenon.

"It looked like it was on a shallow descent pathway. I would expect that any object such as I described would make some sort of mess when hitting the ground at the speed of a jet fighter or faster."

However, chairman of Kingsdon Parish Council, Anthony Masters, said he knew nothing of the mystery object.

He said: "If it had landed somewhere in Kingsdon I think we would have known about it. There's plenty of associations who would report it. It think it would be the talk of the village."

Mr Smith has reported his sighting to RNAS Yeovilton who has looked into the matter. In cases such as this, it generally passes on the information to the Ministry of Defence without comment.

However, a spokesman for the airbase told the Western Gazette it generally does not operate at all on Sundays and no flights had been logged that morning.

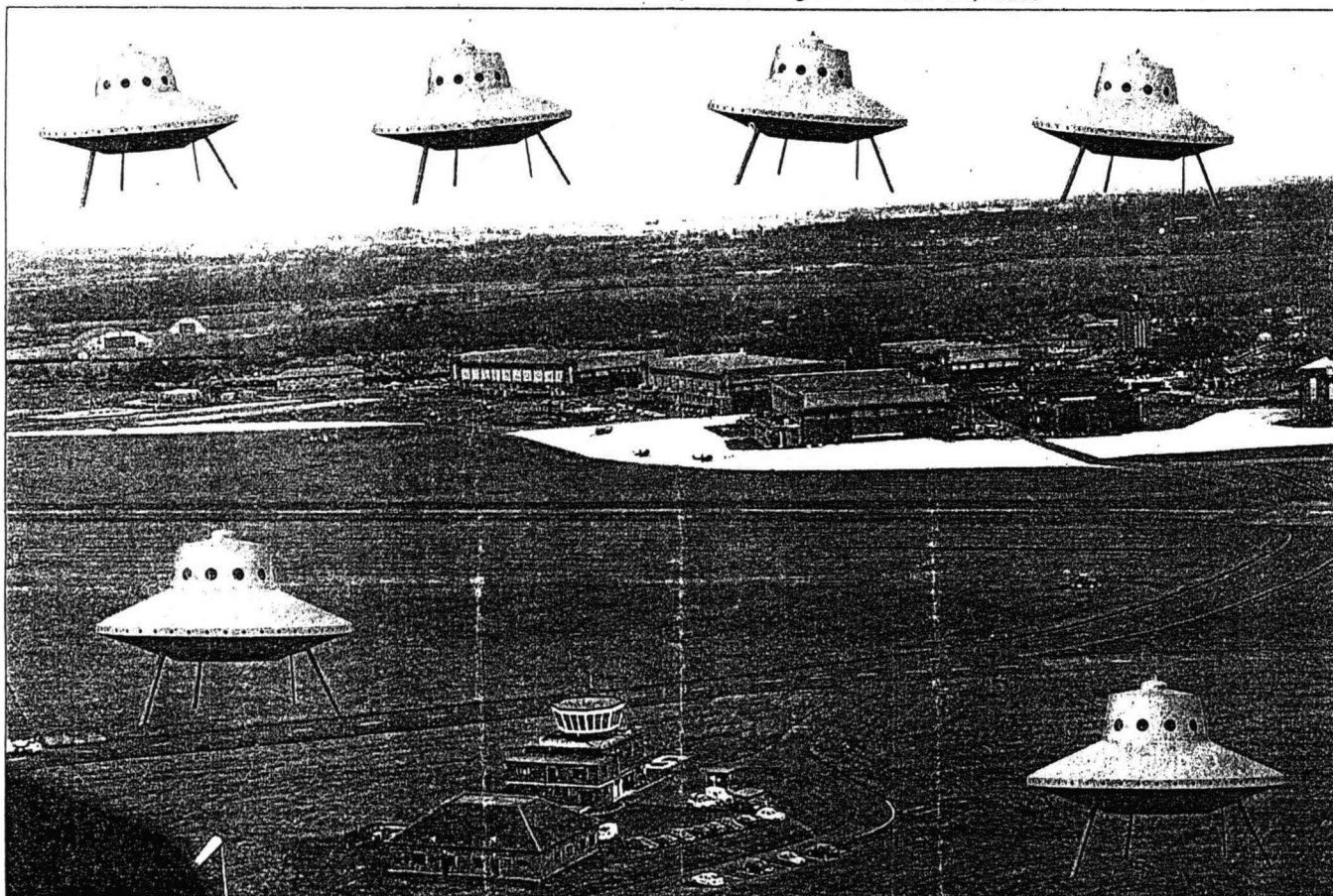
A year ago, a lone dog-walker near Langport witnessed a similar strange spectacle, which he described as a "hot-air balloon crash landing".

It was later identified as a solar airship – a toy made of a special plastic that fills with hot air under direct sunlight and can escape skywards if the owner lets go.

But Mr Smith remains adamant about the veracity of his inexplicable observation.

He said: "I fully understand it sounds daft. However, whatever it means to anyone else my colleague and I saw it. We can't argue-it. We don't understand it. But we did see it."

● ANYONE wanting to report a mystery unexplained sighting should contact the MoD on 020 72182140.



An artist's impression of how RAF Shawbury might have looked in March, 1993, when a possible UFO was spotted flying over the base.

# Intriguing case of the UFO flying over RAF Shawbury

**THE Freedom of Information Act has given the press and public access to hundreds of secret Government files, including work on UFOs. JAMES HOLT spoke to the UFO officer who led the investigation into the RAF Shawbury sighting, one of the country's most intriguing cases.**

**B**ETWEEN 11pm on March 30 and 1.30am on March 31 1993, the Ministry of Defence was alerted to a possible threat to the country's air force.

An investigation was launched to try and discover the reasons behind a flurry of UFO sightings, and in particular the in-depth account from a respected officer at RAF Shawbury. All sightings and reports landed on the desk of the then UFO officer, Nick Pope. He had been in the job two years and had investigated numerous UFO sightings, but few of them sparked the level same of scrutiny.

On the morning of March 31, Mr Pope came to his desk with a number of reports already waiting. A flurry of sightings had happened during the night, and an account from RAF Cosford said an object had flown directly over the base in the direction of Shawbury.

"It immediately became a national security issue and an investigation was launched. We had to take it as a threat," he said.

"I initially tried to plot all the sightings from the night to track a route. Around 30 calls had come in, including a number from Devon and Cornwall, but the majority of sightings centred around the Midlands between 1am and 1.30am."

## Diamond-shaped

Mr Pope said an RAF report from Cosford described a triangular or diamond-shaped craft flying directly over their base. This object was also seen and verified by local police.

The most detailed account came from RAF Shawbury and became part of the biggest investigation undertaken during Mr Pope's time at the post.

"For 95 per cent of the cases we could always rule out the unexplained. There would be weather balloons, planes, satellites, meteors or even cloud formations, but there's always that five per cent that you can't account for."

"I also had to take into account the reliability of evidence, by comparing dog walkers who saw 'strange lights last week' to on-duty RAF officers, who made immediate reports."

"That's what makes the Shawbury case so intriguing. I was able to rule out natural reasons, and all the reports came from the police and the military."

The report from RAF Cosford said the object had flown over their base and that they immediately called the Meteorological centre at Shawbury.

Mr Pope said: "They were operating a skeleton staff at Shawbury because it was so late at night. Suddenly they were alerted by Cosford saying 'we have just been over flown by a UFO and it's coming your way.' The officer thought it was a prank, but went outside to take a look."

In his investigation, Mr Pope, took a detailed account of what that officer saw that night from his lookout post in Shawbury.

"He went outside and looked in the direction of Cosford and saw a light gradually coming closer. He described exactly the same triangular and diamond-shaped object as before, just in more detail. He said it had lights at the edges, and a faint light in the middle."

"It was flying approximately 200 feet to the side of the base



"I started out as a complete sceptic. Now I am more open-minded to the possibility of extra-terrestrial activity." UFO officer Nick Pope

and about 200 feet from the ground. This was much lower than other reports, but this was an officer specifically trained in identifying distances and aircraft."

The officer described in his report to Mr Pope that the craft was travelling at between 20 and 30 miles per hour and was emitting a low frequency humming sound.

"He said a narrow beam of light shone down from the craft and moved in a sweeping motion across an empty field, looking like it was searching for something. Then the light retracted back and it shot off a lot faster than a high speed jet. The speed would have caused G-Forces almost certain to kill human occupants."

Mr Pope's report on the incident was read and discussed by the top Ministry of Defence officials. "It went all the way to the top, and for a UFO sighting, it was taken very seriously, but for me it was frustrating as nothing was resolved."

## Unknown craft

The final report reads: "Type of craft: unknown. Origin of craft: unknown. Motive of occupants: unknown."

Mr Pope worked from 1991 to 1994 as the UFO desk officer and would deal with around 200 to 300 calls a year from people reporting UFO sightings.

