

UFO

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REPORTER, Niagara Falls, NY - Oct. 25, 2005

Mysterious lights over Falls connected to power outage?

By Mike Hudson

History can be a funny thing in that it often tells us a lot more about the people writing it than about events that may or may not have actually occurred.

Why, for example, do so many local histories include the story of Lockport's Byron Day — a two-bit burglar and horse thief who lived during the 1800s — while none include a chapter on Don Stefano Magaddino, who was for decades the most powerful organized crime boss in the country?

A little bit too recent? Still a little bit too frightening, perhaps?

And while the tales of the dozen or so daredevils who did or did not survive their plunges over the falls are regurgitated with astonishing regularity, scant attention has been paid to the stories of literally thousands of tortured souls who have thrown themselves into the roiling waters with no thought whatsoever of coming out alive.

A bit too dark, maybe. Wouldn't want to scare the tourists.

While researching an article on Nikola Tesla, I came across a series of documents of undeniable interest, at least to anyone with a somewhat skeptical and perhaps twisted sensibility.

All of the documents pertained to the Great Northeast Power Blackout of 1965. Many were clippings from the old *Niagara Falls Gazette* and dealt with eyewitness reports — by city police officers, state troopers and Air Force personnel — of UFO activity in the vicinity of the power plants before, during and after that unprecedented event.

The basic facts of the incident are well known. At 5:16 p.m. on Nov. 9, 1965, 30 million people in eight U.S. states and the province of Ontario were suddenly plunged into darkness. Trapped in elevators, office buildings and on expressways, one-sixth of the continent's residents suddenly found themselves without electrical power.

A joint investigation into the disaster by the U.S. Federal Power Commission and the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission ultimately discovered that a sudden surge of power had tripped a circuit breaker at the Sir Adam Beck generating station in Queenston. Line after line went down in Ontario and, by the time the surge hit New York, the charge amounted to some 1.1 million kilowatts. The chain reaction continued until the entire East Coast of the United States was blacked out.

Although experts were able to pinpoint the origin of the blackout, they were baffled by the cause of the relay malfunctions and the failure of protective systems to contain the overload.

Furthermore, the origin of the sudden power surge remained a mystery.

In a Nov. 19, 1965, *Ontario Hydro Hydroscope* article, system supervising engineer Jim Harris was at a loss to explain the incident.

"It's incredible! I would have

said this was impossible if I hadn't seen the evidence," he said.

Just two weeks before the blackout, on Sept. 22, 1965, in an article entitled "Many report seeing two UFOs," the *Gazette* chronicled the activity near the power plants.

"Dozens of persons Tuesday night watched two unidentified flying objects moving and hovering over this area for more than an hour," the article stated. "The objects, bright lights which changed color, were below cloud level and remained at a fairly low level during most of the period they were observed."

"Observers said the objects were not helicopters or conventional aircraft. At one point, about 8 p.m., the two objects, which had been widely separated when viewed earlier, approached each other on a collision course until they 'teamed up' and moved off close together toward Buffalo," the article added.

The objects were first sighted "on the Canadian side of the river, at a point opposite Lewiston." In other words, over Queenston and the Sir Adam Beck plant.

Among the witnesses named in the article were State Trooper John Riehl, Alden residents Roselle Simon and Leonard Butler, and V.D. Price and Raymond Bright, employees of the American Standard Division in North Tonawanda.

"This was not a satellite. Satellites travel in straight lines and within a few minutes they are gone," Bright told the *Gazette*. "This hung in the sky for about half an hour. It would move off in one direction and then stop. Then it would change direction and move off again."

The relationship between the blackout and reported UFO activity wasn't lost on the scientific community.

In a statement prepared for hearings held on the blackout by the Federal Power Commission, University of Arizona physicist Dr. James McDonald contended that magnetic fields accompanying UFOs could cause sudden power surges and could, theoretically, trigger a blackout.

Writing about the event on April 2, 1968, *Gazette* reporter Joe Donaldson recalled the reports on the night of the blackout.

"After the big blackout, spokesmen for the power firms denied a strange light was spotted over the Beck Station the night of Nov. 9.

Since then, however, they have admitted that sightings were reported by hundreds of people," the veteran newsman wrote.

But gradually, the "broken two-dollar switch" theory as to the cause of the disaster became the accepted version of events.

This would not mark the end of credible reports of UFOs in Niagara Falls, however.

On Aug. 4, 1966, the *Gazette* reported "Bright, high-flying, fast moving objects observed during the night and similarly described by three Niagara Falls residents."

This time the witnesses were Mrs. George Haberle of the Parkway Apartments and 91st Street residents Russell Sorenberger and Bill Nelson. Ironically, attempts by the paper to reach Capt. Harry Meir, chief of operations and training at Niagara Falls Air Base, were unsuccessful because Meir had been in Erie, Pa., investigating another UFO report.

Two Niagara Falls city policemen and a former Air Force radar chief had their own close encounters over a 48-hour period in August 1967.

According to an Aug. 25, 1967, *Gazette* article, the two officers, Patrolmen Anthony Caraglin and David Greene, saw a pair of UFOs while patrolling at 19th Street and Mackenna Avenue. They filed an official report of the incident.

"We saw two objects in the sky — one object went in an easterly direction then went northeasterly. As the

object went out of sight it appeared to give off different colored lights. While the object was in sight it was a solid white light and appeared to be round.

"Object Two was the same as Object One but went from south to north and went out of sight. Both objects were in view for approximately 15 minutes and appeared to be very high," the report stated.

Howard Kay of Youngstown was working at DuPont that night. An eight-year Air Force radar chief, he told the *Gazette* the object he saw over the Niagara River near Buffalo Avenue looked like "an inverted cereal bowl and was lit up."

Perhaps predictably, USAF Information Officer Thomas White said he knew nothing about the UFOs.

"I have checked with the U.S. Air Force Station in Lockport, and the 763rd Radar Squadron there reports no objects logged by their radar screens at these times," he told the *Gazette*.

Eight months later, on April 2, 1968, no fewer than three NFPD patrolmen reported UFOs from two separate locations.

The pulsating lights hovered for nearly an hour in the vicinity of the Beck Station, the officers said.

Patrolmen Thomas Shumway and William Wells watched the lights from Lewiston Road and Hyde Park Boulevard.

"They were like something I had never seen before," Shumway told the *Gazette*. "They were in formation and

they were pulsating."

Shumway said the red, white and blue lights did not come from an airplane and were motionless until they suddenly shot away to the northwest at a tremendous rate of speed.

At the same time, Patrolman Richard Adkins confirmed the lights were hovering across the Niagara River from the Robert Moses Power Plant and near the Beck Station.

He said the lights were about 1,000 feet in the air and that, from time to time, a red streak of light would pass through the formation.

While strange lights are still occasionally reported in the Niagara skies, it appears that 1965 to 1968 represented something of a golden age for UFO sightings here.

And in the presence of so much documentation and credible testimony by trained observers, it seems difficult to deny that something was going on.

What — exactly — the mysterious objects were will likely never be known.

It is interesting to note that the Air Force employed a device to disrupt electrical power in the city of Belgrade during the Kosovo war. Could some early testing of a similar device have resulted in the 1965 blackout?

We'll have to settle for what it is. A page of Niagara history that you won't find in the history books.

The NCCC Files



JAMES NEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VISITORS: World-famous UFO expert Stanton T. Friedman lectures at Niagara County Community College in a talk entitled "Flying saucers are real." The nuclear physicist-lecturer covered five scientific studies, saucer landings, abductions, star travel, UFO origins, the recovery of crashed saucers near Roswell, New Mexico and proof that UFOs are a "Cosmic Watergate."

The truth isn't
out there:
World-famous
flying saucer
expert speaks
of large-scale
cover-up

BY MATTHEW WINTERHALTER
winterhalterm@gmnewspaper.com

SANBORN — First off, don't refer to them as UFOs.

"I prefer flying saucers to UFOs," explained Stanton Friedman on Tuesday night. "All flying saucers are flying saucers — not all UFOs are flying saucers."

The nuclear physicist and flying saucer investigator brought his "Flying Saucers ARE Real!" lecture to Niagara County Community College Tuesday.

Friedman, a "UFOlogist" has published more than 80 UFO papers and appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs.

He was the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident and co-authored "Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident." Friedman has also written about the Majestic 12 group established in 1947 to deal with crashed saucers.

"I have a tough job to do tonight," he told the crowd of about 250 Tuesday night — the second of two NCCC lectures. "There's no way I'll be able to answer all the questions you have."

Inside

■ It happened here:
Strange sightings
in Niagara Falls, 5A

(continued on page 3)

Instead, he shared a few conclusions he's come to over the years:

■ The evidence is overwhelming that the Earth is being visited by alien craft.

Objects described by witness don't look or move like anything they've ever seen before, Friedman said, explaining that the craft move in ways modern aircraft can't.

"If we had this type of technology," he said, "you'd have seen it in Vietnam, during the Gulf War..."

■ The subject of flying saucers has become something

of a "Cosmic Watergate."

■ None of the negative arguments against flying saucers stand up under careful scrutiny.

■ And finally — it's the biggest story of the past millennium.

Only no one seems to be taking it very seriously

Or so it seems.

"The problem isn't that people don't believe in UFOs," he said — it's that people don't think anyone else believes in them.

Thanks in part, he said, to government efforts in covering UFOs up — a prime example of which is the Roswell incident in 1947 in which an alien craft reported crashed in the New Mexico desert. It was originally

reported that both pieces of the craft and alien bodies were reportedly recovered by military personnel.

Officially, the military has reported that a weather balloon crashed and crash-test dummies had been dropped from plane, among the reasons for the original story.

An investigator of the incident since 1978, Friedman pointed out to Tuesday's audience that he has directly spoken to several of witnesses and participants in the incident that day — civilian and military alike — and believes that a cover-up has taken place. Government agencies, to this day, are still holding back information, he said.

Friedman even thinks he

might know where the aliens are coming from.

Discussing a case involving the apparent abduction of Barney and Betty Hill several years ago, Friedman said research in that case has led some to believe that the likely spot where aliens are originating from is the area around the suns Zeta 1 Reticuli and Zeta 2 Reticuli — about 39 light years away and about 1 billion years older.

These days it's all about getting the information out to the public.

"Yes Virginia there are flying saucers," Friedman said as he wrapped up his lecture. "It's time to change things."

Contact Matt Winterhalter at (716) 282-2311, Ext. 2253.

Have unidentified flying objects visited the Cataract City?

The following are original stories that were printed in the Niagara Gazette:

Sept. 22, 1965

Dozens of persons Tuesday night watched two unidentified flying objects moving and hovering over this area for about an hour.

The objects, bright lights which changed colors were below the cloud level and remained at a fairly low level during most of the period they were observed. Observers said the objects were not helicopters or conventional aircraft. At one point, the two objects approached each other on a collision course until they teamed up and moved off close together toward Buffalo.

One light was first seen on the Canadian side of the river at a point opposite Lewiston.

After leaving this area, one of the UFOs was spotted over Alden by two observers, Roselle Simon and Leonard Butler, neighbors along Blossom Lee Drive, who called police at Clarence.

State Trooper John Riehl reported that he saw the light (which seemed to be light reflecting from a metallic surface of a globe). He said it first moved in a northwest direction, then in a southwest direction at varying speeds.

UFOs were seen over Niagara Falls by a Gazette reporter and

his two children.

As the object passed over North Tonawanda, it was watched for almost a half an hour by V.D. Price, resident of this city, and by his foreman at American Standard Division working in the yard.

His foreman, Raymond Bright, said he never missed an opportunity to watch satellites passing overhead.

"This was not a satellite. Satellites travel in straight lines and within a few minutes they are gone. This hung around the sky for about half an hour. It would move off in one direction and then stop. Then it would change direction and move off again. It was headed generally toward Cheektowaga, I'd say."

He said the object did not appear to glow, rather it seemed to be shining brightly as if with reflected sunlight.

"It wasn't too long after sunset, so it must have been high enough to catch direct sunlight," he said.

The Niagara Falls Air Force Base said it had no knowledge of UFOs in the area Tuesday night.

At the Federal Aviation Agency at the Niagara Falls International Airport, no report of Tuesday's sightings were reported by the night crew. However, one of the controllers reported he had spotted a UFO the night before.

April 2, 1968

The sighting of four strange lights over an area near the Sir

Adam Beck power plant of the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission early today revived memories of the big power blackout that hit the northeast Nov. 9, 1965.

Moments before lights flickered and failed all the way to New York City, people reported seeing a strange red ball hanging over the Beck plant. A pilot landing at Niagara Falls International airport saw a weird object hovering "over a Niagara Falls power station."

Three Niagara Falls police officers saw four pulsating lights for nearly an hour about 2:15 a.m. today.

Patrolmen Thomas Shumway and William Wells watched the lights from Lewiston Road and Hyde Park Boulevard.

"They were like something I have never seen before," said Patrolman Shumway.

"They were in formation and were pulsating," said the officer. He related they pulsated red, white and blue colors.

Patrolman Richard Atkins later joined the two officers and watched the lights. He said that now and then he saw a red streak of light pass through the formation.

Patrolman Atkins said they were across the Niagara River from the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant and near the Beck station. He estimated the lights were about 1,000 feet in the air.

Patrolman Shumway said the lights did not come from an airplane and were motionless until

they suddenly shot away to the northwest and disappeared over the horizon.

The officer also said that at about 4:50 a.m. he observed a bright light traveling at a "tremendous rate of speed" shoot over the Niagara River in a northerly direction.

The officer also said that Pinkerton guards for the State Power Authority "have been seeing lights over the reservoir all week."

A spokesman for the SPA said he was unaware of any strange lights over the power facility.

"This is the first I heard of it," said William Latham, resident engineer.

A Hydro spokesman also said nothing was observed.

"There were not any unusual operating conditions," he said.

After the Nov. 9, 1965 sighting over the Beck plant, the head of a National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena suggested the power blackout actually was caused by the unidentified flying object.

The power companies said the blackout was traced to a defective relay at the Beck Station.

After the big blackout, spokesmen for the power firms denied a strange light was spotted over the Beck Station the night of Nov. 9. Since then, however, they have admitted that sightings were reported by hundreds of people.

UFOs Cause Alarm in Boston Airport

Washington - The airport of the American city of Boston reported delays in air traffic after the appearance of UFOs by air traffic controllers as detected by radar.

A spokesman for the airport said today, "they are not airplanes, because the points do not correspond to the position of any [planes] that are in the air."

The mysterious points began to materialize Monday on the radar screens of the air traffic controllers of Logan International Airport, as

reported by Ansa news agency.

As a precautionary measure, the control of the flights was transferred to the reserve radar center of New Hampshire while the phenomenon was being investigated.

In addition, the controllers increased the safe distance between the flights between 5 and 8 kilometers, a precaution that caused the delay of numerous flights.

The effect caused delays of up to four hours and the authorities of American civil aviation opened an

investigation into the event.

Other airports have had similar problems, but the mysterious objects appeared only on the radar screens at Boston.

LA CAPITAL, Mar del Plata, Argentina - Oct. 11, 2005

Author ready for aliens to vanish

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Susan Clancy is sick of space aliens. The Harvard psychologist figures she has read every book and seen every movie ever made about extraterrestrials, and she has interviewed roughly 50 people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

And it's all in the name of scientific truth, not science fiction.