He insists it was not a crazy government scheme to employ people to chase little-green-men around the country. He said: "There has been a MoD UFO officer, almost constantly, since 1960. It's not some corrupt conspiracy, it's an issue of protecting the air space and defence of the realm. If objects are seen close to any military base, we have to take it very seriously, whatever it turns out to be."

A few years before the Shawbury case, Mr Pope had been involved in researching an incident in Belgium when F-16 fighter planes were scrambled to track a UFO detected by military radar. Despite the unidentified craft being picked up on both the ground and on-board radar systems, the Belgian pilots were never able to make visual contact.

## Disappearing

However, Mr Pope said people on the ground described a cat and mouse chase across the skies, with the mystery craft eventually disappearing.

The sighting in Belgium also happened on the morning of March 31 three years to the day before the Shawbury case, and with a recent flurry of sightings in North Shropshire maybe we're due another visit.

A Canadian research body has just unveiled startling results, saying UFOs were seen in Canada, on an average of more than two a day in 2004, up 31 per cent from the previous year, and a report by the American television network ABC says 40 million Americans believe they have seen a UFO.

Mr Pope started work in 1991 as a complete sceptic. After leaving he post in 1994, he says that although he's not a firm believer, he is open to the idea.

"I came out of the job, not a wide-eyed believer, but more open minded to the possibility. To the idea of extra-terrestrial activity? Now I wouldn't rule it out," he said.

Mr Pope will be appearing at the Newcastle Science Festival on March 12 to talk about his time as UFO officer. The festival runs at various venues throughout Newcastle upon Tyne from March 11 to 21, for more information contact 01912 436292, or visit the website [www.newcastlesciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.newcastlesciencefestival.co.uk)

**EVENING STANDARD, London, England - Dec. 23, 2004**

## Sharp rise in Whitehall shredding

**BY JASON BEATTIE**  
Political Correspondent

THOUSANDS of Whitehall files have been shredded, with the new Freedom of Information Act only days away from coming into force.

Figures obtained by the Conservatives show the number of official documents being destroyed has risen dramatically in recent months.

Some Government departments, including the Department of Trade and Industry, have almost doubled the number of files and records destroyed.

After the 1 January deadline it will be a criminal offence for a civil servant to destroy files with the intention of preventing their disclosure.

In 1999-2000, 52,605 DTI files were destroyed but by 2003-04 the number of documents shredded had shot up to 97,020.

It also emerged the Ministry of Defence nearly doubled the number of files destroyed in the same period.

The sharpest rise was at the Department of Work and Pensions where 36,885 files were deleted last year — a massive increase from 15,524 four years ago.

Shadow Cabinet Office minister Julian Lewis demanded an investigation by Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas.

"It looks like there has been a bonfire of historical records," said Mr Lewis.



# Fact and fiction grow ever closer

AS technological advancements are moving on in leaps and bounds, the

**BEXLEY EXTRA, London, England - March 28, 2005**

boundaries between science fiction and science fact become increasingly blurred. What was once thought to be impossible has now become reality with designer babies and animal cloning taking place and Internet use and video phones becoming commonplace.

However, one phenomenon

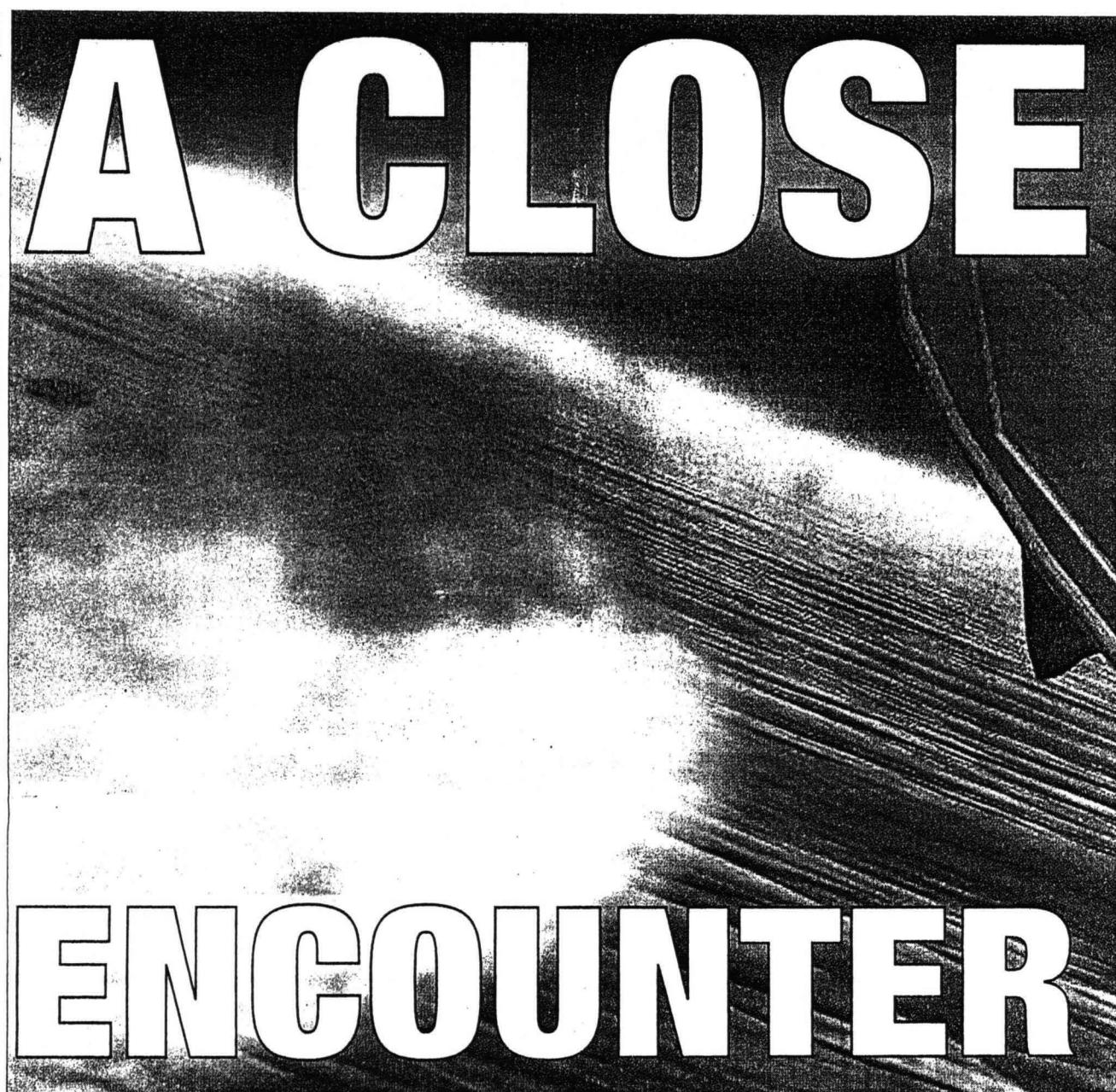
that despite its longevity in history remains to be proven is the existence of UFOs and extraterrestrial life.

Bexley has had more than its fair share of UFO sightings over the years, most famously in 1955 when more than 30 people claimed to see a strange UFO-like craft hovering above King Harold's Way in

Bexleyheath.

The number of sightings since then has propelled the borough into a top 10 list of areas for UFO sightings by Nick Pope, a UFO expert who was employed by the Ministry of Defence to research and investigate UFOs, alien abductions, crop circles and other strange phenomena.

EVERING ADVERTISER, Swindon, England - Feb. 4, 2005



**by Anthony Osborne**

aosborne@newsulwits.co.uk

THE government's very own X-Files have revealed a series of fascinating UFO sightings over Wiltshire - and even one over Swindon.

The documents, collected by the Ministry of Defence from military personnel and members of the public, have been revealed under the newly introduced Freedom of Information Act.

Almost 90 reports of UFO sightings were collected by the MoD in 2004 while a further five have been collected this year alone.

Among them are yellow-coloured spheres, transparent rings plus a house-sized black cylinder that was able to change colour from black to silver.

But among the most intriguing was a report from Swindon on September 24 where the witnesses reported a "big orange disc going from East to West."

The object was totally silent and moving quite slowly, yet despite oddly sounding like another orange object in the sky - namely the sun - the sighting was in fact

one of three which occurred on the same day.

In Devizes, another witness reported seeing a big ball of fire coming down from the sky with a tail and sparks coming off the end of it while 100 miles away to the west in Newport, South Wales, another witness spotted an object

which looked like a shiny disc with a tail, all three sightings taking place on the same day.

Although such reports are often dis-

counted as meteor showers or astronomical phenomena, other sightings are not so easy to dismiss.

A report from Surrey on May 20 last year describes the UFO they saw as having "grooves and windows" but no room for humans. Even the MoD inspector notes that the "witness had seen the object so clearly."

Another UFO was spotted at Welford in Berkshire, not far from the American munitions base. The witness who reported the sighting on July 19 said they saw a "ball of flames with a solid underneath, the flames went out and came on again, and then it plummeted to earth."

Roy Lake, a UFO researcher from London, told the Advertiser that he was disappointed with the FOI releases about UFO sightings.

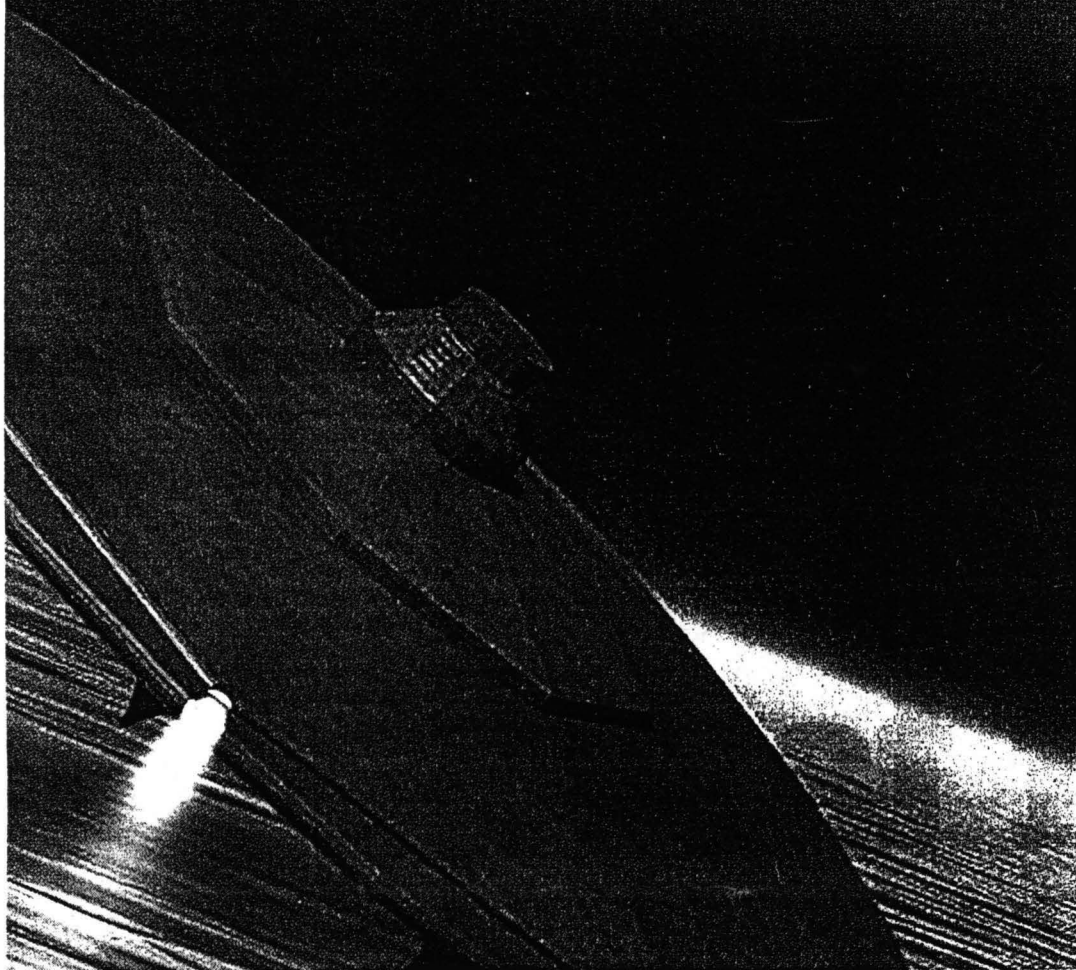
He said: "I have been studying UFO activities for years, and with the information they are releasing now, they are still only telling part of the story, only the information they want you to know."

"There have always been a lot of sightings over military establishments, so Wiltshire has always been a hotspot."

(continued on page 12)



# The day ET was spotted in the skies over Swindon



## There's never a quiet night over Wiltshire

A NUMBER of UFO sightings have been reported to the Evening Advertiser in recent years.

● November 1970: A woman was returning to Swindon from Devizes with a friend one evening when they stopped to admire the view from the hill above Wroughton. Suddenly a large, yellow glowing light bolted over the former Princess Margaret Hospital.

● July 1970: A Cirencester woman was convinced that a cigar-shaped object she saw move over her home in Berry Hill Crescent was a spaceship. The woman was hanging out the washing and spotted the object shoot overhead at between 2,000 and 3,000-feet in the direction of Northleach.

● May 1994: A Swindon couple claimed to have seen an orange-coloured triangular-shaped spacecraft hover above their Pinehurst home.

● Mid-1960s: Warminster became a Mecca for UFO sightings. People dubbed the sighting of a strange object *The Thing*, which took many forms by those who observed it between 1964 and 1977. In one



year more than 1,000 sightings were recorded. Sceptics have insisted the strange lights come from military aircraft used on the Salisbury Plain.

● August 29, 1965: Gordon Faulkner, then aged 17, photographed a UFO from Swindon town centre. The picture appeared in the national press and culminated in a number of sky-watches. In 1994 it was alleged that he had hoaxed the picture using a

cotton reel and a button. He denied the claim.

● August 2003: Drinkers at the Red Lion pub in Avebury, pictured, were wondering if they were hallucinating when they saw a UFO in skies over the stone circle village. But far from being an alien object, the spacecraft was actually a helium filled balloon stretched to the shape of a flying saucer by a TV special effects crew for a Channel 4 TV programme.

## Scottish village is UFO capital

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - March 9, 2005

A SCOTS village has been crowned the UK's new UFO capital after Ministry of Defence files yesterday revealed it was a hotbed for strange sightings.

Records showed that West Kilbride in Ayrshire, had more close encounters than anywhere else in Britain. It has replaced Bonnybridge, West Lothian, as the number one place in Britain to spot a UFO.

Last year, officials recorded a total of 12 sightings with spotters claiming to have seen yellow spheres flying in the Ayrshire sky.

Ten of the West Kilbride sightings happened over the space of two months, between April and June last year.

Most people described one or two yellow spheres in the sky, however in November 25 spheres were spotted in the night sky, floating in formations of five.

Local student Louise Riley (29) claims to have spotted an unusual light hovering in the sky a few years ago.

She said, "I was walking home and saw this strange light up in the sky. It was moving ever so slightly from side to side."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence confirmed that 90 sightings have been recorded in the UK over the last 12 months.

West Kilbride ranks top in the UK league table and has three times the number of sightings than its closest rival, Wellingborough in Northamptonshire.

The towns of Hamilton in Lanarkshire and Dumfries in Galloway ranked third in the 2004 list, with two sightings in each town.

The object appeared above Hamilton on two nights in a row, flashing and making an engine noise.

But it will come as a disappointment to the developers in Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, who planned to cash in on its status as the UFO capital.

The town has experienced thousands of sightings since 1992 and used to top the polls as the place most likely to have a close encounter.

Dutch developers have bought a 150-acre site in the area for an £850 million UFO theme park.

Gerit Walls plans to submit a building application in six months on behalf of Global Restaround Enterprises. It will have 29 UFO-shaped buildings and a space shuttle-craft to carry people between them.

Three years ago Scotland had more sightings of UFOs per head of population than any country in the world. The 300 sightings worked out at one in 17,000 inhabitants, compared with one in 136,000 in the United States.



# 'The day I saw RAF base UFO'

by Sarah Taylor

The mystery of the Cosford UFO - highlighted recently in The AdNews - continues to thicken more than 40 years on.

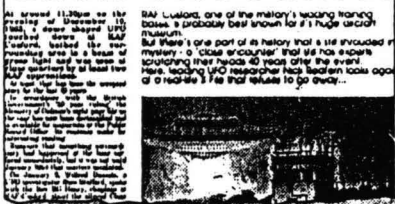
And the AdNews has tracked down an eyewitness to the extraordinary event, which made headlines in national newspapers.

The sighting took place late on the evening of December 10, 1963. The AdNews revealed how two apprentices had seen a dome-shaped UFO touch down at the RAF base, bathing the surrounding area in a beam of green light.

Interest has again been aroused following the declassification of the eight-page Ministry of Defence file on the case, in accordance with the British Government's 30 year ruling.

Rumours surfaced immediately after the close encounter and

## Mystery of the alien encounter



AdNews, February 10

speculation about what had actually happened continued for months, but still questions were unanswered or skimmed over by RAF officials.

An eye-witness to the sighting, Tom Broomhall, is still anxious to uncover the truth, 40 years on.

His account of what happened at 11.30pm on that evening is quite chilling.

Mr Broomhall, now 57, of Fallings Park, recalls the incident vividly.

Just 17 at the time, he and his future wife Maureen Cottrill,

were taking a stroll.