"I have become a reluctant scholar of alienography," Clancy said.

Clancy is bracing for a fresh round of hate mail with her new book, *Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens*, published by Harvard University Press.

Those who believe aliens are among us haven't taken kindly to her theory that abductees have created "false memories" out of, she writes, a "blend of fantasy-proneness, memory distortion, culturally available scripts, sleep hallucinations and scientific illiteracy."

That doesn't mean Clancy thinks her subjects are crazy. In fact, she was surprised how many of them seemed quite normal, intelligent and articulate.

"Arguing weird beliefs is a very normal thing," she said in an interview from Nicaragua, where she is a visiting professor at the Central American Institute for Business Administration. "It's very human for us to believe in things for which there is no scientific evidence."

HAVE YOU BEEN ABDUCTED?

When she arrived at Harvard in 1996, Clancy didn't set out to debunk the stories of little green men kidnapping people from their bedrooms and using them for painful experiments. Instead, she started her research on false memories by studying survivors of sexual abuse.

She quickly found herself the target of angry "outsiders" who accused her of trying to discredit survivors. One irate letter-writer called her a "friend of pedophiles everywhere."

Around the same time, Harvard Medical School started investigating the research methods employed by Pulitzer Prize-winning psychologist John Mack, who used hypnosis to retrieve memories from people who claimed to be alien abductees. (The school decided not to censure Mack, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver in London last year.)

Mack's work gave Clancy an idea: Wouldn't it be easier to test her theories if she could be certain that her subjects' memories were not real? She and her adviser, Harvard psychologist Richard McNally, placed a newspaper ad that asked, "Have you been abducted by aliens?" It took less than a day for callers to fill her voice mail.

As Clancy and McNally interviewed the abductees, they started to find some



Susan Clancy at Harvard: She says she's "done with aliens."

Associated Press

common threads. Many of them, for example, described the terrifying experience of waking up and being unable to move, certain that an intruder was lurking in their room.

IMPOSSIBLE TO DISPROVE

To the Harvard psychologists, it was obvious that their subjects had suffered an episode of sleep paralysis — a state of limbo between sleep and being awake, sometimes punctuated by hallucinations.

"It's a little bit like a hiccup in the brain. It's harmless," said McNally, adding that 20 percent of the population will experience sleep paralysis at least once.

Many of the abductees also could be described as "spiritual people" who have abandoned conventional religious beliefs, McNally added. "The people convinced of this are getting genuine spiritual payoff," he said. "To encounter a naturalistic account of it is deeply offensive."

In her book, Clancy describes her subjects' stories of abduction in detail, changing only their names.

One man, "an articulate, handsome" chiropractor with a "strikingly attractive wife" and twin sons, claimed to have

fathered hybrid babies with an alien, a "streamlined, sylphlike creature."

Another subject, a 34-year-old artist with a college education, couldn't identify "disturbing sleep-related experiences" until he was hypnotized by an abduction researcher he found on the Internet. During his second hypnosis session, the artist said he recovered memories of being abducted by aliens who strapped him down on a black marble table and subjected him to a painful sexual experiment.

Clancy said a wealth of research shows that hypnosis makes it easier for people to create false memories.

"This is in large part because it both stimulates the imagination and relaxes reality constraints," she writes in her book.

However, Clancy learned it was impossible to categorically disprove alien abductions.

"All you can do is argue that they're improbable and that the evidence adduced by the believer is insufficient to justify the belief," she wrote. "Ultimately, then, the existence of ETs is a matter of opinion, and the believers have their own opinions; based on firsthand experience."

ALIEN IMPRESSIONS

One of those "believers" is Will Bueche, a 36-year-old who was working for Mack when Clancy and McNally interviewed him several years ago.

Bueche said he has had more than a dozen "encounters" with aliens since he was a young child. These encounters with the "pale, thin beings," he said, usually happen at night, in his room, and he feels alert but "a little bit drugged" while they communicate with him telepathically.

"It's not like they're speaking English in my mind," he said. "It's a mixture of music, pictures, feelings and impressions."

Bueche said Clancy's theories about alien abductions, including sleep paralysis, cannot fully explain what he has experienced.

"I think her book comes close to the truth in many ways, but it isn't able to see the potential out there for another breakthrough in how we see reality," he said.

Clancy's conclusions aren't shared by David Jacobs, an associate professor of history at Temple University. Jacobs, who teaches a class called UFOs and American Society, said Clancy's *Abducted* is a "typical debunking book."

"This is junk social science, and there is a certain condescending quality to it," he said.

RESEARCHER SEES MISTAKES

Jacobs, who said he has used "hypnotic regression" to recover memories from more than 900 alien abductees, said sleep paralysis, faulty hypnosis and false memories "simply do not account for the convincing details" in abductees' stories.

"All debunkers make one or more of the following mistakes: They ignore the data, they distort the data or they don't know the data," he said, describing himself as a "serious UFO researcher who believes the evidence is compelling that these events are happening more or less as [abductees] say."

Clancy and McNally aren't the only psychologists who have studied alien abductees.

Leonard Newman, a psychology professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is the co-author of a paper that argued alien abductees are "masochists" who enjoy the painful experiences they describe.

Unlike Clancy and McNally, Newman did not interview any abductees firsthand, relying instead on other published accounts of abduction reports.

Clancy said the volume and nasty tone of the hate mail she gets these days are far worse than what her research on sexual-abuse survivors generated.

"I'm done with aliens," she said.

POST, Denver, CO - Nov. 13, 2005 CR: P. Noonan



AL LEWIS

Denver Post Staff Columnist

Undisclosed Spying Objects

There's a guy in Yuma who swears aliens put an implant in his wrist. Tim Cullen, a 54-year-old former construction worker, says he had it surgically removed in 1998. He says it was metallic and coated with a biological membrane.

"Isotopes from these metals, some of them are not from this planet," Cullen told me. Others claiming to have been abducted by UFOs have told similar tales. Have they all been bugged with alien

tracking devices?

"It was a lot more sophisticated than the ear tags we put on cattle out at the feedlot," said Cullen, who has appeared in several TV UFO documentaries.

I'm a big fan of alien-abduction stories. But I'm more afraid of giant corporations and government bureaucrats developing tracking devices of their own — tiny chips that are increasingly implanted in consumer products.

"This technology can be turned against people," said Katherine Albrecht, a privacy advocate and co-author of "SpyChips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Move With RFID."

RFID stands for radio frequency identification. RFID chips can be as big as an index card or as small as a grain of salt.

When beamed with a pulse of electromagnetic energy by an RFID reader, they broadcast information — typically a unique serial number. The history of the chip and the item to which it's attached can then be recorded and monitored in computer databases.

RFID chips help manufacturers manage supplies. They help retailers track inventories. They reduce theft. They let marketers gather customer information.

But Albrecht fears one day we may all be under constant surveillance.

The seeds for this potential sci-fi night-

mare are already sown. You may be using an RFID device to pay tolls on E-470. You may be using one to get through the door at work. In both cases, your identity and the time you passed the RFID reader were probably recorded.

Wal-Mart, Target, Home Depot, Gillette, Procter & Gamble, United Parcel Service and the U.S. Postal Service have used RFID technology. Many grocery stores are using club cards that link customers' names to every item they purchase.

Albrecht and co-author Liz McIntyre envision a future in which RFID readers are everywhere — embedded in roads, sidewalks, doors, household appliances, floors and ceilings — recording everything.

They have sifted through scores of RFID patents, including ones on deep-organ implants that can never be removed.

These could track prisoners, mental patients, military personnel, corporate employees — and maybe you.

"We've had a whole 20th century worth of pretty horrific history," Albrecht said. "We've seen many governments turn on their citizens and use every means at their disposal to control and, in many cases, exterminate their own citizens."

Scores of companies are developing RFID systems. One of them is Denver-based RFID Ltd. Its president, Nicholas Chavez, has launched an Internet rebuttal campaign against the book.

"They are very entertaining writers," he told me. "They must have asked, 'What is the absolute worst thing that can be done with this technology?' Let's write it into a book to scare the crap out of non-technical people."

He says RFID technology is a long way from being able to do many of the things the authors claim and is still too expensive to deploy as ubiquitously as the authors imagine.

For more information, check out www.spychips.com and then see Chavez's rebuttal at www.packagedrfid.com/spychips_rebuttal.pdf.

Albrecht and McIntyre primarily argue for awareness and disclosure. They want companies to provide labels when there are RFID chips in their products.

This seems reasonable to me. If companies and governments want to know what people are doing, they should not object when people want to know what the powers-that-be are doing. After all, technology can be easily abused. Just ask Cullen.

"The extraterrestrials are doing it," he told me. "What's going to stop our government?"

Al Lewis' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Respond to Al at denverpostbloghouse.com/lewis, 303-820-1967 or alewis@denverpost.com.

Abducted by aliens, or paralyzed in sleep?

Story of Virginia woman at center of AACC conference

By ELIZABETH LEIS
Staff Writer

Anna Jamerson always found ways to explain away her nosebleeds, or her inability to account for periods of time, or why she woke up with her nightgown on backwards.

But it wasn't until a six-month period in 1992 that she and a friend with similar symptoms starting keeping journals, researching and undergoing hypnosis. Their conclusion: They had been abducted by aliens.

"I remember lying on single-footed tables with beings over me," Ms. Jamerson said. "I remember them poking and prodding with various instruments and their hands and being completely terrified."

The Virginia author's story will be at the center of "Mysteries of Space and Sky II" tomorrow, a conference at

Anne Arundel Community College.

Since exchanges about alien abductions can become heated, conference organizer S. Peter Resta, a psychology professor and practicing psychotherapist in Pasadena, said this forum is meant to be educational and friendly.

"I'm all for debate," Dr. Resta said. "But I've seen some exchanges that can get nasty."

Other speakers will be scientists who will present history and analyses of unidentified flying objects, including Temple University professor Dr. David Jacobs' response to a recent theory that alien "abductees" are victims of only sleep paralysis.

According to that theory, postulated by a Harvard psychology fellow, the brain is out of deep sleep but the body is unable to move. As a result, victims often hallucinate, sense a presence, or feel like they are floating.

Ms. Jamerson, 56, and all the other conference participants reject that theory.

"Everyone would like to find a dif-

very very real. Don't tell me it's not real."

Sue Swiatek, the Virginia director of the Mutual UFO Network and a conference speaker, agrees the sleep pa-

ralysis theory is not scientific enough. She sees the UFO debate as "another culture war."

"At least reserve judgment," she said. "When a person at a cocktail party says 'I've been abducted,' say, 'You've had an experience that's real to you and science needs to study that.'"



JAMERSON

Ms. Swiatek will present information on recent UFO sightings, while her husband, Rob Swiatek, will present photographic evidence.

"In UFOs over the years, fewer than 20 stand up to rigorous analysis," he said. "But those 20 or fewer show clearly structured objects after you rule out obvious hoax attempts."

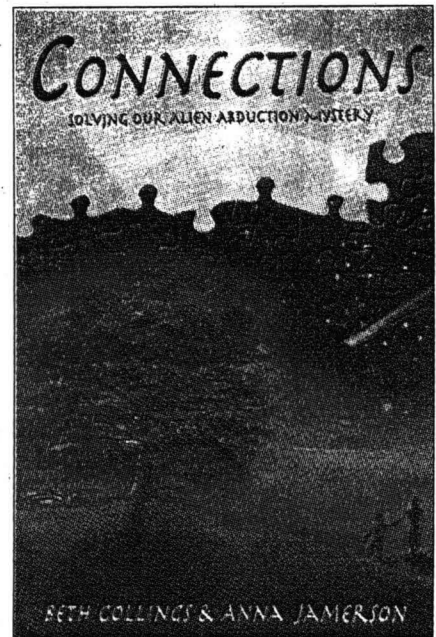
Ms. Jamerson said she hasn't seen the "gray guys" for about two years, which she believes may be due to finishing menopause.

She avoids talking a lot about her experiences, she said.

"If (people) know about (Beth and I) and want to talk about it, it's fine, but as a general rule don't tell anybody," she said.

The conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Humanities Building Room 112 at AACC. Cost is \$25. For information, call 410-777-2325.

eleis@capitalgazette.com



Anna Jamerson's and Beth Collings' book "Connections," recount odd events the authors attribute to alien abductions.

ferent explanation than abductions and so would I," said Ms. Jamerson, who uses the pen-name Anna Jamerson to protect her family. "(Sleep paralysis) doesn't explain it when I am abducted from my car. Sleep paralysis doesn't cause scars on my body."

She's also resigned herself to not caring when people doubt her, she said. Although she's happy today, there are times she has despaired, she said, starting to cry.

"I know it's as real as sitting here talking to you," she said. "For other abductees it's (also)

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Nov. 4, 2005 CR: G. Fawcett

Special presentation at UFO convention

Staff Reports

Lloyd Pye and Brian Boldman will be featured, along with Lincolnton resident and UFO expert George Fawcett at this year's fall extravaganza being held Sunday at the Clarion Hotel in Greensboro.

Pye will be displaying the world famous "Starchild skull." According to experts in the field, as well as broadcasts on the Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet and programs

such as "In Search Of..." plus many magazine articles, the skull has proven to be of amazing interest. Pye will bring attendees up to date on the history and latest research, such as DNA testing that has yet to prove the skull to be human.

Boldman, a licensed pilot, discovered an unknown formation in Bratton, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, while investigating crop circles in England.

Despite recovering from major surgery, Fawcett will

also be in attendance and plans to give an update on UFO-related activity in North Carolina. **Want to go?**

The event will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and last until 6 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested of members MFUON-NC (the organization sponsoring the event) and \$10 for non-members.

The site of the program is Clarion Hotel, 415 Swing Road, Greensboro. For directions, please call (336) 299-7650.

UFO sightings

**CLOSE TO HOME,
BUT FAR OUT**

Local officials take reports seriously ... sort of

By Peter Ruell
DAILY NEWS STAFF

he truth is out there.

But ... in MetroWest?

Though it may not seem like a hotbed of alien activity, Bay State residents in recent years have reported hundreds of

UFO sightings, including dozens in MetroWest.

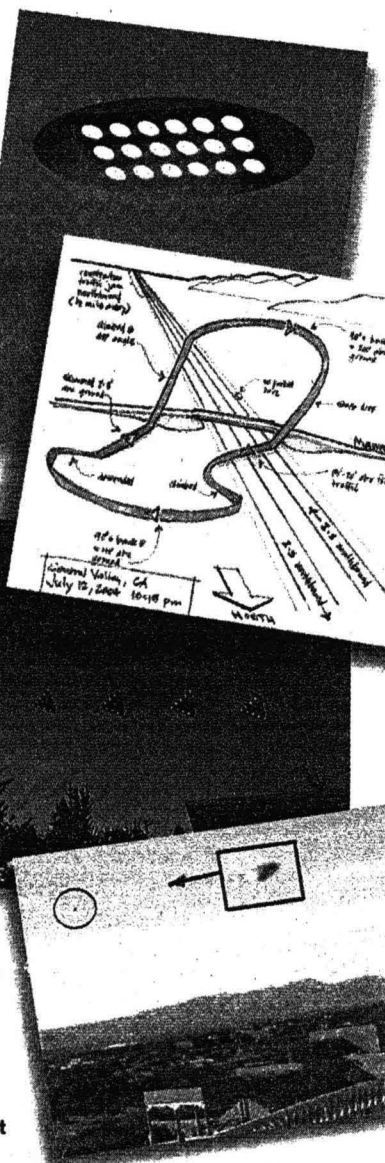
From Framingham to Franklin, folks have reported seeing everything from strange lights in the sky to actually encountering flying saucers, complete with alien beings inside.

Despite Hollywood's focus on sites like Area 51 and Roswell, N.M., Peter B. Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center, said UFO sightings are an international phenomenon.

The group's Web site includes reports from all 50 states, as well as Canada and far-flung locales including Latvia, Bangladesh and Outer Mongolia.

"This is a phenomenon that's not limited to the Southwest," Davenport said last

Top to bottom, a graphic prepared by a witness in Atlanta in 2003; a photo taken through a windshield in Tennessee in 2004; drawing by a witness in Coalinga, Calif., in 2004; an illustration by a witness in Kirkland Wash., in 2005; an object photographed over Las Cruces, N.M. in 2002.



IMAGES AND INFORMATION FROM
WWW.NUFORC.ORG/CBINDEX.HTML

UFO SIGHTINGS IN METROWEST

9/8/2005

• Location: Westborough, MA
• Shape: Light
• Duration: 1 hour
• Bright Light looked like enormous star... Hovered over house... no noise... moved away silently and very rapidly until out of sight... moved in N.E direction... gone in seconds. 3 people in total observed this... There was no apparent metal or shape... was not a spotlight, star, or planet... Had controlled movement.

2/12/2005

• Location: Bellingham, MA
• Shape: Circle
• Duration: 4 seconds

My girlfriend, who is 45, called me this morning excited to tell me that she and her friend had witnessed a UFO early this morning while driving home from a dance in Milford, MA.

They were driving south on Rt.126 in Bellingham, MA, ten minutes from the dancehall. They

stopped at a T-intersection stop sign. No other cars were on the rural road nor people on the street at the time. My girlfriend was the passenger, so was able to get a better observation. She is a quite sane, college-educated professional person.

As they stopped at the T-intersection (to take a right turn on the two lane road) she saw a perfectly circular white light (which she said looked just like a full moon)

came from the right, traveling along the road at a height of just three or four feet (eye level with the hood of the small car). There was a church directly in front of the stop sign on the other side of the road.

The object came directly in front of the car, traveling horizontally, no more than 100ft in front, then went straight up and over the church, where they lost sight of it.

She estimated the object was only about six feet in diameter. She said it was the size of dinner plate held at arms length. It made no sound. There were no flashing lights or changes in color from the original yellow-white. She also described it as one of the glow-in-the-dark frisbees turned on its side. It travelled fast, but not at blinding speed.

She said it moved purposely. It did not stop in front of their car but kept moving. She did not know if it went up into the sky or just hopped over the church to the other side.

The driver made her right turn on to the cross road, the direction the object had come from. She said it travelled along the road from the right to the left, in front of the car, before going straight up over the church. They thought about going back to see if they could see it again but decided not to.

The car was traveling south from Milford into Bellingham, then took the right, going west on to the cross road. They were heading back to Lincoln, Rhode Island. There were no electrical problems with their car or missing time or any other anomalies, she said.

11/8/2004 20:30

• Location: Hopkinton, MA
• Shape: Disk
• Duration: 2 minutes

I'm filing this report on behalf of my wife. She was returning back after picking my son up from the sitters. When she got home and got out of the car she noticed a disk shaped object

hovering at tree height over our property. She clearly spotted 4 windows on the object. The object was very brightly lit. The object was not making any sound. My son got out of the car and saw it too. She thought the color of the object was silver gray. My wife just rushed inside the house with my son and did not look back at the object as she was beginning to get very apprehensive.

She also said that she had seen a bright white light on route home from the sitters but did not think much of it at that time.

7/27/2004 02:00

• Location: Ashland, MA
• Shape: Oval
• Duration: 20 min Ashland, MA UFO on Chestnut St.

While driving home from a dinner party my wife and I both observed a round silver disk about 30 feet in diameter that had landed in an open field off of Chestnut St. (North-

easter University Property). We both got out of our vehicle and approached the disk, when we got close enough we both touched the craft. It was very cold to the touch however it was glowing red to blue. I was able to see inside the craft through a small window and was able to see three small beings. All appeared to be sleeping or meditating, they did not respond to my voice. As my wife and I walked around this craft it began to levitate and eventually flew off without making any sound at all. My wife and I promised each other that we would not tell anyone about this encounter however I could not resist. If anyone else saw this craft please post something. It took place around 2:00am.

6/3/2004 22:00

• Location: Milford, MA
• Shape: Circle
• Duration: 2 minutes a big white light, circle shot to the

Mars has been especially bright in the eastern sky. But to someone who doesn't realize what they're seeing, it may be easy to believe the strange light is a UFO.

"Picture somebody who has an apartment that faces east and every night they eat dinner ... and suddenly there's this dazzlingly bright thing there," he said. "It's not part of the night sky, so obviously it must be a UFO."

"At some level, we've been conditioned by 'X-Files' and 'Unsolved Mysteries,'" Beatty added. "These kind of shows just drop in aliens as if it's scientifically, not only plausible, but likely."

Scientifically, though, UFOs have some pretty tough hurdles to get over, said David Aguilar, director of public affairs at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

"No hardcore astronomer or astrophysicist will put any credence whatsoever to UFOs," Aguilar said. "The physics just don't work. If you're going to assume these are creatures that travel through space ... this would have to be a whole new sort of physics we just don't know about."

That's not to say he's written off the phenomena.

Before landing at Harvard, he investigated UFO sightings for a science center in California, and while most could be explained, a small percentage simply remained a mystery.

"I think it's become a cult icon," Boston University astronomy professor James Jackson said. "You see something unexplained in the sky, what the man on the street is going to think ... it must be one of those UFO things."

The simple fact is that while life is probably out there, it just hasn't reached us yet.

"That's almost certainly the case," Jackson said, of the chances of life on other planets. "The Earth is one of billions of planets. You're talking about hundreds of billions, maybe trillions of planets in our home galaxy alone. The chance that Earth is the only one with life is pretty slim."

ground then stopped made a circle and shot horizontally upwards

I saw the UFO traveling at a high speed about 1 mile away. It was heading right for the ground but when it came eye level with me it stopped for about 20 seconds with the lights shining towards me. It made two circles in the upwards and then shot off into the east. It then shot horizontal upwards into the sky and was gone within six seconds.

Local UFO expert to sponsor film festival

Believes he has debris from crashed saucer

By Darrel Beehner
Staff Writer

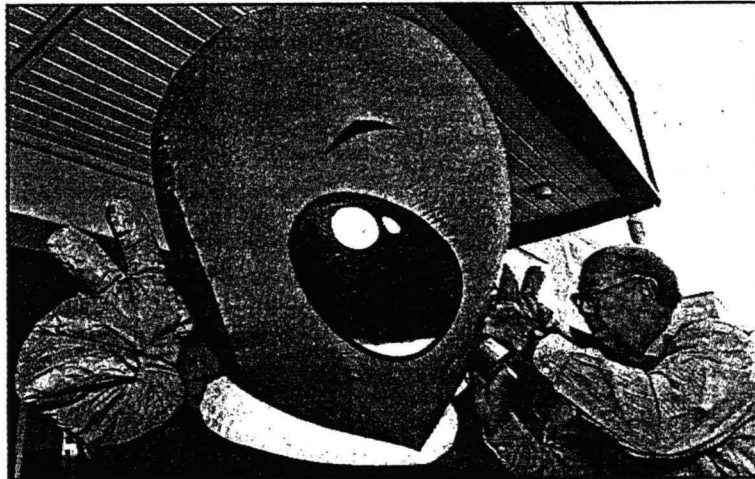
GALLUP — Over the last 60 years, New Mexico has been a magnet for unidentified flying objects.

Besides the infamous Roswell incident, another perhaps even more spectacular crash is reported to have occurred in July of 1947 on the Plains of San Agustin, south of the area now known as the Very Large Array. According to accounts from the time, a U.S. Soil Conservation Service engineer came across a disk-shaped object with four small bodies nearby.

The engineer and other witnesses said the bodies were human-like but were shorter with large heads and slanted eyes. Before they could conduct a thorough examination of the bodies and the craft, U.S. Army trucks spirited the craft and bodies away.

Now the incident seems nothing more than folklore, except to a handful of people who believe they have uncovered parts of the craft during digs in recent years.

Among those who claim to have uncovered debris from the downed spacecraft is Gallup resident Chuck Wade.



John A. Bowersmith/Independent

Chuck Wade makes adjustments to an inflatable alien outside El Morro Theater Thursday afternoon. Wade put the alien in front of the theater to promote the UFO Extravaganza film festival on Saturday beginning at 5 p.m.

Wade, who is sponsoring a UFO film festival Saturday at El Morro Theater, said he learned of the crash site while attending a UFO crash retrieval conference in Las Vegas, Nev., two years ago. During the conference he met Art Campbell, one of the presenters. In subsequent meetings with Campbell, who had allegedly found the crash site years before, Wade learned of the location.

Since then, Wade has returned to the site and unearthed dozens of pieces of metallic material he believes are remnants from the crash. He has several gray-colored pieces of light-weight material, some only .0011 of an inch thick, with a silicon coating on both sides.

"It damn sure's not a burrito wrapper," he said as he shows the various-sized pieces of material. "This stuff is put together."

Wade has sent several pieces of the material away to have it tested by an independent group of nine scientists. He's still awaiting their analysis.

Other thicker pieces are composed of iron and aluminum with a silicon coating, he said.

"It's not homogeneous," Wade said. "It's like adding raisins to a cake mix, it doesn't blend."

While some labs have expressed great interest in the material, others Wade said, feel the metal is nothing to get excited about.

"The scientists I've got working on it will go into isotopic ratios, which will tell if it is Earthly in origin."

Wade has an number of other items from the dig site that he will share during Saturday's UFO film festival. As part of the festival, Wade has invited people from the Standing Rock and Crownpoint areas who recently reported UFO sightings, to offer tales of their encounters with the audience.

Saturday's festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and include several speakers, a documentary on crop circles and a video presentation of UFO activities in Mexico.

Cost to attend the festival is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for students in grades 2-12.

Information: 722-3377

DAILY SOUTHTOWN, Chicago, IL - Oct. 2, 2005 CR: CUFOS

Mysterious red lights appear over Southland

By Lauren FitzPatrick
Staff writer

They're baaaack!

Those peculiar pulsing red lights reappeared over Southland skies early Saturday morning, causing many a neck to crane upward and many a police switchboard to light up with calls.

A trio of steady red lights seemed to swim slowly across the western night sky starting about 11 p.m. Friday and reappearing after midnight.

The three dots at times formed a triangular shape, but they then seemed to straighten into a line, much like sightings in the same area late in summer 2004 and on Halloween, witnesses told the Daily Southtown.

Cindy Evans, of Tinley Park, was out with her kids Friday night when about 11 p.m., her 8-year-old daughter Emily spotted the mysterious lights in the clear night sky near 163rd Street and Prairie Drive.

"It was almost like they were stars — they were far enough away that they were like stars," Evans said.

Nope, she decided. Too red.

In fact, Evans and other witnesses were quick to say what the lights were *not*: satellites (too low); a reflection (too intense); an airplane (too slow); and a helicopter (too quiet), among other things.

Evans said she called the Federal Aviation Association looking for an answer and was disappointed officials couldn't offer one.

The FAA did not return the Southtown's calls.

The lights weren't weather-related, either, since the National Weather Service reported nothing unusual, a spokesman said. Had the luminous phenomenon been meteorological, NWS satellites would have picked up something — like the night NWS registered a meteorite that fell into a Park Forest home in 2003.

"I'd like to know what it is. I saw one red light come through the east sky, coming from the south going to the north."

Southlander who saw the phenomenon but didn't want to give her name

None of the witnesses wanted to use the word "UFO" to describe what they saw, even though, technically, the lights were some kind of unidentified flying objects.

Still, it didn't take long for Southlanders to log onto a national UFO reporting site to quantify what they witnessed, photographed and filmed.

National UFO Reporting Center director Peter B. Davenport said he already had received about a dozen reports of the incident at his Web site, www.ufocenter.com.

That didn't mean Davenport, whose site collected hundreds of reports from last year's sightings, had an answer.

"I have absolutely no idea what is causing them," he said. "I cannot rule out the possibility that these lights are of terrestrial origin (or) of human manufacture."

That deductive reasoning is pretty much par for the course.

"All we are able to do is rule out phenomena — celestial bodies, lights. Traditionally we're just left with an 'other,'" he said.

Tinley Park police received a number of calls beginning late Friday night. Orland Park police reported three calls about the lights. Police didn't

seem to have any answers either.

That frustrated a woman who wouldn't give her name.

"They don't seem to care what it is," she said. "I'd like to know what it is. I saw one red light come through the east sky, coming from the south going to the north."

Bill Dooley rode around Tinley Park between 1 and 2 a.m. to look for that single light he said always follows the trio.

"We nicknamed it the 'cleanup crew,'" he said.

This marks Dooley's fourth sighting in the past year or so. He spotted the trio Aug. 21, 2004, on Halloween and two Saturdays ago when he saw a single light.

"They arrange themselves 1-2-3 straight up, then lean a little bit, then group themselves into a triangle," he said. "There's absolutely no noise."

He took numerous photos and videotaped the lights to submit to the local chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, which logs all such events.

But he, too, would not give the lights a name.

Only Evans' other 8-year-old twin, Abbey, put herself out there with a brave and hopeful suggestion.

"Maybe it's the tooth fairy," the youngster who just lost a tooth told her mother.

DID YOU SEE IT?

Want to read reports of local sightings or report one yourself? Log onto www.ufocenter.com. If you saw the lights this weekend, you can file a brief report about what you saw, or you can e-mail the local chapter of the Mutual UFO Network at sammaranto@sbcglobal.net.

UFOs just what name implies, says Perrin veteran

"UFOs are just what the name implies 'Unidentified Flying Objects,'" Chandler Yergin of Tucson, Ariz., said this week when contacted after last Sunday's column included parts of an earlier interview with Yergin found on the Internet.

Yergin came to Perrin Air Force Base as an Airman Second Class in 1951 to help install radar equipment. He was a radar mechanic at the time and the crew had just completed the early warning radar system at Perrin in March or April 1953, when the incident in the column occurred.

The Internet piece told how Yergin was on duty performing routine maintenance on a Plan Position Indicator when he saw a huge blip in the New York sky. Yergin said that statement wasn't true and he tried to correct the error with the reporter, but it failed to be done. He learned about the huge blip through the network of radar systems across the Southeast as it was picked up on radar screens along the way.

Dick D. Williams of Denison pointed out last week that radar will only reach about 300 miles and New York is way beyond that boundary. Williams was at Perrin too in 1953 as a member of the radar squadron, but the two didn't know each other.