"Where I saw it was Low Hill. It was foggy," said Mr Broomhall.

"The green light was 60 feet above us in the fog.

"One evening paper said they were testing an aeroplane, but I'm not that stupid, I know what an aeroplane sounds like!

"You wouldn't test an aeroplane at that time of night in fog.

"All you heard was a humming sound, and it wasn't a helicopter or an aeroplane."

He recalled Maureen 'legged it' immediately.

"I was just stuck under this light. I legged it after about five minutes!"

Controversy surrounding the incident raged for months. Contradictory explanations ranged from 'two drunk apprentices' and 'a hoax' to, rather amusingly 'a British Railways steam train!'

adnews@mrn.co.uk

## TRANSLATIONS

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

March 30, 2005 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — Chile: Cigar-Shaped UFO photographed over Volcano — A mysterious cigar-shaped object was photographed in the vicinity of the Osorno volcano; local residents claim such phenomena are common in the region (*Terra.cl*).

SANTIAGO, March 30. - During the month of February and in the midst of summer vacation in the vicinity of Lake Llanquihue, a variety of aerial phenomena were reported that were subsequently associated with the UFO phenomenon.

Farmers from neighboring communities furnished eyewitness reports of strange lights with irregular movements, usually vanishing from sight near the Osorno Volcano.

One such sighting was recorded on Jorge Quinn's photo camera as he spent his vacation near the site. The image was completely accidental and the UFO's presence was discovered only after his return to Santiago de Chile. The image shows a cigar-shaped UFO, a configuration catalogued as one of the most common and largest in the UFO phenomenon.

It should be noted that Southern Chile is considered as a "hot zone" on a global level as regards the presence of unidentified flying objects. Over the past 20 years, highly interesting photographs of unknown objects have been recorded in the vicinity of the Osorno Volcano. — CREDIT: Camilo Valdivieso

March 30, 2005 — *El Chanarcillo*, Atacama, Chile — CHILE: DID UFOs CAUSE A BLACKOUT IN NORTHERN CHILE? — Two objects traveling at high speed interrupted the electric supply in the city of Copiapo and the commune of Caldera.

Word is circulating in various sectors of the city of Copiapo and the commune of Caldera that the blackout that plunged them into darkness on Wednesday between 20:00 and 21:15 hours could have been "caused by the sudden transit of two UFOs (unidentified flying objects)."

The situation has gained a certain measure of "credibility" when it is considered that the blackout would have been caused by a malfunction at the 110,000 volt transmission facilities, which has been neither confirmed nor denied by the Atacama Power Utility (Empresa Electrica de Atacama), which has limited itself to saying "the problem is under investigation."

Local resident Gonzalo Delgado, who flatly refused to be photographed "since they'd think I was a nut," told the *El Chanarcillo* newspaper that "around 8 p.m. on Wednesday, I was in the Cuesta de Cardone sector, hitchhiking my way back into the city. I suddenly realized that two objects crossed the sky at high speed and when I turned around to look at the city, I realized that it had vanished. That leads me to believe that it was at

the time that the power failure occurred. Two trucks were also coming down the road at the same time, whose drivers could have also seen the phenomenon."

He stresses that he thought long and hard about reporting what he had seen, since he feared being dismissed as a lunatic, "which I think would be unfair, since I did see the two luminous objects." The worker stressed that he could not "ascertain that the transit of those objects was responsible for the power failure, but if EMELAT is still investigating, what else could one think?"

No official version of the case has been produced to this day, leaving the possibility of two UFOs being responsible for said blackout a complete mystery. — CREDIT: *Terra.cl*

May 11, 2005 — *La Opinion*, Rafaela, Santa Fe, Argentina — ARGENTINA: MUTILATED ANIMAL FOUND NEAR COLONIA MARGARITA — With regard to the news made known in yesterday's issue of *La Opinion*, involving a dead heifer found in the Colonia Margarita region, reminiscent of the cattle mutilations that claimed hundreds of animals two years ago, a local veterinarian dismissed the event. In his own words, "there is nothing abnormal about these deaths, nor in the incisions that represent a perfect surgery performed with a scalpel."

In yesterday's issue, thanks to information received by *La Opinion* from Domingo Abel Bongianino, its correspondent in Ataliva, we reported on the mysterious death of an unweaned heifer in the northeastern section of the Humberto Primo district, known as Colonia Margarita.

The location of the events was also the subject of telephone calls to this newspaper, stating that Colonia Margarita is in fact a community located to the south of the Castellanos department, between the districts of Maria Juana and San Vicente. This was the cause of confusion among some readers, since there is a sector of the northern region of Humberto Primo that shares the same name, Colonia Margarita.

The story made known by *La Opinion* reached the whole country yesterday, when the most important news media (radio, press and television) repeated the event in a special way, recalling the events of two years ago when hundreds of animals turned up dead, missing some organs which appeared to have been excised with perfect skill.

All of this caused veterinarian Omar Bossio of the community of Presidente Roca to get in touch with this newspaper to give his own version of the mutilations based on his 20 years of professional experience.

"When those animal deaths occurred two years ago, I toured the fields and they were all that way. And it's what one continues to see every day."

Aside from offering a video to corroborate his statements, the expert added: "what is initially missing from these animals are the fleshiest parts, such as their tongue, jaws, anus and eyes. In other words, predators feeding off the animal can eat up to where the bone starts. At night one can observe this carrion-eating action by foxes and wild dogs, among others."

Upon eating these parts, "the skin contracts and becomes harder. Then it dries out and the circle appears [giving the impression] of having been made with a scalpel. But none of this is real. It is only the behavior of the skin when the flesh is missing," Bossio added.

With regard to the carrion birds in the area, the best known is the carancho. The Roca veterinarian insisted that such a carrion bird would never eat the eyelids off a dead animal -- it would pull out the eyes completely.

The veterinarian supports his affirmations saying: "I personally perform 300 necropsies a year. In other words, I see these deaths practically every day. Unfortunately, these events become magnified and the only thing that happens is that the guys who live in countryside and have to do farmwork become very fearful."

As stated in yesterday's edition, the witnesses to this last event were eight people, all of them knowledgeable about this rural phenomenon, born and raised in the country. One would therefore suppose that they would be accustomed to such events, yet it struck them as odd. One of them even told *La Opinion* that he "had never seen a similar event in all his life living in the country."

In this regard, Bossio does not contradict these statements, replying that "everyone can speak their peace, but I invite them to tour the fields. Out of 20 dead animals, at least 18 are in the same condition" due to the causes he has already indicated.

The official technical explanations for similar events occurring years ago placed the blame on the "Red-Muzzled Mouse." This prompted the veterinarian to say that yes, "it is true that mice feed off the flesh and the fields are full of these rodents. Surely, this species would have appeared when those animal deaths were being filmed."

He repeated his invitation to watch a video he himself had shot "showing these animals being eaten by caranchos. Even the parts being eaten can be seen." Among his recollections is "the dead horse from Vila, which I videotaped and shows nothing noteworthy. Maybe the common people [may be surprised], but to someone with 20 years' experience in the subject, there's nothing paranormal about it."

Regarding the death of the young heifer, a possible cause may be found in "its castration. It is very possible that its death was due to hemorrhaging." To reaffirm his statements, Omar Bossio informed that "only a few days ago the owner of a field and myself observed a dead animal with the same characteristics that gave rise to the news item, and I joked with my companion that the Chupacabras had been on the prowl. In other words, seeing dead animals that present these mutilations is commonplace." -- CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As a country boy, I can't let this one pass! The animal is described in the article as a "heifer," which is a female animal. I think "calf" should have been the word used, as castrating a "heifer" would present a formidable challenge indeed! -- LF]

May 19, 2005 — *90 Segundos*, Lima, Peru — PERU: UFOs OVER HUARAL — The closest encounter with alien beings occurred on May 6 in Huaral, where an unidentified flying object (UFO) was reported and captured on a videotape belonging to a student from Lima who was visiting the agricultural region known as El Ahorcado, some 115 km from the capital city.

The city of Huaral, 97 km from Lima, contains the El Ahorcado, a strange wilderness surrounded by sinuous curves, giant, oddly-shaped boulders and home to humble farmers who rise with dawn and go to bed at dusk. This is the location for almost daily sightings of strange vehicles that are completely different from airplanes or helicopters, which generally do not fly over the region.

On May 6 at 6:45 p.m., as the sun went down and the sky darkened, physics doctoral student Jason Mendez Cordova, was strolling through "El Ahorcado" in the company of his brother and a friend, recording the rocky and strangely-curved landscape on his camcorder, taping images imperceptible to the human eye. At that time, he was surprised to see that his camcorder was picking up images of an impressive light. Their stroll continued for another 20 minutes, they recorded children at play, and the light remained over the whitish rock landscape.