Williams called the sighting "a bunch of bull." He said he came to Perrin in 1953 before the radar site was completed and he and the crew spent several months with nothing to do waiting for the completion of the equipment. He worked with Carl Hagan, commanding officer of the Radar Squadron, and Tony Cupp also was among the first radar technicians who arrived here before the equipment installation was completed.

The equipment, being brand new, was the most modern available and could reach only about as far as Oklahoma City primarily because of the curvature of the earth. Maximum distance for radar is about 300 miles, Williams said.

Williams was one of the first members of the Radar Squadron, coming here from Alaska with four or five others. He had 22 years in the service, six of those years between January 1952 until 1959. He was sent back for another tour of duty and when Perrin closed, he retired as a Major and stayed in Denison.

Yergin agreed that the radar equipment would only reach about as far as Oklahoma City, but said emphatically that when he picked it up in that area he watched it split into nine smaller blips, flying in formation.

At that time, Yergin said, the government was paranoid about UFOs because there were so many reported sightings between 1950 and 1954. These sightings were being watched by Project Blue Book teams that were at all bases and were already at Perrin when the incident occurred.

He said this was the group of eight men in civilian suits with uniformed armed guards who came into the radar hut, separated the group and took them at gunpoint to a hangar on the back of the field. They were interrogated for about four hours, during which they had to draw diagrams of what they saw and write narratives of everything that took place.

Today

Donna
Hunt

They were ordered never to talk about it to anyone under the threat of a \$10,000 fine and 10 years in prison for violating the Official Secrets Act.

Yergin said last week he has been on the "cutting edge" of technology with a remarkable career of more than 37 years in Aerospace Technology, working with prime contractors who manufactured critical components for our satellites and weapon systems. His clearances were secret and he was certified by NASA to perform certain activities, he said.

"I KNOW there is nothing that can violate the laws of Physics as we know them!" Yergin said, adding, "UFO's are simply Unidentified Flying Objects."

He agreed that there is not a shred of evidence to confirm any supernatural occurrence and the only real story about the sighting was the paranoia of the government at that time. He said a group of guys being taken at gunpoint, intimidated and threatened with fine and imprisonment if they spoke about that they had seen was pure paranoia.

"Eyewitness accounts of almost anything are notoriously unreliable," he said, "especially where flying objects are concerned and there is no frame of reference to determine size, shape, height, speed, etc." He said he thought about six percent of "sightings" have not been explained, but that doesn't mean there is no explanation.

Yergin said he would like to find someone who was at the Radar Annex at the time and/or one of the pilots that was scrambled to try and get a visual sighting so they could have a good laugh about it all over a drink.

Yergin remembers that the

Perrin Radar Annex was located on FM 1417, not far from the main base. The facility was part of a large system of radar stations guarding this country's sky against attack during the Cold War. The facility also was known as a Ground Controlled Intercept (GCI) site and it remained active until Perrin closed.

Yergin said the large blip on the screen had been declared hostile in New York because it wasn't identified. F-86 Fighters from Perrin and planes from other bases were scrambled to try to check out the blips. Yergin said he watched as the objects crossed the Red River and when the fighters got to within 20 miles of them, the blips changed direction and took off toward the Northwest.

A few minutes later the mob

of government Blue Book interrogators appeared with the armed guards.

In 1953 Yergin's father died and he asked for a transfer to a non-critical field so that he could get a hardship discharge. He was transferred to a survival school to become an instructor, then was given that discharge to return home to help his mother since he was the only surviving son.

He said he had a remarkable career that took him to France, England, Spain, Belgium, Canada and Mexico as well as most of the 50 states.

He said he had seen one other object that he couldn't identify. He was sitting in the spa one night in Tucson and saw a beautiful white object that looked like a lighted globe in the sky. It was a cloudless night and he

watched the object about 30 minutes, trying to figure how high it was. He noticed a small cloud and watched to see if it went over or under the object.

The cloud passed under it and he could still see the light through the cloud, he said. After about 40 minutes he looked away and when he looked back, the light was gone, he said. He put this sighting in the column of "unexplained," but that doesn't mean it's extraterrestrial, he said. It just means it was an "unidentified flying object."

DONNA HUNT is former editor of *The Denison Herald*. She lives in Denison and can be contacted at dhunlimited@texoma.net.

FEATURE By Bianca Phillips

Spooky Radio

Local show tackles aliens, ghosts, and demons.

MEMPHIS FLYER, Memphis, TN - Oct. 27, 2005 CR: E. Middleton

It was 1972. Eddie Middleton and his girlfriend were watching a meteor shower through a pair of binoculars.

"I saw this thing that looked just like a shooting star arch across the sky," recalls Middleton. "It was white and then it turned orange and then it just stopped. It was a grayish disc with no portals. I only saw it for about three seconds, but it was as close as an airliner coming in for landing."

Middleton believes he saw a UFO that night, and he's had a passion for the paranormal ever since. These days, he hosts *Nightsearch*, a radio show about the paranormal, every Saturday night from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. on WMC AM-790.

Topics range from UFO sightings to ghostly hauntings to demons.

"I want to educate people on the greatest unsolved mysteries of our time," says Middleton, who also teaches philosophy at Southwest Tennessee Community College. "The whole business with alien abductions and crop circles and cattle mutilations — the stuff you never hear reported on the news, but it's all over the place."

Typically, Middleton interviews his guests, then opens the phone lines for questions from listeners. Occasionally, callers ask for personal advice on dealing with the paranormal.

"You go to most psychiatrists and they'll think you're nuts or they'll tell you your [paranormal encounters] are repressed memories of childhood abuse, not aliens," Middleton says.

Middleton is no stranger to skeptics: "People make jokes about it. They think it's not something an intelligent, well-informed person should take seriously."

Sometimes skeptics come in the form of prank callers. Middleton says on a recent show, a man called in during a discussion about the "face" of Mars. The caller wanted to know where the butt was.

But Middleton takes the paranormal seriously. In 1982, he started a speaker series that continues today. His first speaker talked about cattle mutilations, which Middleton says is "the alien calling card." He started a UFO discussion group in Memphis in 1990. The group meets at the Whitehaven branch library on the second Wednesday of each month.

On October 29th, Middleton will

interview demonologists John Zaffis and Andrew Calder. Zaffis is considered a veteran investigator of the dark side, and he tours college campuses discussing cases of demonic possession. Calder is a member of the Georgia Paranormal Investigation Team and an ordained Episcopalian priest trained in exorcisms.

Past guests have included Nancy Talbot, an expert in crop circle research. Middleton says she actually broke the news of this year's first crop circle sighting in the United States on his show.

Scientist Clifford Carnicom came on the show to discuss chemtrails, the white streams emitted by jet aircraft. Some people believe the streams are not fuel exhaust but chemicals used by the government in some highly classified project.

Earlier this month, Middleton inter-



Nightsearch staffer Vernon Jessup, demonologist Andrew Calder, producer Joe Culp, and host Eddie Middleton

viewed Ric White and Linda Thornton, producers of a documentary on the Bell Witch hauntings that occurred in Tennessee in the early 1800s. Middleton has arranged a screening of their film, *The Bell Witch Haunting*, at First Congregational Church on November 12th.

Just how hot is paranormal activity in the Memphis area? "We're not a hotspot [for UFO activity], but there are ghosts everywhere in Midtown and downtown," Middleton says. He claims he had plenty of ghostly dealings when he worked as a caretaker for the Woodruff-Fontaine home in Victorian Village.

Though the show airs once a week, listeners can catch it 24/7 on streaming audio on the *Nightsearch* Web site.

"There have been sightings [of paranormal activity] by thousands of credible witnesses," Middleton says. "Evidence is everywhere." ■

Nightsearch.net

bphillips@memphisflyer.com



FOREIGN NEWS

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

DOSE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 26, 2005 CR: G. Conway

UFO symposium invades Uof T

High-profile speaker hopes to lend legitimacy to alien topic

ILLUSTRATION: JAMES BRATHWAITE/PHOTO: C/PETER BRIGGS



THE ORGANIZERS of "Canada's first major UFO symposium" hope that a ringing endorsement of their cause by a former defence minister will be the wake-up call the world needs to start taking the UFO phenomenon seriously — and they are doing everything they can to get the media's attention.

Paul Hellyer, 82, a former defence minister, stood at a podium at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall and said things no Western defence minister has publicly said before.

He said that UFOs are "as real as the airplanes that fly overhead." That their existence has been kept at a level of secrecy so high that "a vast majority of politicians were never in the loop." That the U.S. military has developed the aliens' own weapons. That Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" program to put weapons into space was "designed for use against alien intruders" because, ever since we made contact in Roswell, N.M., in 1947, the U.S. government has

viewed the aliens as the enemy.

Just don't call it a coverup or a conspiracy theory. It's "a 58-year-old truth embargo," says Victor Viggiani, a former Toronto-area high school principal and co-organizer of the UFO Disclosure and Planetary Directions Symposium, which took place yesterday. Its organizers, the UFO-disclosure groups MUFON and Exopolitics Toronto, hope to use the event as a pulpit to pressure the government into talking publicly about what they see as the reality of human-alien contact.

Paul Hellyer's presence was no accident. It is part of a campaign to lend legitimacy to the "ufology" movement by bringing out the most credible speakers in the most credible settings and drawing as much media attention as possible.

"We held this here (at U of T) for a reason. We wanted it to be at a seat of learning," Viggiani says. "We're looking at an intellectual pursuit here. It's not just talk of lights in the sky — it's

challenging people's perceptions. And how do you do that? You give them top-quality information."

The various speakers at the symposium seemed determined to do that, many of them citing documents from government archives and using methodologies seemingly no different from what any university department would require. And the speakers seem acutely aware that their myriad websites on the subject are viewed by many people as the ramblings of crackpots.

Enter Paul Hellyer. His speech was emotive, filled with wit and a touch of humour, even if the topic seems straight out of *The X-Files*. For the UFO disclosure movement, his appearance could not be understated, even if he does deny that his job as defence minister gave him any insight into any alien presence. Just how important is Hellyer? Important enough for it to be a "historic" occasion, Viggiani says.

— DANIEL TENCER/DOSE

Moon mission is a coverup: Hellyer



PHOTOS: DEVAUL/JOHNSON/795, PYRODYNAMIC

Politically, former defence minister Paul Hellyer has been around the block. He has sat in Parliament as a Liberal and a Progressive Conservative and founded two political parties, one of which, the Canadian Action Party, is still around. The principal tenet of that party is to fight NAFTA, which it sees as the tool by which Canada is being turned into "the 51st state." Hellyer's speech yesterday showed he still views the U.S. with deep suspicion. He questioned the U.S. government's alleged policy of seeing aliens as "the enemy" and suggested the \$108-billion US manned mission to the moon, announced by NASA last week, might secretly be the realization of a plan to build a moon base from to monitor alien activity. — or

'TRUTH EMBARGO' IS KEEPING UFO FACTS FROM PUBLIC, VIGGIANI

THE UFO DISCLOSURE movement is learning the importance of controlling language in order to control the political agenda. So, the government's "lies" about UFOs are now a "truth embargo," UFO debunkers are practising "anti-ufology," pseudo-science" and, perhaps most important, "close encounters" are evolving into much more complex "exopolitics."

"Exopolitics is the engagement of people here on Earth with the potential politics involved with civilizations beyond the planet, extraterrestrial politics," said Victor Viggiani, an organizer of yesterday's UFO symposium at the University of Toronto.

Boosters of this field of study see it as a political science that should be treated with the same seriousness as any other academic field.

"They're looking at ways of communicating with aliens," Viggiani says. "How will our political systems engage themselves? Who's going to speak for us? Will it be George W. Bush? Will it be the UN? Will it be you? You could be chosen."

But the syllabus at www.exopolitics.org goes further than musing over who gets to go to champagne parties in the Crab Nebula. Michael D. Salla, a former professor at American University in Washington, D.C., argues that private individuals and corporations are in contact with aliens, a sort of "second track" of intergalactic diplomacy. Salla goes even further in another exopolitical tract, saying that military intelligence groups are preparing us for the day when they will "reveal" the UFO presence. And when will that day come? "Once international terrorism fails to be a credible justification for the vast military expenditures by the U.S. military," Salla writes. — or

Do you believe in UFOs? Vote in our poll at dose.ca/ufo

HERALD, Tamworth, England
Aug. 11, 2005

Did anyone else remember this UFO 'visit'?

ABOUT eight to ten years ago, about a week or two before Christmas, on a cold, frosty, clear night, I was returning to Coventry from a night out in Wolston at about 10-10.30pm when my partner of the time and I witnessed something that has intrigued and fascinated me since!

An object about the size, shape and colour of the moon passed across the sky slowly, but in what seemed to be a controlled way and then disappeared over the horizon. It only lasted several seconds.

When we got back to Coventry I reported it to the police.

About 5am the next morning the police came to the house and took a statement off me — and told me there had been another reported sighting from the Tamworth area!

I have never heard anything else off the authorities.

I would love to have a chat to the other person or people involved.

Are you one of those who saw this?

Frank Holloran, 82 Dewis House, Riley Square, Coventry, CV2 1LW.

OBSERVER, Rochdale, England - Aug. 3, 2005

UFO mystery's back in news 50 years on

by Dave Appleton

IT was on a clear frosty night in February 1957 that a 19-year-old woman first alerted authorities to bright lights moving between two hills above Wardle.

Gwynneth Flitton's description — she told police the object was circular with a dome, and suspended beneath it was a light which switched from red to light at intervals — sparked the biggest UFO search Rochdale has ever known.

The Observer published the story under the headline "Was Wardle visited by a flying Saucer?"

The late Alan Fitzsimmons, then a junior reporter who went on to become editor of our sister paper, the Heywood Advertiser, wrote a story which became the centre of a national controversy that led all the way to the government.

For when the local MP, Tony Leavey, heard about the sighting he raised it in parliament, demanding to know if the air ministry had

Bygonedays Memories from yesteryear In the Observer every Saturday

'been releasing objects which are normally described as flying saucers.'

Now, nearly 50 years later, the truth may finally be out at last.

In its latest edition the Fortean Times, a magazine specialising in the 'world of strange phenomena,' reports that in April 1957 the air ministry sent a special investigator to Wardle to make inquiries.

And according to recently released secret papers, the intelligence officer was from the air ministry branch responsible for looking into UFO sightings.

The officer had quizzed five witnesses, including Mrs Flitton, who were all 'told to keep his visit quiet.'

He also visited a 35-year-old radio ham, Neil Robinson, who confessed that he had used hydrogen to fill two five-penny balloons which he had released on

four separate occasions in remote locations.

"It was just an experiment in tracing air currents," he said at the time, but added that the only light carried by the contraption came from a small bulb powered by a pen-torch battery.

After speaking at length with Mr Robinson, studying his weather records and checking the prevailing winds at the time, the intelligence officer returned to London to write his report.

In May the air minister wrote to Mr Leavey saying he had studied the officer's report and agreed with his conclusion that the lights Mrs Flitton saw were, in all likelihood, Mr Robinson's balloons.

He added: "I appreciate that Mrs Flitton, who has had the best sight of the phenomenon, does not share this opinion and I respect her view; but I feel the prob-

ability — and probability is, of course more often than not, all we can achieve in these matters — is that the explanation we have given is the right one."

Mr Fitzsimmons, of course, was never aware of the intelligence officer's visit to Wardle, his subsequent report, or the letter sent to Mr Leavey by the air minister in 1957, as they have only just come to light.

But in 1997 he did recall that his inquiries into the Wardle Flying Saucer mystery came to an abrupt halt when a top man from the ministry of defence called at the Observer office in School Lane, took us into a private back room and read the Official Secrets Act to us, with the warning to discontinue reporting further on that strange occurrence.

● The Observer would like to contact Gwynneth Flitton, the young lady who first saw the UFO, or Mr Robinson, the man who made the balloons.

If they are still out there, so to speak, can they ring our newsdesk on 354321 (ext 314).

UFO spotted
I CAN tell you of a [UFO] sighting in the early 70s — The truth is out there ... still! (Selby Times, August 18).
Me and my brother were living at Woodville Terrace, Selby, at the time and saw a light hovering over the dye works. We presumed it was a helicopter but it was moving in a different way to anything we had seen.
The sky was clear. We watched it for 30 minutes then the UFO shot up quick as lighting skywards. We both saw this and were not dreaming. And it was not an aircraft.
Alex Forsyth
Mill Close, Settle

Alien hunter forced to quit

A MAN who has spent half a century studying UFOs is retiring, because not enough people are reporting sightings.

Roy Lake, 66, of Tudor Road, Barking, said he does not want to retire, but cannot continue his studies of UFOs if people do not report sightings.

He said: "We used to get reports regularly, but now it's just dried up."

"There are still things going on out there, but today people don't seem to want to report it."

Mr Lake has devoted the past 50 years of his spare time to studying unexplained phenomena, after coming across a friend's book on flying saucers as a child.

The chairman and founder of London UFO Studies, as well as a regular lecturer on

UFO HOBBY TO END AFTER 50 YEARS

the subject, Mr Lake's fascination in the unexplained was sealed by a passing comment from his parents, who admitted they had seen an unidentified flying object.

In the years he has spent investigating unexplained lights and shapes in the sky, Mr Lake says there has been a number of strange sightings in Barking and Dagenham.

He said: "Just over three years ago I was sitting in my office in Barking when I heard a strange noise outside the window."

"I thought it was an aircraft that was in trouble and flying low, but I saw this flying triangle."

"Before I could take a picture it shot off. The former Barking and Dagenham Mayor Cllr Kay Flint said she also saw it."

Mr Lake expressed his frustration at the

lack of reported sightings in recent years, saying: "I don't want to give this up, but people aren't reporting things."

"With things like TVs and the internet, people have no need to go outside of an evening and just look up in the sky."

"But if they did, on a clear evening they might be surprised by what they see."

And on those who pour scorn on the legitimacy of UFOs, Mr Lake said: "I don't think people doubt it so much these days."

"People are a bit more open-minded, but those who doubt should take the subject more seriously."

"After all, they might regret it one day. Who knows?"

For more information on UFOs, visit www.crowdedskies.com.

80pc believe aliens exist

Some 80 per cent of Britons believe in aliens and half would even like to live on another planet, a survey revealed today.

One in 15 people think they have seen a UFO, with most sightings coming from the North West, said the Science Museum.

If confronted with an alien, 46 per cent of people would take a photo rather than run away.

Nine per cent would invite them in for tea.

Nelson Mandela was voted as the person to best represent earth in first contact with an alien race. The Science of Aliens, opens at the museum in October.

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - Aug. 29, 2005

ARGUS, Brighton, England - Aug. 13, 2005

Taxi driver sees 'UFO' lights in the sky out to sea

A TAXI DRIVER was left baffled after seeing lights in the sky that could have been UFOs.

Steve Prince, 43, was driving in Roedean Road, Brighton, at 1.45am on Friday when he saw three lights in the sky, out to sea. He said they seemed to be travelling within a few

hundred feet of each other and kept making manoeuvres that would have been dangerous for planes or helicopters to carry out.

He said: "I almost crashed into a police car when I saw them. Then I saw the police were looking at the lights too. There were three lights out

to sea then they flew over towards east Brighton. They were flying around in circles as if they were looking for something."

He thought one of the craft could have been a helicopter and did not believe they were UFOs.

He said: "It could have been a mili-

tary exercise but, if it was, I have no idea what they were doing, they were so close together it would have been dangerous."

Sussex Police had no record of a police helicopter being sent out early on Friday and no reports of UFOs.



by
Jane Fryer

DEEP in the Amazon jungle, drenched in sweat, Graham Hancock heaved, retched and slumped to his knees, face buried in his mud-stained hands. Minutes later, the nausea subsided, his head cleared and he looked up to see two beings peering up at him.

"They were quite small - three or four feet tall - with glowing, white heart-shaped faces, big, domed foreheads and narrow, pointed chins. Their nostrils and mouths were just slits in otherwise smooth features. They seemed to have business with me."

At first blush, this could be an episode from the X Files, a bad dream brought on by a spot of overindulgence at the cheeseboard or, quite possibly, the first sign of madness. But sitting straight-backed and neatly pressed in his tidy, book-lined house in Bath, Graham Hancock looks far from your average lunatic.

Moreover, the best-selling mystery writer doesn't even blanch as he recounts his extraordinary hallucinogenic experiences in what he calls our "other realm", where serpents writhe, aliens prowl and part animal/part human beasts communicate telepathically.

"It's definitely the same place each trip," he says, "a jungle filled with extraordinary plants and trees and, on one occasion, a tiny mannequin the size of a gingerbread man, glowing in neon white, high up in the foliage."

The self-styled Indiana Jones of social anthropology is no stranger to controversy. He has spent the past 15 years writing books and producing TV programmes challenging our understanding of ancient history and is used to being derided and even bullied about his often extraordinary views.

This is the author who claimed (in a book that sold 3.5 million copies) that the pyramids of Egypt may have been built by an ancient race of supermen who left coded warnings that the world will end in 2012. Also, according to Hancock's account, civilisation didn't start in Sumeria and Egypt around 3,500BC; it began 10,000 years before in great cities (yes, we're talking about the mythical Atlantis, though he'd rather we didn't call it that) which were subsequently wiped out.

OUR ANCESTORS WERE TAUGHT BY ALIENS

That's the claim made by controversial historian Graham Hancock, whose startling ideas on how our civilisation was shaped by extra-terrestrials have caused an outcry - and sold millions of books. But even he admits that his latest theories might be a leap too far



CLOSE ENCOUNTER:
Author Graham Hancock

He expounded his theory in 1995 in Fingerprints of The Gods and hammered it home in Heaven's Mirror, a glossy book produced to go with the Channel 4 series in 1998. But his arguments were treated with scorn and, in 1999, the BBC spent £400,000 rubbishing him and his theories in an Horizon special.

Unbowed, the 54-year-old former journalist bounced back in 2002 with another Channel 4 series - Flooded Kingdoms Of The Ice Age - along with a four-inch thick tome called Underworld that sought to present the evidence for his "lost civilisation".

But now he has trumped even his most extravagant theories with his book Supernatural - 629 pages of alien abductions, hallucinogenic drugs, sex with aliens, fairies, elves and cave art and the concept that

shamanic experiences with hallucinogenic drugs helped to shape modern society.

While he is used to ruffling feathers - his myriad critics have labelled him a madman, a charlatan, the

'I'm braced for the fallout my book will cause'

scourge of the science world or all three - this time even he admits that he might have gone a bit far.

"My books have been savaged in the past and I could have crossed the line with this one," he says. "Even Penguin, who've published

my books for 17 years, thought it was too 'out there', too extreme and that people wouldn't get it at all."

But wasn't he concerned by that? "Yes, incredibly. That's when I realised it's a much hotter potato than anything I've handled before and I'm braced for the fallout. The first and obvious attack is for them to say that Hancock has blitzed his brain on drugs and it's all rubbish. But it's a big brave book and I hope people will take it at face value."

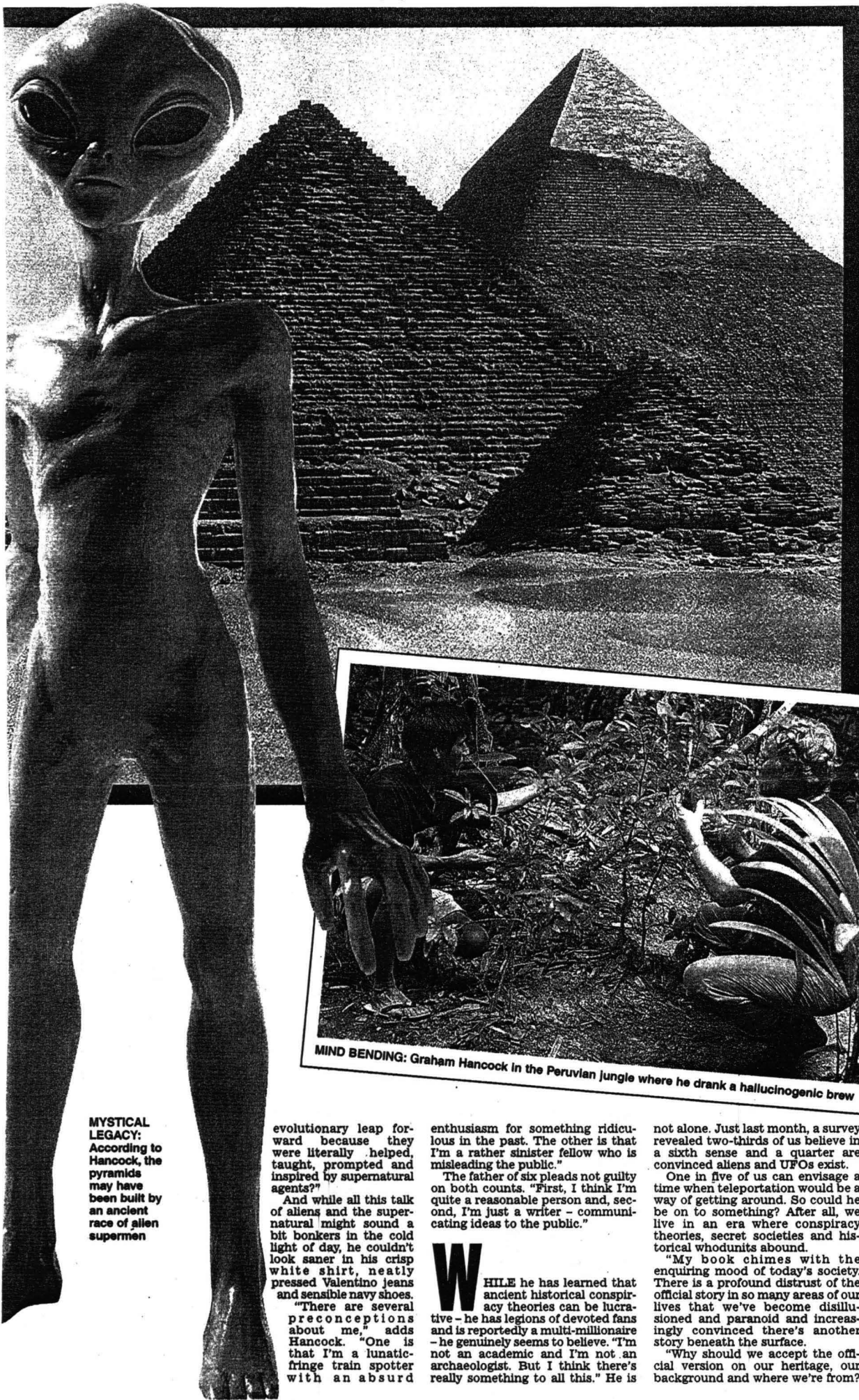
He never set out to cover such a range of largely taboo subjects. It was only after five weeks in the Peruvian Amazon, drinking the hallucinogenic plant brew ayahuasca (or Vine of the Dead) with indigenous Indians, that one thing rather led to another. "It was meant to be about cave art and our origins but somehow it just grew," he says. The

central thesis is that in 20,000BC a group of kindly supernatural beings explained the secrets of our modern culture to drug-fuelled cave-men who, in turn, recorded their visions in their cave art.

"Hallucinogenic drugs allowed our ancestors to visit supernatural realms and return from this other world with the knowledge that shaped modern man," he says.

"For hundreds of thousands of years we'd had no art, no religion, no creative or innovative thinking and possibly no language. And then, almost overnight, it was as if someone switched the light on."

In short, he argues, "did our ancestors experience their great



MYSTICAL LEGACY: According to Hancock, the pyramids may have been built by an ancient race of alien supermen

evolutionary leap forward because they were literally helped, taught, prompted and inspired by supernatural agents?"

And while all this talk of aliens and the supernatural might sound a bit bonkers in the cold light of day, he couldn't look saner in his crisp white shirt, neatly pressed Valentino jeans and sensible navy shoes.

"There are several preconceptions about me," adds Hancock. "One is that I'm a lunatic-fringe train spotter with an absurd

enthusiasm for something ridiculous in the past. The other is that I'm a rather sinister fellow who is misleading the public."

The father of six pleads not guilty on both counts. "First, I think I'm quite a reasonable person and, second, I'm just a writer - communicating ideas to the public."

WHILE he has learned that ancient historical conspiracy theories can be lucrative - he has legions of devoted fans and is reportedly a multi-millionaire - he genuinely seems to believe. "I'm not an academic and I'm not an archaeologist. But I think there's really something to all this." He is

not alone. Just last month, a survey revealed two-thirds of us believe in a sixth sense and a quarter are convinced aliens and UFOs exist.

One in five of us can envisage a time when teleportation would be a way of getting around. So could he be on to something? After all, we live in an era where conspiracy theories, secret societies and historical whodunits abound.

"My book chimes with the enquiring mood of today's society. There is a profound distrust of the official story in so many areas of our lives that we've become disillusioned and paranoid and increasingly convinced there's another story beneath the surface.

"Why should we accept the official version on our heritage, our background and where we're from?

This is going to sound a bit mad but I really do think there's a conspiracy preventing us from finding out who we really are. The key to the door of higher levels of personal enhancement is there but we're being prevented access."

But rubbishing Darwin's theory of evolution? "I know to be challenging the official story on the origins of humans is a big one but is it really such a huge leap for today's questioning society? After all, the Da Vinci Code was a historical whodunit; this book is a historical who-are-we?"

ALTHOUGH the central tenets may be a bit hard to get your head round - a drug that holds the key to the door of our higher consciousness, the existence of a parallel realm, the idea of the brain as a television receiver tuning in and out of unseen worlds and a re-examination of alien abductions - it's almost as gripping as Dan Brown's novel and even more inflammatory when it comes to religion - which Hancock insists is based on belief in a supernatural being.

Heaven and hell are spirit worlds, the founders and main figures have all had supernatural encounters - think St Paul and the blinding light on the road to Damascus or the prophet Mohammed being delivered the Koran to his cave by a supernatural postman.

"I suspect it will get people's backs up," he adds. "People react emotively to words without thinking about what they mean but Christ was so obviously and so profoundly a shaman."

Minutes later, though, he is insisting it is not a deliberately provocative book. "I don't relish the storm. I don't like being attacked and horrible things being said about me."