Their visit concluded, the sun went down and Jason says that having reached his home in Mangomarca-Zarate, he downloaded the image and immediately became aware of a strange spot recorded by his camera. Upon checking it and rechecking it, he realized that--unbeknownst to him--the image of an unidentified flying object or flying saucer had been picked up on the tape.

"I wasn't aware of the strange craft when shooting the landscape, the huts, the children playing in the dusty streets of the area, until I downloaded the video to my PC. That's when I discovered the sighting. It's useless or illogical to believe that in such a vast universe we would be the only living creatures. There are intelligent civilizations on other planets and worlds [that hold] a variety of life forms," said Mendez.

Moreover, we have the eyewitness accounts of other locals and residents of the city of Huaral itself, who claim seeing strange craft on a daily basis in the clear skies, both early in the morning and at dusk. Two farmers who work early in the morning, as is their custom, claim having seen an enormous craft that plowed the skies over Huaral and appeared to follow them as they walked. They said it had the shape of a circle or ball.

According to the farmer, he left his home on May 2 to round up his animals. As he walked beside a river, he became aware of a cylindrical object that seemed to follow him. Whenever he stopped, the object stopped as well, continuing this behavior until the vehicle became lost among the local boulders.

Another resident claims that at around 6 p.m., she has seen a craft that flashed intermittent lights in the heavens, hiding among the rocky mountains and then vanishing at high speed. "It was faster than an airplane, very strange. This is the first time I've seen such a thing, but I have neighbors and my compadre tells me that he has seen similar things at other times," she reports.

These eyewitness accounts confirm the existence of strange craft that do not resemble airplanes or helicopters in size, speed or shape; said conventional aircraft almost never fly over this northern community. — CREDIT: Alex Sender

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May 21, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — We have received the following report from UFO videographer and researcher Ana Luisa Cid.

Dear Friends:

These photos were taken by me on May 20, 2005 at 19:48 hours from the Colonia Acueducto de Guadalupe Neighborhood, located to the north of Mexico City.

They show very large strange objects which were not visible when the photographs were taken. A "Mustek" brand digital camera was employed in taking these images.

Chiquihuite Hill, a place where sightings have been reported in previous occasions, can be seen in the photos. You can make out the transmission towers of various television and radio stations.

Regards from Mexico -- Ana

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May 25, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — MEXICO: UFO PHOTO AND ANALYSIS — Dear readers of *Inexplicata* -- we have received another photo plus the corresponding image analyses from Prof. Ana Luisa Cid of Mexico City. Below is the text of her message:

Photo taken at 4:19 p.m. in Mexico City on May 25, 2005. I am aware that many [of these] images have a logical explanation, but I nonetheless believe that there are others which are harder to understand, particularly those which are invisible to the human eye, meaning fortuitous UFOs.

It is important to reiterate that yours truly did not believe in the phenomenon; I was almost certain that digital hoaxes or errors of perception were involved. But upon becoming a direct witness to the phenomenon, my perceptions about this type of sighting have changed.

I am growing accustomed to finding strange elements in the photographs, but I believe that this particular image goes slightly beyond the range of what I'd photographed before. I personally believe that there are two possible explanations for it:

a) They could be devices (either terrestrial or alien) which are powered by a technology different from our own at frequencies that cannot be perceived by the human eye, but which are susceptible to being videotaped and photographed;

b) Or else they could be structures that travel at prodigious speeds and can therefore not be picked up by mere sight...something similar to sleight-of-hand trickery.

I am truly startled by yesterday's image, as is my family, since they were present when I took photos that afternoon. The equipment I use is a Mustek brand video and still camera, and I took care to preserve the original image in the camera's memory.

The border and contour analysis was performed with Corel PhotoPaint 12.

In closing, I would like to cordially invite all of you to become witnesses to fortuitous UFOs by taking photographs of the sky, since there is nothing better than experiencing it in order to believe it.

Regards to all -- Ana Luisa Cid.

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May 27, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: CATTLE MUTILATIONS AND SPACE ALIENS — \*\*\*A report from David Albarracin\*\*\* — On April 13, 2005 and during a chat with citizen Lorenzo Villegas, a native of the town of Los Membrillos, Department of Pringles, Province of San Luis, he told me about a case involving some "little goats" belonging to a friend of his from the town of El Suyuque. This friend had experienced a significant loss to his goat herd--about 100 animals found dead under strange circumstances.

This citizen, when asked about his opinion regarding the unexplained phenomenon, gave an unexpected reply:

"...these are people who have come from other worlds, other planets and who must be conducting experiments with the [organs] they're removing from the animals..."

When asked if he has any grounds on which to base his manner of thinking, he replied very calmly:

"...Yes, of course. I've seen them and so has a friend of mine," says the interviewee, breaking into the following account: "Some time ago, when returning from a birthday party on muleback, I was traversing my locality and came to the river, which isn't massive, but is very wide. That's when I heard a buzzing sound coming from down river, just like the sound made by Deutz tractor turbines. That surprised me, since it was four o'clock in the morning at the time and there are neither houses nor anything else in that place. I spurred the mule and in mid-river, with some 30 meters left to reach the opposite bank, the buzzing became louder and louder, like a strong wind. I looked and saw amid the darkness three large plate-shaped objects which were heading upriver, lighting everything as bright as day. The mule got spooked and I jumped off, lying flat in the shallows and quiet. The plate-shaped objects continued upriver, as if looking for something....."

He continued his story: "Mr. Antonio Contreras, a neighbor of mine, remarks that the locals complained that their dogs wouldn't let them sleep a wink, since they were barking all night. When he went outside, he

saw the three large luminous objects ... shaped like plates."

"I didn't tell anyone, since I was afraid they'd laugh at me, but sometime later, while checking out my animals, I was astonished to see some incredible marks on the soil on a side road in a swamp belonging to the Los Chanares wilderness in the Pringles Department. The marks seemed to indicate that the place had been burned. I took some time to measure them. The three of them measured 4 x 6 meters each and weren't together -- rather, they were separated some 5 to 8 meters away from each other. That's when I realized that these were [made by] the same objects I had seen in the river."

This citizen is receptive to interviews and is willing to take interested parties to the site where he found the marks. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

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May 27, 2005 — *El Chino*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — PERU: POLITICIAN DISCUSSES UFO EXPERIENCE — Many people claim having seen UFOs in Peruvian skies. However, the authorities do not want to lend credence to these stories. But even if they insist on trying to cover the sun with a finger, the evidence of beings from other worlds is real and undeniable. This belief is shared by a man of unquestionable prestige in this country. Richard Amiel, former secretary general of the Popular Christian Party and former candidate to the mayorship of Lima, who claims having had his own UFO experience.

After saying that it was "a privilege" to have seen a UFO, the noted politician stated that the existence of extraterrestrials is known to the great world powers, such as the U.S. and Russia, whose governments have looked into sightings, albeit secretly.

Richard Amiel, a geological engineer from the National University of Engineering and San Marcos, recalled his shocking experience in the vicinity of Alto Chicama, La Libertad, while carrying out an inspection in the company of a chauffeur from the mining company he worked for in 1964. An extraterrestrial craft hovered over the Andean peak known as "Cerro Aguja."

On the road to the Plains of Quruvilca, district of Santiago de Chuco, at around 7 am, Amiel witnessed to his amazement how a large UFO flew noiselessly before taking off at a speed in excess of an airplane.

"I was performing a survey on coal for the construction of an thermoelectric power station when this giant vessel appeared in the midst of absolute quiet. We were only able to look at it, since we were strangely unable to bring ourselves to photograph it," recalls Amiel.

"I reported the situation to the manager of the company I worked for. He told me that several people had witnessed similar phenomena, but did not go public because, given the subject's controversial nature, they were afraid of being branded as madmen," said the international consultant on energy affairs.

Despite the silence among high-ranking officials regarding the existence of ETs, Amiel said that he has decided to look into the subject as a result of his UFO sighting, gleaned information on the first aerospace research endeavors conducted in Russia. "A Russian pilot informed his base from space that he was accompanied by objects that could not be identified."

For Richard Amiel, the apparition of these phenomena is a factor of geographic space, since they always occur in "desolate areas," such as the coal basin of Alto Chicama, a coal seam that runs from the Usquil District to Quivica, one of the richest coalbeds of the Americas. — CREDIT: Alex Sender

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May 27, 2005 — *El Chino*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — PERUVIAN AIR FORCE CONCEALS UFO INFORMATION — What would happen if the existence of alien life - and the fact that it lives among us - was confirmed? The answer is in the hands of the military, who possess the documents and evidence regarding UFO sightings, handled by the United States as super-secret information. The disclosure, says Mario Zegarra, a [UFO researcher], would prove that man is only a primitive creature in the face of extraterrestrial intelligence. [...]

Mario Zegarra claims that the Peruvian Armed Forces, specifically its Air Force (FAP), conceal information on UFOs seen in various parts of the country, which is made known not to the national government, but to the U.S. and the agencies researching the areas where the strange craft were detected.