"It was unpleasant when BBC's Horizon made that documentary about me - but it comes with the territory. I'm not always right and there are certain things that I thought were the case in 1995 that academics have made me realise are not true any more and I've taken them on board."

"I'm not a thick-skinned rottweiler but it's important to get an alternative stream of information out there for people to examine and consider."

While his theories may be tricky to swallow, with his bold views Hancock has captured the public imagination and inspired interest in ancient history, civilisations and, with this book, doubtless our origins.

So, back to the scary supernatural beings in the "other realm" - did they take him anywhere nice?

"The aliens didn't actually abduct me but it was very frightening and if I had let it go any further, I know they would have done."

● *Supernatural: Meetings With The Ancient Teachers Of Mankind* by Graham Hancock is published by Century, price £20. To order a copy, send a cheque/PO payable to The Express Bookshop to Supernatural Offer, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ, phone 0871 434 6091 or order online at www.expressbookshop.com UK delivery is free.

UFO club may close after no encounters of any kind

Cumbria falls off the the alien-spotter's intergalactic map, reports Neil Tweedie

IT IS three o'clock in the morning and you are driving along a deserted country road towards Cockermouth.

Suddenly, a beam of brilliant white light bars the way. Your engine fails and the dog begins to whine. Four hours disappear and you awake to find a strange orange tan covering the right side of your face. Over the next few weeks, you notice men in black suits hiding in the begonias.

It's time to ring British UFO Hunters (Cumbria Branch). But hurry, because if they don't get a call soon they are going to pack it in. ET, it appears, has had enough of Cumbria. If there is a rosette system in the Alpha Centauri tourist board Guide to Earth, Cumbria obviously is not getting any.

Chris Parr, the Whitehaven-based co-ordinator for Bufoh, said yesterday that he and his helpers would have to call it a day if the decline in sightings experienced over the past few years continued for much longer.

"In Cumbria we have gone from 60 UFO sightings in 2003 to 40 in 2004 and none at all this year," he lamented.

"It means that the number of people keeping their eyes on the skies is greatly diminished. There is only a handful of us now.

"We are a dying breed in this part of the country. I put it down to the end of *The X-Files*, a lack of military exercises in the area that would produce UFO sightings and a lack of strange



Alien life - as not seen in Cockermouth

phenomena." Mr Parr has tried to keep the extraterrestrial flame alive. He owns three camcorders and whips them out whenever he hears of sightings elsewhere in the country in the hope that the flying saucer in question takes a wrong turn up the M6. But it never

does. He doesn't exactly sell his subject, though. About 90 per cent of sightings, he says, are due to nocturnal military activity.

As the RAF now possesses about four aircraft, the decrease in sightings is understandable.

The decline in British ufology was illustrated last year by the closure of the Yorkshire-based *UFO Magazine*, which regaled its readers with tales of alien abduction, alien cattle mutilation and alien implants (or iron filings as they are known on Earth).

The end of Cold War paranoia and an increase in the quality of bifocals are among the reasons cited for the fall in the number of ufologists.

But the picture is not entirely bleak. Over in Filey is the other branch of Bufoh, and business is brisk.

Russ Kellett, the chief researcher at Filey, is enjoying what ufologists call a flap. The skies above the resort are seemingly crammed full of strange craft.

"We had two triangles appear straight out of the North Sea," said Mr Kellett. "A number of bright lights has been seen."

Mr Kellett has enjoyed two close encounters himself. In the second, figures appeared out of his bedroom wall.

"We call them shadow people," he explained.

Hmmm.

INDEPENDENT, London, England - Aug. 10, 2005

Hardcore UFO-spotters give up their hunt for flying saucers

By Ian Herbert
North of England
Correspondent

The UFO sighted over the Windermere area of Cumbria was described at the time as triangular or diamond-shaped and rather like a twin-hulled catamaran. It seemed to have some respect for the British road system too, hovering for some time above the A592, one witness said, then disappearing into the night sky over nearby Morecambe shortly after midnight on 28 August 1977.

Though some began questioning the strength of the local ale, dozens of witnesses including 10 police officers were adamant they had seen the object. Their story of its charcoal colour and two giant lights remains one of Britain's legendary UFO stories.

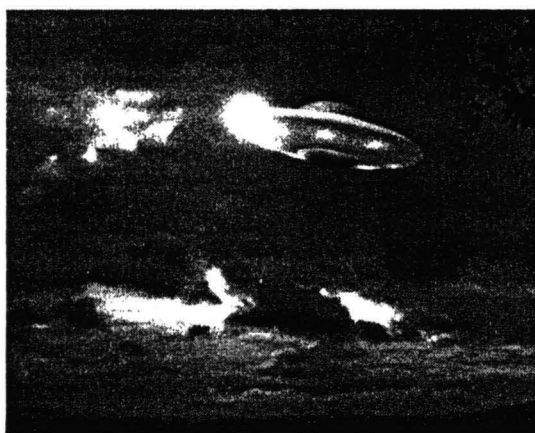
Yet if the truth is still out there over the Lake District, the means to engage with it

may soon be gone. Gloomy about the fast-diminishing number of sightings, the Cumbrian branch of the British UFO Hunters has declared itself ready to call it a day.

Sightings of UFOs have fallen from 60 in 2003 to none this year. Chris Parr, of Whitehaven, a ufologist and branch member, said the end of Mulder, Scully and *The X-Files* on television had brought the beginning of the end to UFO-spotting.

"It's also to do with a lack of military exercises in the area," Mr Parr added, expounding a theory that 90 per cent of UFOs can be explained by "secret military projects". He said he got his information from "UFO spotters hanging around outside military bases and breaking into them".

He said: "The number of people keeping their eyes on the skies is greatly diminished. There are only a handful of us now. I have three camcorders and a dig-



An artist's impression of a UFO. No sightings have been reported in Cumbria this year, compared with 60 in 2003

ital video and I start recording whenever there have been sightings in another part of the country."

A year ago, *UFO Magazine* closed down after a 25-year run, having once enjoyed sales of 35,000 copies, which made it the world's top UFO publication. Suggestions of paranormal interference in the publish-

ing decision were ruled out. It was more to do with the death of Graham Birdsall, the editor and UFO expert who, along with his brother, Mark, founded the Leeds-based publication in 1981.

Before that had come the death of former diplomat Gordon Creighton, 92, who was editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, the longest-running

UFO magazine. Andy Roberts, an author of UFO books and former magazine contributor, said: "Ufology is really a thing of the past century."

"The end of *The X-Files* series didn't help, and there has been a decline since the televised alien autopsy of the mid-1990s. Basically, it was a hobby that broke into the mainstream. Ultimately, there was only a hardcore following."

But the picture is not entirely bleak. West Kilbride, in Ayrshire, has topped the league for the number of close encounters of a strange kind with 12 recorded sightings last year, three times as many as its closest rival.

UFO enthusiasts are also excited about the Penzance Triangle, a 226sq-mile area of Cornwall between Land's End, St Ives and the Helford Estuary, where you are twice as likely to spot a UFO and three times more likely to see a ghost, than in the rest of the UK, some say.

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.]

October 31, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — On October 29, 2005, six people who were sunbathing around a pool in a private club in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, witnessed the transit of a number of luminous objects (between 10 and 12, according to witnesses) in a north to south formation and heading east-west. These objects would stop, start, break formation and resume the aforementioned formation yet again, following their trajectory. The weather in Costa Rica has been cloudy and it was precisely at noon on Friday that the skies cleared up. The sighting had a duration of 10 minutes and the airport's radar had no contact whatsoever. There have been no other witnesses to the event outside the club. — CREDIT: Edgar Picado

November 3, 2005 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: UFO REPORTS FROM NOVEMBER 1 AND 2, 2005 — November 1, 2005 — From Mexico City's Claveria district comes the report of a large flying object that was accompanied by a smaller "escort," according to the eyewitness report of Gustavo Casasola, a renowned sky watcher.

Gustavo managed to find that it was a very large sphere that remained static for over an hour after heading for the volcano area (Editor: this is the area of the Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes at the southern end of Anahuac valley).

Subsequently, a report was received from Ricardo Antonio Morales, who reported a shining spherical object from the Coyoacan district as it hung suspended in the sky, noting that its intensity diminished as an airliner went past at approximately 13:00 hours.

Slightly later, Victor Gabriel Gonzalez was able to videotape the aforementioned event from the town of Tepexpan in Mexico State, reporting that the sphere remained in the sky until 17:45 hours.

November 2, 2005

At 8:30 a.m., Ana Luisa Cid witnessed the transit of an elongated luminous object through her window. The object made back-and-forth movements which were captured on videotape for a few minutes from Mexico City's northern region.

She subsequently received a report from Salvador Guerrero, advising her that a flotilla of spheres had been recorded at 15:20 hours and noting that the contingent was flying at a high altitude toward the Iztaccihuatl volcano.

At night, young Ricardo Antonio Morales reported his sighting of a large green luminous sphere over the Mexico-Puebla Highway, witnessed by the passengers on the bus in which he rode toward the port city of Veracruz.

Prof. Cid maintained permanent cell phone contact with Morales and was able to pick up on the excitement of those present, suggesting that he take some photos, which he did. These will be provided after they have been developed, in the hopes that they meet with the necessary characteristics for timely publication. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 3, 2005 — *CIUFOS-LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: WATER TANKS MYSTERIOUSLY EMPTIED ONCE MORE — [Editor's Note: One of the most startling aspects of the 2002 cattle mutilation wave in Argentina was the disappearance of tremendous amounts of water from the large cisterns known as "tanques australianos" (literally, Australian tanks) in Argentina's cattle ranching communities. Entire swimming pools were drained empty in Santa Rosa, Argentina, around this same time. As a curious aside to this situation, psychic Sylvia Brown, a regular guest on TV's Montel Williams Show and radio's Coast to Coast with George Noory, mentioned a year ago that a similar swimming pool draining in the USA had been brought about "by UFOs". Food for thought. -- SC]

In the early morning hours of October 31, 2005, 70,000 liters of water were found to be missing from a tank habitually employed to provide livestock with water. Miguel Garrone, who leases the "La Cabana" ranch, says that the tank was filled to the maximum on Saturday evening and was found completely empty in the early morning hours of Monday. No signs of breakage or filtration were found, nor signs of moisture in its perimeter that could provide an answer to such a strange phenomenon.

The livestock rancher indicated his astonishment, stressing that this is not the first time that such an event occurred in the area.

The ranch is located some 15 km south of Parera, La Pampa, on Provincial Route No. 9.

It is worth noting that on July 2, 2005, in a ranch belonging to Adolfo Ziegenfuss, some 4 km from Quetrequen and 12 km from Parera, another 70,000 liters of water vanished in a similar fashion -- mysteriously and at night without any trace ever being detected nor the existence of a leak or filtration that would justify the missing water ever being found.

Some time ago, mutilated animals were also found in this region, an event that coincided with the draining of water tanks. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

November 9, 2005 — Follow Up: Puerto Rico's Mysterious Triangular UFO Incident by Jose A. Martinez Echevarria and Willie Durand Urbina, Project Argus – Puerto Rican Experimental Research Group, Inc. — The Puerto Rican Experimental Research Group, Inc. has continued its investigations into this case, which has resulted in a variety of contrasting opinions within the Puerto Rican UFO community and abroad. As a group committed to its research, we want to be very cautious with what we turn over to the media without having first verified the sources and the persons we have interviewed. We ascertain that the data is analyzed and evaluated in a responsible manner. Unscrupulous individuals having no connection to this investigation have taken it upon themselves to become agents of disinformation in the media. Since they have not had the [entire] case in their possession, we have delayed greatly in publishing it since it came into our hands in May 2005, in order to carry out proper field research. Certain details have emerged suggesting the [involvement of] many individuals and researchers unconnected to this case. As soon as [the PRRG Director] advised me of the case a month later (giving the reader an idea of the manner in which the case was kept under wraps), he told me not to issue any reports pending his go-ahead, and I agreed to do this until the time he told me that his telephone had been tapped by an unknown agency, something that the original witness was also experiencing.

Immediately, Mr. Durand gave me the green light to report the all available information before it was too late and the only evidence in our possession eliminated or seized.

The case number of the [unauthorized wiretap] is AS02, as received by Mr. Alturo of the Puerto Rico Telephone Company. He gave Mr. Durand a number to report this wiretap (1-888-241-0734) and the confirmation number for the complaint was 002. Five days later, Mr. Durand received a call of unknown provenance, as his Caller ID box was unable to register that the phone was blocked. The agency tapping the phone was never identified. There is a person in the media inserting words ("An Independence Day type craft") where they were not present in the original report. Thus it can be seen how disinformation arises.

The Second Interview

Eyewitness's Brother: My brother was on the "Milla de Oro" about to take the expressway to San Juan. He was driving with three other guys as passengers. Beside him [on the road] was a green Mitsubishi and behind him was a red car. All of the cars around him stopped. All of them! The cars stopped, the drivers got out of their vehicles to look [at the object]. He wanted to get closer to the object to see it better and tried to follow it, matching its speed. The object then increased speed until the car was trying to follow it at 95 MPH. The object eventually vanished at high speed.

Willie Durand: What was the object like?

Eyewitness's Brother: It was a brilliant object, very luminous and triangle-shaped.

Willie: Do you know if your brother felt some warmth on his skin?

Eyewitness's Brother: No, only noise, like the buzzing of bees..ZZZZZ ... could be heard.

Willie: The object then followed a course toward the airport?

Eyewitness's Brother: Yes, it took the "Milla de Oro" as if toward San Juan, and the airport is very close to San Juan. Wilfredo was there, who managed to see it much more closely. Especially if you're in the airport, you can see it better, as its a clear zone that allows for better visibility. [Omitted: information has been suppressed in this part of the interview]. There are more witnesses who work as security guards. They saw the object much nearer. The security guards from this other location say that the object flew over them. [Omitted: information has been suppressed in this part of the interview]

Willie: There's a magnetic field in that area [Omitted]. There's considerable geomagnetic activity at that location.

Eyewitness's Brother: Oh, really? How do you know that, Willie?

Willie: Yes, we have all of the equipment and had already made measurements in that particular area. We conducted tests and its quite large, covering all the way to the Hiram Bithorn stadium. [The area] is rich in sightings of this type.

Eyewitness's Brother: Look, right now I'm in Orocovis at a place where all of the local residents tell me that they've seen military aircraft that fly to a certain point of a river. I've been to that river, and they fly circles over the area as though looking for something. After a while they go away, then two more return and continue circling before leaving.

Willie: How's your brother doing? What are his impressions after this sighting?

Eyewitness's Brother: Well, he tells me that a friend of his who works in a carpentry shop keeps saying: "Hell, you really saw that?" But he says that "he's rather frightened by the whole thing."

Willie: Your brother hasn't brought up his experiences again?

Eyewitness's Brother: Well yes, he's spoken with some of his friends and with me, as well as some fellows my brother was with when they saw the triangular craft and has discussed the subject at length at work.

Willie: Wilfredo tells me that the object is larger than two ball-parks. What can you tell me about what your brother saw that morning?

Eyewitness's Brother: Well yes, it was very large, my brother says. A tremendous object.

Willie: You told me that there was a girl who'd also seen this triangular object. I can't recall if it was you or Wilfredo who told me.