The armed forces and senior police officials cover up the information, considering it to be top-secret. "Claiming that extraterrestrial life exists not only in other galaxies, but upon Earth itself, is a rejection of scientific theories on human evolution; in other words, the humanity's forebears are not apes, but aliens," explained ufologist Mario Zegarra. "Being a superior civilization and possessing advanced knowledge, it would dismantle U.S. power. The military itself has sighted UFOs from its craft. However, they must hold their peace, as it is classified information that is best kept from the public."

The spacecraft described by the military are allegedly manufactured using a solid material that is different from materials on Earth. Zegarra adds that we are on the brink of another UFO wave as intense as those which have been occurring at periodic intervals for the last 40 years.

One of the top secret documents presented by Dr. Zegarra states that on May 9, 1980, while a group of military officers from the FAP were beginning their daily formation on the Mariano Melgar air base in the La Joya district (Arequipa), they detected the presence of a UFO at the end of the runway and at a height of 1,800 feet above the surface. The object, resembling a weather balloon used for maritime navigation, was moving over the area near the airport. For this reason, Oscar Santa Maria, the pilot of one of the fighters, was given the order to take off and intercept the object. After a third pass, the pilot opened fire on the object without causing any apparent damage, moving away quickly.

The second sighting has a special characteristic, as it is described as a shining object, according to a translation of the official Pentagon report, a document made available through the Freedom of Information Act and featuring the eyewitness account of Maj. Santa Maria Huertas (Ret.)'s persecution of a UFO aboard his Sukhoi Su-22.

At Puerto Maldonado in 1952, customs chief Domingo Troncoso managed to photograph a UFO. The object was moving along in silence, leaving a long and dense contrail in its wake. Its estimated speed was fifteen hundred miles an hour.

In 1967, another flying saucer was photographed by Augusto Arnada in Yungay, as he hiked the soaring mountains of the region. In 1966, an extraterrestrial object came in for a landing at the Talara air base.

In 1979, a three-legged extraterrestrial vehicle landed in Chachapoyas. The following year, a FAP interceptor pursued a UFO, but was unable to reach it on account of its speed. This incident took place in the vicinity of La Joya in Arequipa.

Mario Zegarra states that the persons holding the proof are the military and the intelligence services. The accounts provided by Dr. Zegarra coincide with the ones given by researcher J.J. Benitez, who states that military personnel having access to this information insist that the public is not ready to know the truth.

Researchers Zegarra and Benitez claim that there have been hundreds of UFO sightings over or near military bases, atomic silos, warships, transport and combat aircraft, due to the potential for destruction [which] they can cause. In this regard, anyone who dares disclose secret documents kept in any army, police or air base could even be "terminated." — CREDIT: Alex Sender



# Could Bigfoot be in Coweta?

## Large creature seen upright in field off Happy Valley Circle

By ALEX MCRAE  
alex@newnan.com

Has the nightmare returned?

More than two decades ago, Cowetans quaked in fear, praying they wouldn't be visited by a hairy, night-walking monster whose true identity still remains a mystery.

If a recent tip to The Times-

Herald is correct, more sleepless nights could be on the way.

Move over, Belt Road Booger, here comes the Happy Valley Horror.

Maybe.

The first known sighting of the creature was reported in a letter to The Times-Herald. In a printed scrawl, the writer qualified himself as an avid hunter and outdoorsman, very familiar with local wildlife.

Then he described "an enormous... very hairy" beast walking upright in a field on Happy Valley Circle.

The letter said, "It scared me to death!" and concluded by asking if anyone else had reported seeing something resembling... "a Bigfoot."

The good news is, no other sightings have been reported. At least not to Eddie Ball, director of the Coweta County Emergency

Management Agency (EMA), which operates the local 911 system.

"We haven't heard a thing about a Bigfoot," said Ball. "And I'm glad, because that last thing sure did stir up a fuss."

The "last thing" referred to by Ball is the Belt Road Booger, which Ball is actually credited with naming. Years ago, lawmen and emergency personnel were flooded with

reports of a large, hairy, two-legged critter roaming the Belt Road area on Newnan's west side, scaring folks half to death.

A reporter was on hand when Ball visited a woman who claimed to have sighted the beast. Ball was asked if he thought there was any

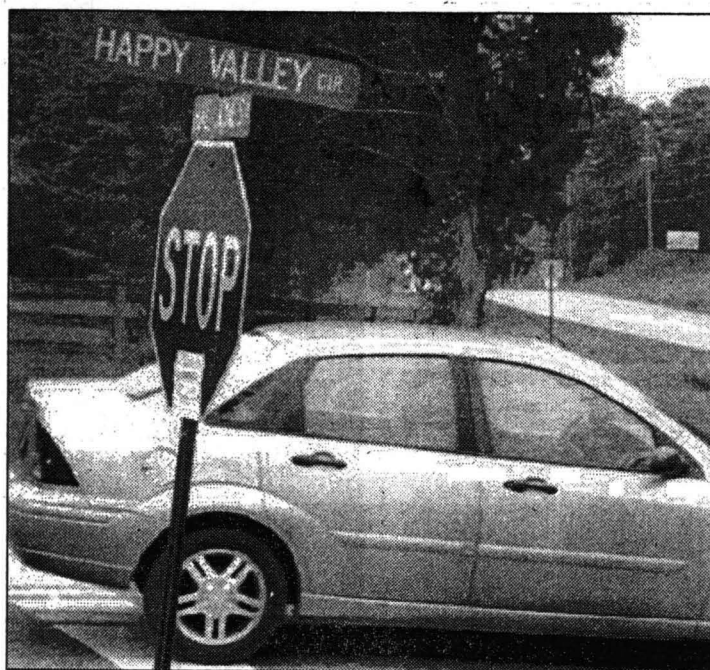


Photo by Steve Hill

Could a Bigfoot be in the Happy Valley area north of Newnan? A Times-Herald reader has reported what is described as "an enormous... very hairy" beast walking upright in a field on Happy Valley Circle.

substance to the stories.

"I don't know," Ball replied, "but I sure am tired of chasing boogers up and down Belt Road."

The next day's Times-Herald headline screamed, "Belt Road Booger." And a legend was born.

Ball believes the original booger was a man, now deceased, who was very large and a bit strange and shy about being seen walking down the local roads. When cars approached he would duck into a ditch, then reappear and continue his trek to nowhere. He wore a water faucet handle around his neck, Ball reported, and was totally harmless, if a bit eccentric.

"He would have provoked a few questions," Ball said. "No doubt about it."

But not all locals share Ball's belief. One woman claiming to have had a Belt Road Booger encounter reported that the beast had actually come up onto her porch and eaten her flowers right out of the clay pots. Other rumors regarding the Booger's identity are still tossed about in local barber shops, beauty parlors and liquor stores.

But rumors regarding Bigfoot in Georgia are not as rare as one might think. Research shows that not only have Bigfoot-type creatures been spotted in Georgia over the years, some have been spotted less 50 miles from the Coweta County Courthouse.

A 2003 story in the Athens (GA) Banner-Herald recounts the story of Steve Hyde, of Griffin, Ga., whose hobby was searching for Bigfoot in central and south Georgia. In 1999, the story says, after locals reported barn damage and disappearing animals, Hyde and a friend, former law enforcement officer James

Akin, began a search of Elkins Creek, which flows into the Flint River in Pike County south of Griffin.

They were astonished to find a huge footprint measuring 17.5 inches in length, according to the Banner-Herald story. They were more astonished when a plaster cast of the print was sent off to be tested.

The cast was examined by Dr. Jeff Meldrum, of the Department of Biological Science at Idaho State University in Pocatello, who has studied literally hundreds of Bigfoot sightings over the years. The print, according to the news report, was also examined by J.H. Chilcutt, identified as a fingerprint examiner with the Conroe, Texas, police department.

Chilcutt, like Meldrum, had examined other suspected Bigfoot artifacts in an attempt to determine their origin, according to the story. The report from Chilcutt to Meldrum ended by saying, "The Elkins Creek Cast is that of an unknown primate."

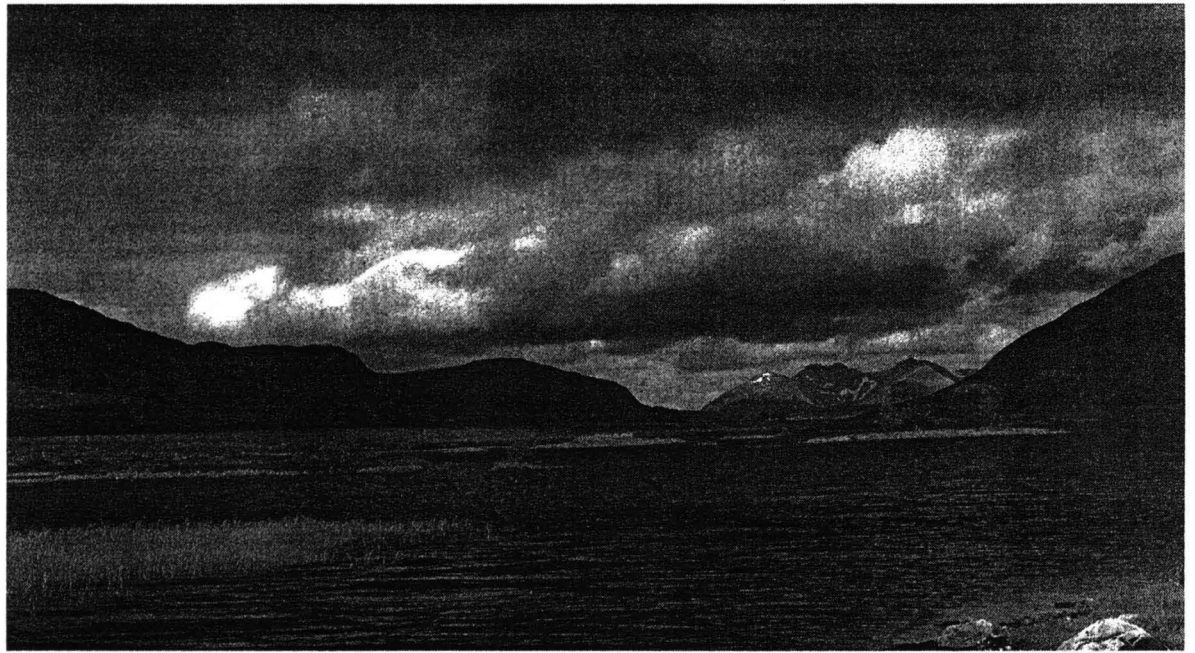
The story also reported two other Georgia sightings, one near Augusta in 1979 and another from a retired Clarke County sheriff's deputy who claimed to have seen a Bigfoot-like critter just outside Athens while investigating a nuisance call.

Although law enforcement officials were involved with both the Elkins Creek and Athens incidents, local lawpersons have not yet encountered such a creature, according to Coweta County Sheriff Mike Yeager.

"We haven't heard a thing," said Yeager. "But our office is prepared for anything; and if Bigfoot shows up, we'll deal with it."

Yeager added some of the 17

(continued on page 18)



For centuries, stories about the Loch Ness Monster have abounded in Scotland and beyond. Hundreds of eye-witnesses claim to have spotted the reptile-like animal throughout the years, but no solid evidence of its existence has ever been retrieved.

## Rumors of Loch Ness Monster Sightings Persist

By HEIDE B. MALHOTRA  
The Epoch Times

The earliest sighting of the Loch Ness Monster, or "Nessie," as locals call it, goes back to 565 A.D. as mentioned in the biography of Saint Columba, who allegedly introduced Christianity to Scotland. His sighting entailed seeing a large beast in Loch Ness Lake attacking a human swimmer.

A carving by the Picts (or painted people, for the tattoos that covered their bodies) dating back about 1,500 years shows an aquatic animal with a long beak similar to a crocodile, and feet that are useless on land.

Most eye-witnesses, and there are hundreds from the kitchen maid to well-renowned scientists and researchers, tell of a large animal with two to three humps, a tail, long neck and a small snake-like head. Some claim the animal is 10 feet long, while others estimate it is 20 feet long. Some have seen more than one Nessie in one sighting.

No need to visit Scotland to have a sighting of your own. Through a camera connected to a satellite phone that displays a live feed over the Internet, you can look over a large portion of Loch Ness Lake. Take a peek at: <http://www.lochness.co.uk/livecam/>.

It has been suggested that our Nessie is of the plesiosaurs family, which includes crocodiles, turtles and dolphins. This idea has not been given much merit, as the food chain needed for such an animal is not available. However, it could plausibly be an eel anguilla, which reached the Loch after being spawned in the Sargasso Sea. Others have suggested that Nessie is a catfish or sturgeon. A sturgeon is a genuine prehistoric fish that has not evolved for millions of years and is still not extinct.

To prove Nessie's existence, the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau was established in 1962. In 1964, the Bureau set up camera stations and underwater listening devices. The search included submarines, sonar scanners, and other underwater search devices. No live Nessie was found, but large objects that could not be explained were seen on the sonar.

In October 1986, Operation Deepscan, with a budget of US\$1.8 million recorded three large sonar contacts at 256 feet, 590 feet and 570 feet. The objects responsible for these contacts were not found.

In 1992, Project Urquhart, the Natural History Museum of London, The Freshwater Biological Association,

Simrad (a marine electronics company) and the British Discovery Channel sponsored a study of the Loch. In 1993, the 65-foot research ship Calanus, carrying the most sophisticated sampling devices and sonar equipment was brought in. It found some large targets, which according to Birnie Les (senior Simrad engineer) were "far too large for any known Loch fish."

Loch Ness, about 10,000 years old, is the largest fresh-water body in all of Great Britain and is close to 800 feet deep, 22½ miles long and about 1½ miles wide. The Loch may still be deeper than known at this time. Six rivers, including the Oich, Tarff and Enrich feed the Loch. It is also in line with the Great Glen Fault, which splits the Scotland Highlands from Fort William to Inverness.

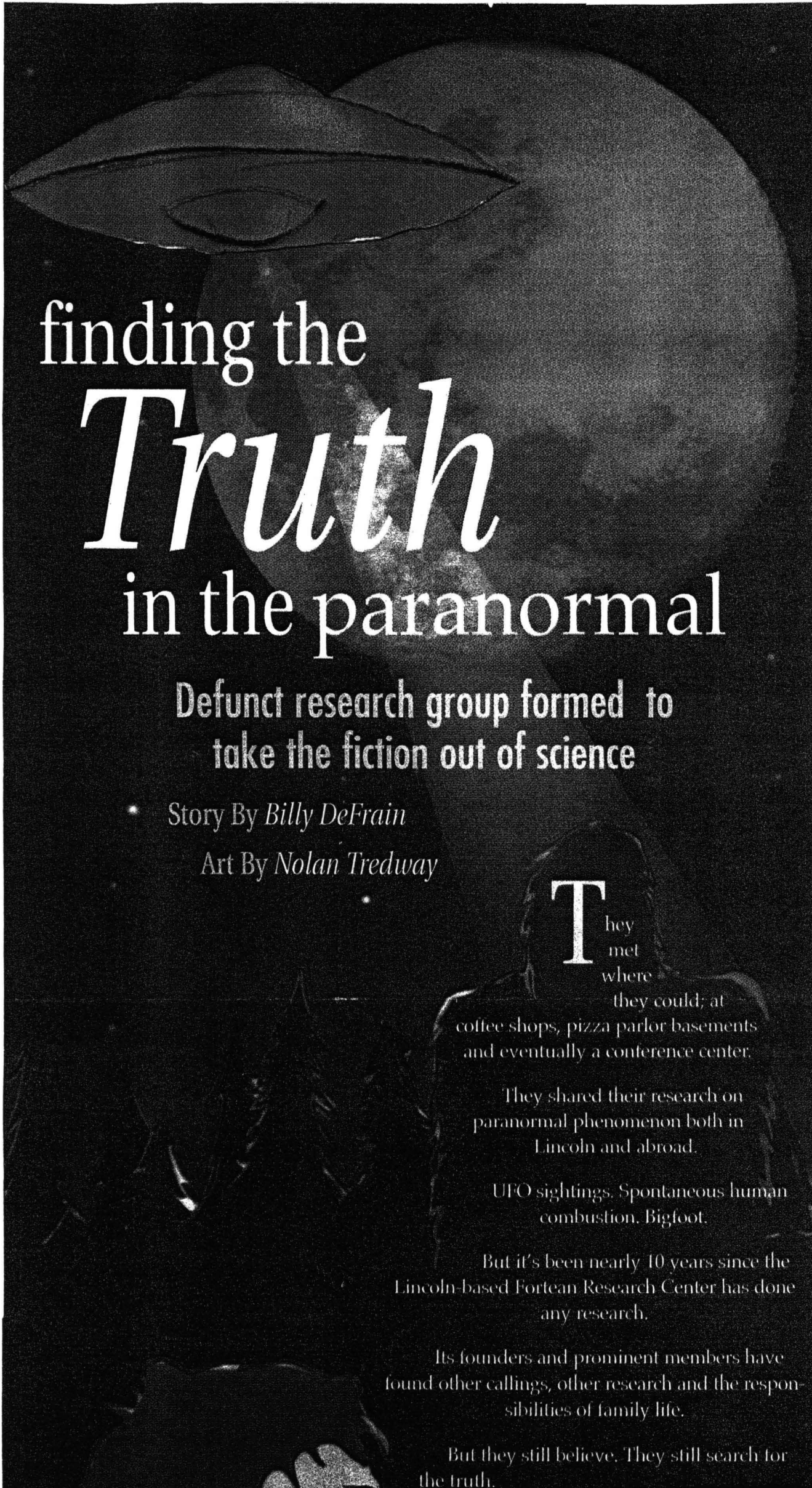
## Ferry operator says he videotaped Bigfoot on Nelson River, sold footage to U.S. TV