Eyewitness's Brother: Yes, I told you. She works in Campo Rico as a manager for a food store, but she's completely adamant about not talking. She doesn't want to come out on TV or the radio. She's completely negative about discussing the subject. I'll give you her number and see if maybe you get the information or an interview out of her.

Willie: All we want is the information. We won't use her name or personal data.

Eyewitness's Brother: Besides, she saw the triangular object from Paseo de la Princesa (Ed. - a promenade in old San Juan, some 7 miles from the airport).

Willie: Thanks for the information you've given me. This sheds a bit more light on this strange situation. We're hoping that more eyewitnesses come forward. I hope to see you soon. We'll be holding a meeting and you're invited.

Noteworthy Elements Observed: Parameters for Research

1. Two days prior to the sighting, the eyewitness had a conversation with a female co-worker who confided to him that she had been abducted several times by these vehicles.
2. Analyze the encounter and how the conversation came about.
3. Two days following the conversation, the sighting occurs.
4. Research into the surroundings of this witness's case is pending.
5. 14 days later, he was hospitalized in intensive care for a strange illness.
6. His car was later stolen from his house; the vehicle's paint had radioactive evidence.
7. He purchased another car and had an accident at the same place that the sighting occurred, breaking both legs.
8. Telephone lines belonging to Willie Durand, members of the group, and eyewitnesses, are tapped.
9. Willie Durand is expecting phone calls to see how many witnesses actually saw this craft.
10. Hold in-depth conversations with airport staff.
11. Agents with the Tactical Squad of the Puerto Rican Police report to Willie Durand's home in Floral Park (San Juan, P.R.) asking to see him. He identified himself, asking what they wanted, what were the charges, etc. The agent courteously tells him that nothing is amiss, but inquires as to the ownership of the vehicle parked outside, mentioning the evening that Willie visited the place where Wilfredo's UFO sighting took place. Willie Durand writes the following: "These events have been repetitive and I am trying to tie up the loose ends. I am researcher in the best possible meaning of the word, being of sound mind and with a sense of responsibility when it comes to writing and describing the arc of these events. A map of the trajectory of this artifact through the skies of the Puerto Rican capital is being prepared. Expect it to be released soon. This interesting case remains open and there is further research to be done and more interviews to be conducted. — CREDIT: Jose Martinez and Willie Durand

November 9, 2005 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — UFOs OVER THE YUCATAN IN 2004 — [A UFO photograph was] taken in the state of Yucatan, Mexico in the year 2004 during a crafts exposition at the sheriff's office of San Pedro Chacabal, Municipality of Motul.

The witness did not physically see the UFOs. Their presence became known only upon developing the film.

This material was furnished by a young man named Santiago to Prof. Silvestre Leal Campos of the SIRIO Research Group, stating that the image was taken by an archeologist from the town of Ticul.

Researcher Leal Campos is analyzing the case and has said: "it is necessary to inform the research community that frequent sightings occur in the place where this photo was taken, not only of unknown flying objects, but also of tall, white-skinned and reddish haired humanoids."

Research Credit: Grupo SIRIO — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 11, 2005 — *CIUFOS-LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — Argentina: Cattle Mutilation in Parera — In a field located some 5 km from the community of Parera, Province of La Pampa, an Aberdeen Angus cow was found mutilated some days ago, presenting an incision that covered part of its head, upper and lower maxillary on the left side of the head, and missing some teeth and its tongue.

Livestock rancher Armando Giraudo noted that he was surveying his herd as usual and noted the absence of an animal. He would find it dead at the rear of the field, against the barbed wire fence. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

November 16, 2005 — *CIUFOS-LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE MARKS FOUND ON CATTLE — At a ranch located in the jurisdiction of Winifreda, Province of La Pampa, 25 animals — belonging to a livestock operation of 50 bovines — were found with strange marks on the upper reaches of their left scapulas.

These injuries were described as witnesses as "superficial flagellation," according to beekeeper Jose Bravo, who keeps his hives on the same premises.

The marks, consisting in a perfect "circle" measuring some 5 cm in diameter, presented in their interior a sort of "burn mark" on the hide, leaving an image reminiscent of the effects resulting from "...the application of suction cups."

It is worth noting the fact that the only means of gaining access to these premises is through a locked gate, and having inspected the site, no prints or trails that suggested the entry of motor vehicles near the affected pens were detected, neither around the animals nor the rest of the field.

Finally, it should be noted that the person in charge of the ranch, who chose to remain anonymous, also found a mutilated cow on the premises, its tongue gone missing. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

November 20, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO PRESENCE OVER NECOCHEA, ARGENTINA — [The following report was received this morning from *INEXPLICATA* contributing editor Guillermo D. Gimenez]:

At approximately 23:40 hours on Sunday, November 20, 2005, a large multicolored object was seen over the seacoast facing the city of Necochea in the extreme southeastern corner of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Numerous eyewitnesses on the coast were able to witness--after a very hot day--the maneuvers of a large circular object over the sea and heading southward. The object issued a variety of lights colored blue, red, yellow and white without making any noise whatsoever.

The object or ball of light was over the sea facing the city, finally heading south along the coast, becoming lost in the dark of night.

Workers who were on the city of Necochea's breakwater at the time, in the Puerto Quequen-Necochea area, were also witnesses to this event, as they could see the object's maneuvers from said vantage point.

"All of us were exhilarated as we worked at the tip of the breakwater - we could see the object, which emitted multicolored lights over the sea. Finally, after several minutes of observations, it lost itself heading toward Punta Negra in the darkness of the night."

It should be noted that Punta Negra is a coastal community of the City of Necochea, receiving its name by the color of its sands, a consequence of high iron concentrations.

The squad of workers, approximately 8 people, were working on the expansion of the city of Necochea's breakwater, working a 12 hour shift.

When consulted, the local Airport reported that no aerial artifacts flew over the area, much less at that time of night.

There is no doubt that many people witnessed this object, particularly all of those who were enjoying a very warm night facing the shores of Necochea. — CREDIT: Guillermo D. Gimenez

November 21, 2005 — Circulo Ufologico Riocuartense (COR) and *Cronica*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — UFO OVER SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO — A strange luminous object engaging in sudden movements in the sky was seen by eight police officers patrolling the locality of Malbran in Santiago del Estero, department of Aguirre, as was reported today.

The phenomenon lasted for half an hour and was further witnessed by other residents of that community.

Police officers from the locality were later able to ascertain that the phenomenon was seen by residents of the outlying towns, although no one has been able to explain the object's origin.

According to today's edition of the *El Liberal* newspaper, the incident took place last Saturday evening. It all began when officer Ariel Roldan and seven other men under his command rode together in a vehicle belonging to the Provincial Police. One of the officers traveling in the vehicle's payload alerted the others to the presence of a "large luminous object" in the sky. The intense white light moved "from one side of the vehicle to another," causing the law enforcement agents to pull over and get out of the vehicle to find out what was going on. They immediately lit flares and tried to approach, setting out along a local road, as was reported. However, the light made a sudden movement shortly afterward and left the area.

According to the description subsequently offered by the police officers, the object had "a very powerful light" and flew at an estimated altitude of 4000 meters. After this strange experience, the officers were able to attest that they were not the only ones who had experienced it. Aside from verifying that a number of motorists driving through the area had seen the object, they learned that it had also been observed in several neighboring towns, as the chief of the Pinto station phoned them to ask if they had seen the unusual phenomenon. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

November 26, 2005 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — MEXICO: ORBS PHOTOGRAPHED OVER THE TORRE LATINOAMERICANA — On the evening of November 21, I was driving along Ave. Juarez in Mexico

City and I decided to take some photographs of the Torre Latinoamericana.

From the moment in which I took the first photo, I noticed that two lights were descending at a considerable rate of speed and decided to activate the camera several times. I employed a Samsung U-CA505, 5 megapixel camera, ASA 400.

When the pictures were taken, I advised my husband and son of the event, as they were with me at the time. They did not manage to see this phenomenon unaided and the phenomenon was only visible through the viewfinder of my camera.

Everything happened on only one minute, from 21:15 to 21:16 hours. It should be noted that there was neither rain nor drizzle in downtown Mexico City at the time. The prevailing temperature was 54 degrees Centigrade with winds from the north at 22 km/h, according to a report from the National Meteorological Service.

Prof. Ana Luisa Cid

Sources: Servicio Meteorológico Nacional, Comisión Federal de Electricidad

CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 25, 2005 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — INTENSE UFO ACTIVITY OVER MEXICO — By Prof. Ana Luisa Cid — On Friday, November 25 of this year, I received multiple reports of probable UFO fleets that were seen at various points over the Mexican capital and the State of Mexico.

This information has been gleaned from airport personnel, fellow researchers and the public at large. All witnesses agree that waves of brilliant spheres flying over various locations were involved. Report from Enrique Vallarino, director of Vision Ovni: The Captain Pilot Aviator of the Aeromexico flight headed to Guadalajara from Mexico City reported 5 unidentified spherical objects seen at 12,000 meters over the San Mateo Naucalpan area at 2:00 in the afternoon. According to this witness, this visual encounter was also detected by the aircraft's radar.

Mr. Jesus Ortega reported having seen a group of unidentified spheres flying over La Villa and in his own words, these appeared to "play" with each other because they were engaged in very strange maneuvers in the sky. Edgar Valdivia and Luis Armando Mercado reported a fleet of spherical UFOs over the Colonia Roma Sur district, precisely at Viaducto and Toluca streets.

Other reports issue from the Torre Mayor district on Reforma, from Calle Morena in Narvarte and from the National Medical Center, where witnesses claim having seen over 50 spheres in the sky.

Report from Beatriz Cid Fernandez, eyewitness: "On Friday, November 25, 2005, I visited the Basilica of [Our Lady of] Guadalupe in the company of my husband and daughter. When we went out to the esplanade to feed the pigeons, we realized that there were many spheres in the sky engaging in maneuvers."

"First, they were arrayed in a single line and then arranged themselves to form a cane-shape, and remained thus for some minutes, on the same site, perfectly static. That's when I phoned my sister Ana Luisa to tell her about what was going on. The time was approximately 3:00 pm."

"I am certain that they were not balloons because they moved on their own and created formations. Nor were they birds, since their shape was completely spherical and very shiny. They also vanished suddenly before the eyes of over 200 people who were there at the site."

"This sighting reminds me greatly of the one I had in 1999 when Pope John Paul II visited Mexico, although at that time I saw them at a lower altitude."

Report from Damian Minaya, director of the GIFOE group: Mr. Carlos Valencia reports the sighting of a flotilla of approximately 100 silver spherical objects that flew over the "Mundo E" shopping center in the State of Mexico at 14:30 hours. The spheres were headed east.

Report from Salvador Guerrero, researcher: "At approximately 3:00 p.m. last Friday, I saw a group of spheres heading swiftly toward the Volcano Area. I was at my work station in the Colonia Morelos district and didn't have my camcorder handy, but I'm certain that it was a UFO fleet."

"It is my belief that Mexico is experiencing an intense UFO wave and we must be alert to these developments."

Report from Alfonso Salazar: Article from *Diario La Prensa* by Pablo Chavez, 26 November 2005: "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) have been seen once more over Mexico City. These events were reported by an air traffic controller at the Mexico City International Airport (MCIA), who asked to remain anonymous for obvious reasons."

"The first report took place at 11:30 hours last Wednesday, when personnel from Centro Mexico observed a large, seemingly metallic spherical object some 4.5 miles from MCIA."

"The second sighting occurred yesterday, between 14:00 and 16:00 hours, when a fleet of several objects was detected at high altitude [approximately 12,000 meters], according to Alfonso Salazar, an aviation technician."

"Moreover, he said reports were received from various parts of the capital concerning the presence of these objects, from the Viaducto in the vicinity of Puente Morena, from Paseo de la Reforma by Torre Mayor, and even from the atrium of the Basilica of Guadalupe."

"It was unofficially known that the 14:00 flight from the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco to Mexico City reported seeing five objects as it approached the nation's capital."

Sources: Vision Ovni - Grupo GIFOE - Alfonso Salazar - *Diario La Prensa* - Beatriz Cid Fernandez - Maussan Producciones S.A. de C.V. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 28, 2005 — *DERF News Agency*, Argentina — A UFO OVER CATAMARCA? — (DERF-EI) - A cell phone camera captured an object in the skies over Cuesta del Totoral, province of Catamarca.

Fidel Ruben Martinez was traveling in his car when he noticed a glow. He looked skyward and took out his cell phone camera to record an unusual object.

"When I expanded the object with the zoom I managed to see the outline of what we all know as a flying saucer," he told the *El Ancaesti* newspaper from Catamarca.

The images were sent to the Tucuman Observatory. Experts issued a statement reporting that "what can be seen in the image corresponds to what the camera picked up, at the level of luminous information."

Specialists explained that "we must practically dismiss the possibility than an opaque solid body interposed itself between the Sun and the camera lens, as the luminous pattern seen in the photo is 100% compatible with reflective phenomena of light rays on the outer curvature of the camera lens."

"The dark spot, the light solar halo and the reflection line agree exactly with the center of the image. This concentricity is a characteristic trait of optical effects," they added. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

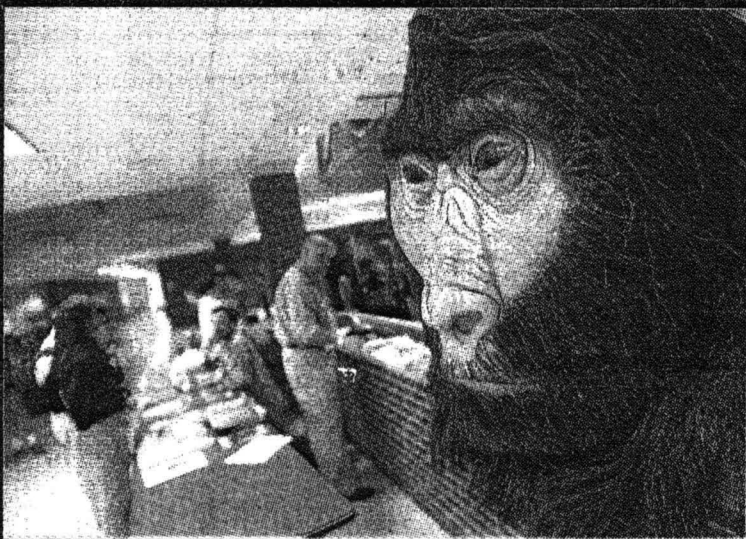


SUPERNATURAL



STAR-TELEGRAM/TOM PENNINGTON

Texas Bigfoot Research Center field researcher Charles DeVore has investigated many Bigfoot sightings in East Texas.



STAR-TELEGRAM/TOM PENNINGTON

A replica of Bigfoot towers over the Fifth Annual Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson on Oct. 15.

Whether he's legend or a legit beast,
Big Foot's deep woods mystery
is alive and well in East Texas

By **DAVID CASSTEVEN**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

JEFFERSON — It's dark deep in the Piney Woods.

In the stillness, on a moonless night, the silence is suddenly shattered by the dry snap of twigs under the weight of footfalls. Ponderous steps. Two feet. Big ones.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
Listen to the sounds of Bigfoot
at www.star-telegram.com.

A heartbeat — your own — is thudding now, pounding like a tribal drum calling Kong to the gates.