### TWO MINUTES, 49 SECONDS

**Manitoba's very own Bigfoot** is apparently on its way to a television screen near you. A spokesman for the family of Bobby Clarke, the Norway House ferry operator who claims to have captured videotape of a Bigfoot creature on the shores of the Nelson River, said it has been sold to a U.S. television show for broadcast this week. Langford Saunders, Mr. Clarke's uncle and a Norway House band councillor, said there were multiple offers for

the two-minute, 49-second video. On April 16, Mr. Clarke was operating an automobile ferry when he claims to have seen a dark figure on the riverbank. He said he grabbed a video camera and recorded a tall, dark figure looking at him and then heading back into the bush. Details identifying the show and the broadcast date will be released this week. *CanWest News Service*





# finding the *Truth* in the paranormal

Defunct research group formed to  
take the fiction out of science

• Story By *Billy DeFrain*

Art By *Nolan Tredway*

**T**hey met where they could; at coffee shops, pizza parlor basements and eventually a conference center.

They shared their research on paranormal phenomenon both in Lincoln and abroad.

UFO sightings. Spontaneous human combustion. Bigfoot.

But it's been nearly 10 years since the Lincoln-based Fortean Research Center has done any research.

Its founders and prominent members have found other callings, other research and the responsibilities of family life.

But they still believe. They still search for the truth.

(continued on page 20)

Before Fox Mulder investigated the unexplainable on "The X-files," Charles Fort investigated the same strange phenomenon in reality.

Born in Albany, N.Y., in 1874, Charles Fort was editing a Long Island newspaper by age 19 and quit shortly after to hitchhike around the world, eventually returning to New York and making ends meet by freelancing with newspapers and writing 10 novels, all of which he ended up burning for fuel.

After befriending magazine editor and writer Theodore Dreiser, Fort's interest in the paranormal was sparked. Dreiser encouraged Fort to begin compiling strange events into a book. In 1916, Fort received a small inheritance following an uncle's death, which allowed him to delve full-fledged into his research.

The culmination of that research was four books. "Book of the Damned" (1919) chronicled strange, inexplicable events like raining frogs. "New Lands" (1923) was a scathing response to the arrogance of astronomers who were his critics. "Lo!" (1931) told of claims of teleportation and his research on psychic abilities, and "Wild Talents," was finished just before his death in 1932.

The era of Fortean research had begun.

"He was really intrigued by 'damned facts,'" said Ray Boeche, founder and former director of the Fortean Research Center.

"Fort took possibly the best position you could take between skeptic and advocate ... he looked at himself not as an explainer, but a chronicler," he said.

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Boeche founded the center in the early 1980s with Scott Colborn to investigate similar unexplained phenomenon using Fort's approach. Boeche said the two came together after reading a column in Lincoln's newspaper that mentioned a motorcycle crash that happened when the victim ditched his bike when Bigfoot crossed the highway in front of him.

"I had done a lot of fieldwork investigating the Bigfoot sightings, cattle mutilations, hauntings," Boeche said. "Once you stick your toe in the paranormal field, you have a lot of things running your way ... you may be the only person someone with an unusual encounter may know to contact."

But Colborn and Boeche weren't the only people with an interest in unusual encounters in Lincoln. Membership in the nonprofit group swelled, and the Fortean Research Center began publishing a monthly newsletter of its findings, with documents culled from government archives and libraries across the country, courtesy of the Freedom of Information Act.

"Before the Internet kicked into its glory, it was harder to find info on the UFO phenomenon," Colborn said. "The Fortean Research Center was designed to research and collect data ... we had local groups that would meet and share information."

Colborn said the group met in local coffee houses or rented out the Valentino's basement for its meetings, but increasing interest in the group merited activities larger in scope. The Fortean Research Center decided to organize conferences on paranormal studies, drawing in some of the world's foremost experts.

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UFO expert Stanton Friedman and spontaneous human combustion expert Larry Arnold are prominent researchers in their respective fields.

"I'm the original civilian investigator in the Roswell incident," Friedman said from his California hotel room while traveling from his Canadian home to lecture at a community college.

"I take a clear-cut, unambiguous stance that some (UFOs) are intelligently controlled spacecraft," he said.

Friedman spoke at a Fortean Research Center conference in the late 1980s. The conferences were held in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus Clifford Hardin Center for Continuing Education building.

Friedman earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics before spending 14 years working on advanced nuclear research and development. He said his interest in flying saucers first came in 1958 and his first lecture of the subject was in 1967.

Since then he's traveled the United States and the world giving lectures to colleges and groups much like the Fortean Research Center.

"We're dealing with the most important story of the past millennium," Friedman said, calling efforts to conceal UFO evidence a "cosmic Watergate."

"None of the arguments made against UFOs stand up against a lot of scrutiny," he said.

Friedman said it was likely alien contact would be within our own galaxy, probably at the Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli. The two stars are similar to our sun and are 39 light-years from Earth and one-eighth of a light-year from each other.

"Those two stars being so close, you have a greater incentive for interstellar travel," Friedman said. "I presume the aliens know some things we don't know, and if they got a head start they don't need a million years."

Friedman also said he admired what Fort had done for his area of expertise.

"Charles Fort was a leader in collecting stories of the unusual ... people are unwilling to do what Fort did," Friedman said. "You've got to bring an ounce of realism to this whole picture. I'm an expert on flying saucers but I'm open-minded enough to find it fascinating."

Arnold has written the book "Ablaze!" which investigates the phenomenon of spontaneous human combustion, where human beings are apparently burned to ash without affecting their surroundings. Arnold said he spoke about "the fascinating, hotly debated issue of spontaneous human combustion" at Fortean Research Center conferences in 1987 and 1991.

"(Colborn) has become a good friend of ours. He's a wonderful scholar and we've appreciated his research over the years," Arnold said.

Expanding on a childhood interest in UFOs and Bigfoot sightings, Arnold said spontaneous human combustion - or as he calls it, SHC - piqued his interest because of the lack of existing research into the phenomenon. After spending the '70s as an electrical engineer, Arnold spent weeks digging through the Library of Congress and the archives of the

American College of Physicians and the National Institutes of Health.

Arnold said that when John Bentley died in his Pennsylvania home in 1975, his only remains were a pile of ash and one half of his leg. The incident firmly entrenched Arnold's belief in SHC.

"The only damage in the house was the hole that the body bored through the floor," Arnold said.

Unsatisfied with official explanations of stray cigarette burns, Arnold began his own research.

He said the mainstream theory explaining SHC is called the "human wick effect" - that the body, once ignited, begins to burn slowly in a self-contained blaze. Arnold, however, was not prepared to accept this theory.

"It takes a lot of heat to render to get the body fat to have its own self-sustaining combustion," he said. "Friends of ours who barbecue have never walked away from their T-bone and had it burned to powder ... if skeptics have to go to such extremes to dismiss SHC, then there's probably something to it."

Arnold has researched nearly 120 different theories explaining SHC, with explanations ranging from body chemistry gone awry to a simultaneous discharge of electrical energy in every cell of the human body.

"There was something that seems to be credible that science was ignoring," Arnold said.

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By the late '80s, the Fortean Research Center, membership had grown to 230, partly because of Colborn and Boeche's dedication to research. Boeche said one of his and Colborn's major projects was investigating a 1956 UFO landing at Bentwater Royal Air Force base in England. Boeche and Colborn tracked down enlisted men on the base at the time and recorded their recollections of the incident.

"The deputy base commander described watching the lights, seeing them through the forest, seeing ... the trees where the craft had scraped the trunks, seeing impressions on the gear," Boeche said. "We were able to gather a lot of info on that and brought the subject to the attention of (former Nebraska Senator) Jim Exon on the Senate intelligence committee."

But much to the disappointment of Boeche and Colborn, no action or discussion of their research followed.

"It was like everything went into a black hole," Boeche said.

The group's own demise can be explained much easier than the phenomenon they investigated.

"At the time I was involved with the (center), I was the Nebraska state director of the Mutual UFO Network and the Center for UFO Studies. I just did not have time to keep things going anymore," Boeche said.

Colborn said he left the group in 1992 after the birth of his first child. Lacking strong leadership and organization after Colborn's departure, the group disbanded.

"It was a neat group and I think back with a lot of fondness," Colborn said.

Boeche also reflects positively on the group's work.

"It was a lot of fun. We met a lot of interesting people and we got to poke around in some really interesting situations," Boeche said. "As long as you can keep an open mind that these things are happening and people are experiencing something, the search for that is a lot of fun."