To most of us, it's folklore, tall tales best told beneath the stars, amid the flickering glow and swirling firefly embers of a crackling campfire.

Last year, one supermarket tabloid proclaimed "Bigfoot Baby Found."

What distinguished the account from other Bigfoot hoaxes was the claim that the infant creature had been left, of all places, outside Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch.

But some reasonable people remain believers. Even though tabloid fiction makes them vulnerable to teasing and ridicule, they insist something is Out There.

(continued on page 18)

Sasquatch watch

What they have seen and reported, they say, isn't some Halloween prankster wearing a gorilla suit but a giant unclassified primate, curious and watchful, that walks upright and roams the woodlands and creek bottoms, mostly at night. Viewed for only a second or two, and rarely photographed, Bigfoot is as reclusive as Greta Garbo.

Sasquatch, or Skunk Ape, is mostly associated with the Pacific Northwest. However, the creature has been spotted in every state except Hawaii.

Most sightings in Texas occur in the backwoods of East Texas, where folks like the Carlsons live, alone, happily secluded behind "Private Property" and "Keep Out" signs.

Dressed in denim overalls, J.C. Carlson is a mountainous man, almost 7 feet tall, with a mustache and bushy white beard.

His work boots aren't as large as Bigfoot's print, but almost.

J.C., like others, has heard the raspy nocturnal howls. Carlson and his wife are certain that foxes or bobcats didn't steal the 28 chickens from their homestead on Big Cypress Bayou over three nights this summer. They found no carcasses. No trace of blood.

Taking a break from chopping timber, J.C. lit a smoke and leaned against the bed of his red pickup.

"There's somethin' out here besides us," he declared.

Katherine Carlson returned home late one night this spring, headlights splashing across the rutted one-lane dirt road that meanders through thick pine-scented woods. She stopped to open the crossing gate. Usually, her dogs jump out and play. Not this night. Sassy and Wally remained inside the cab.

In the darkness, Carlson encountered an overpowering foul odor.

"It's wasn't a skunk." She knows the smells of the woods.

"Rancid," J.C. said of the stench. "It's like gettin' behind a gut wagon, in the summer."

"Worse," his wife said.

Katherine didn't glimpse a Bigfoot, but in the eerie moonlight she sensed a lurking "presence" that left her speechless.

She figures, why not tell her story? "People already think I'm crazy," she says.

The couple live near the dark waters and moss-draped cypresses of Caddo Lake, where the "B" movie *The Creature From Black Lake* (1976) was filmed. This summer, an alligator living in a slough near the Carlsons' place disappeared. J.C. observed that his cows and goats stopped grazing in the woods at night. They remained huddled near the house, beneath the glow of a mercury vapor light.

"Critters will tell you when somethin' isn't right," J.C. said.

His wife did the only thing she knew to do.

She telephoned Charlie DeVore.

Sightings and skeptics

The Texas Bigfoot Research Center implies a campus, or structure.

There isn't one, at least not yet.

TBRC is a network of about 40 people from all walks of life who are dedicated to finding Sasquatch living in the Lone Star State. The



Deer play near where field researcher Charles DeVore has investigated several Bigfoot sightings on Big Cypress Bayou.

group was founded six years ago by Craig Woolheater, the 45-year-old office manager of his family's plumbing company in Dallas. He claims he saw a grayish-haired Bigfoot walking along a deserted highway in Louisiana one night in 1994.

The group has a Web site (www.texasbigfoot.com) and telephone number (877) 529-5550 that greets callers with a recording:

"If you have a sighting to report, please leave a message with your name, number and the best time to return your call."

About 150 Bigfoot sightings are reported each year.

"That doesn't count the jokes, like people who say, 'I got raped by Bigfoot,' or those who are way out there, and think it's an extraterrestrial," Woolheater said.

"There are so many credible people who say they have seen the thing. They have absolutely nothing to gain by making up a story. If even one person is telling the truth, there's something out there."

Several times a year, TBRC investigators venture into the forests and conduct field studies, hoping to validate recent sightings. Dressed in commando camouflage, they carry night-vision cameras, listening devices and thermal imaging units. Deer hunters use deer fragrance, and bottled deer urine and deer calls (one is the K'Mere Deer, Model KM 100) to lure the animals. Bigfoot researchers put out pheromone chips designed to entice the great ape.

Late at night, they activate a call blaster, which emits loud recordings of Bigfoot "vocalizations."

Charlie DeVore joined the group after a mysterious incident five years ago when, in Charlie's words, he "had the stink put on me."

Armed with a coon-hunting light, the 65-year-old retiree was walking through the woods near his home late one night, accompanied by five dogs. He felt safe — unthreatened — until the smell engulfed him.

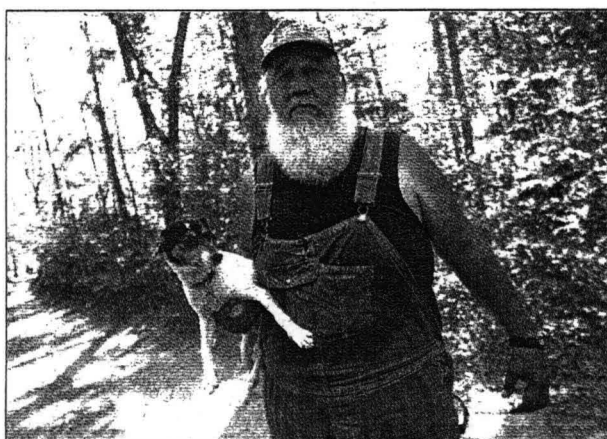
DeVore looked down. His four-legged companions had fled.

"These are dogs that'll attack anything," Charlie said.

costume.

About 500 serious-minded people attended the fifth annual event this month, a two-day seminar that featured lectures by a who's-who of the Bigfoot world. Speakers included field researchers, cryptozoologists (the study of "hidden" animals), a forest archaeologist, a latent fingerprint examiner and an associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, Jeff Meldrum, who delivered an hour-long evaluation of alleged Sasquatch footprints and their inferred functional morphology.

Chris Murphy, author of *Meet the Sasquatch*, analyzed the most fa-



J.C. Carlson blames Bigfoot for the disappearance of several chickens from his property on Big Cypress Bayou, near Jefferson.

Two years later, he attended a meeting of Bigfoot enthusiasts in Jefferson and met several people who described similar incidents.

DeVore now feels certain the smell was that of some yet undocumented species of bipedal hominoid afflicted with a body odor problem no brand of drugstore roll-on or spray deodorant can eliminate.

After Katherine Coleman telephoned DeVore, her neighbor, Charlie and three fellow researchers camped for two nights near the site of the "smelling." They turned on the call blaster. Bigfoot didn't appear, but they heard its cry, and detected movement in the woods.

"You can hear it walk," DeVore said. Charlie tried to re-create the experience, with sound effects.

"Crunch... (pause)... Crunch... It's not a deer. It's not a dog. Or a hog. It's a two-footed somethin'."

Bigfootologists estimate that at least 2,000 Bigfoot live in the United States.

That's six times the population of Bigfoot, Texas, named after William A. "Bigfoot" Wallace, the 19th-century frontiersman and legendary Texas character. Bigfoot, it was said, never told a story he couldn't later

improve upon.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department requires more than anecdotal evidence before the state agency will take Sasquatch seriously.

"To conclusively prove... Bigfoot in Texas, we would need an image that included details to show us that it was not a doctored or edited image in any way, or we would want a body itself," said Duane Schlitter, who oversees the TPWD's Nongame and Rare and Endangered Species program.

"The latter would be the extreme, but many doubters will be hard to convince. As a romantic scientist, I would like to be around when and if one is ever found anywhere."

No Bigfoot remains — bones or bodies — have been discovered.

Hunters have never shot and killed one.

Bigfoot, fortunately, hasn't wandered onto a road and been struck by a car, like the Sasquatch character Harry in the movie *Harry and the Hendersons*.

Another group, North Texas Skeptics, is, well, skeptical.

"Bigfoot is a great story, and a

wonderful bit of folklore. Nothing more," said John Blanton, a Skeptics member. "It's a biological absurdity. Real creatures, unlike the fictional Bigfoot, do not exist alone. They have parents. Their parents have parents and so on. At the very minimum, there has to be a tribe... Where is the Bigfoot tribe?"

How could supposedly thousands of these critters have eluded captivity and remained hidden from human observation for a century or more?

Doubters say the cultural phenomenon is kept alive by misidentification of known animals, wishful thinking and fabrication of evidence.

DeVore is undaunted, committed. He patrols Big Cypress Bayou alone, paddling his canoe through the shallow, murky waterways. One day, he hopes to get lucky and snap a clear photo of the enigmatic creature.

"I'm not trying to prove anything to the world," he said. "I'm proving it to myself."

Charlie's curiosity far outweighs any fears.

"If it wanted to hurt me," he said, "I'd been dead a long time ago."

Waiting for proof

The Texas Bigfoot Conference is not like a *Star Trek* convention. Groupies don't show up dressed in

exhibit tables.

Bigfoot plaster footprint castings. Bigfoot CDs. Bigfoot books, with titles like *Out of the Shadows* and *In Search of Giants*. Bigfoot T-shirts.

Meanwhile, deep in the woods, the Carlsons wonder and wait.

"One night we'll find somethin' standing in the road lookin' at us," J.C. Carlson predicted.

His wife said she hopes so.

"I'll say something next time."

Such as...

"I'll ask who he is, and if I can help him," she said. "I know what it's like to be different in this world."

David Casstevens (817) 390-7436
dcasstevens@star-telegram.com

Bigfoot researchers weed through hoaxes

Annual conference set this weekend in Jeannette

BY MICHAEL MACHOSKY
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

If there's something strange in your (remote, forested) neighborhood — who you gonna call? "I get maybe three or four reports a week," says Eric Altman, 35, of Jeannette, director of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society. "Some are current, some are older, from the '70s, '80, '90s. People are finally finding the Web site on the Internet. People say, 'You're the first person I've ever been able to contact about it.'"

Since 1998, the Bigfoot Society has stalked the state's game-lands and wooded wilderness, checking the tracks and trails for telltale signs of Bigfoot. According to Altman, they're getting closer every year.

Bigfoot researchers from across the country will converge in Jeannette this weekend for the annual East Coast Bigfoot Conference. They feel they're a misunderstood lot, but that comes with the territory. This crew is nothing if not persistent.

"It's been 'The Year of the Hoax,'" says Altman. "One came out of a wildlife magazine in Indiana — two state police officers chased down a group of young men that were dressing in a Bigfoot costume, and running across the road in front of cars."

"It's become pretty easy to weed out the bad stuff," he says. "Bigfoot was walking across the street with TP (toilet paper) stuck to his foot." "I heard strange noises coming from our outhouse last night — strange grunts and groans." "Bigfoot was seen carrying off my daughter." Et cetera.

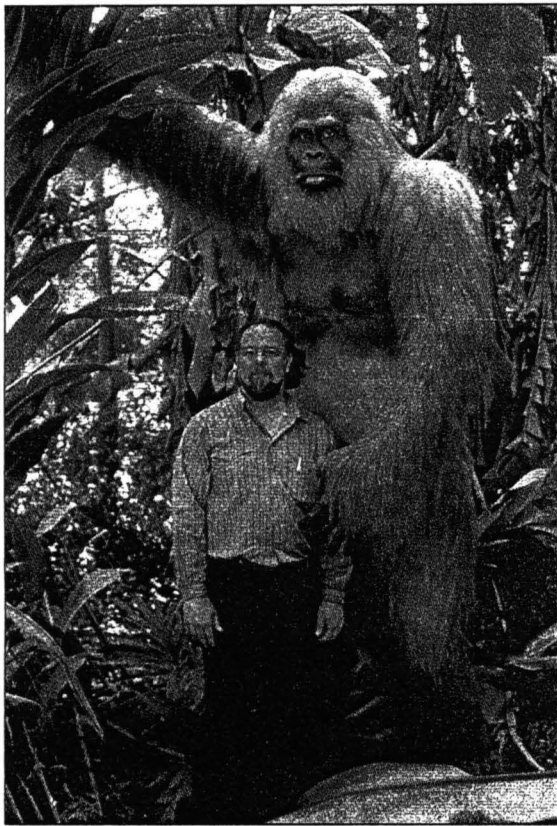
Conventional wisdom still comes down on the debunkers' side, of course. University of Florida anthropologist David Daegling speculates that the Bigfoot myth persists because it represents where we came from — our wild, untamed natural state.

"I think Bigfoot depicts the wild and uncultured side of who we are, a side that we are both attracted to and repulsed by," Daegling says.

But peel away the silliness, and there are some compelling arguments to keep looking, Altman argues. There's too much that can't be explained away.

On a tip from a hunter in Bradford in 2001, Altman pursued a report that convinced them that *something* was out there.

"While we were up there, an unknown animal circled us through the woods, staying out of our line of sight," he recalls. "It let out very unusual sounds — grunting, mumbling — it sounded like it was trying to talk with a mouthful of cotton. It



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Primate reconstructor Bill Munns helped to create a model of *Gigantopithecus blacki* at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. *G. blacki* was an upright primate that lived in Asia but now is extinct. Some believers speculate that the modern Bigfoot is related to *G. blacki*.

'2005 Annual East Coast Bigfoot Conference'

Where: Pitzer's Townhouse Restaurant, Jeannette
When: Noon to 6 p.m. Saturday
Admission: \$5
Details: 888-718-9818

growled, screamed a couple of times — which is very uncommon for a bear.

"We got to a point where, 'OK, we don't know what this is, but it's getting a little creepy. It's time we got back to the truck where it's safe.' It eventually did stop following us. It went on for 45 minutes — you could hear heavy footfalls, and they were bipedal footfalls. In other words, an animal on two legs, not a bear or deer."

One of the dominant theories among Bigfoot researchers is that he's an undiscovered primate, related to *Gigantopithecus blacki*, an upright primate that existed thousands of years ago in northeast Asia.

"We have proof that this ani-

mal existed," Altman says of *blacki*. "I think Bigfoot is a descendent that evolved over time."

The Internet has helped the Bigfoot Society expand from three people in 1998 to more than a hundred a year later. It's still growing, and the conference is a chance to check their progress.

"With our conference every year, we try to educate the public," Altman says. "There is something going on out there that needs further study, and further evaluation. For those who are seeing these things, it's OK to come forward and report them. We aren't going to ridicule them."

Skeptics still abound, even in Altman's own family. So there's plenty of work to do.

"My wife supports me and what I do. She's the secretary of the group. She goes on the outings with me — we go on camping trips. But she's on the fence as far as whether it exists. My family — they all know I'm not crazy," says Altman, laughing. "At least, the doctors haven't proven it yet."

Mike Machosky can be reached at mmachosky@tribweb.com or 412-320-7901.

Bigfoot reports

Some people who believe they may have seen "the creature" turn in reports to the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, which in turn investigates possible sightings. Examples of some of the reports:

■ March 2004, Freeport: A man driving on a back road reported that he saw a tall, hair-covered figure standing on the left side of the road. As he got closer, it crossed the road in three steps, stepped over a 3-foot-high guardrail, and disappeared down an embankment. He claims he found a four-toed footprint on the berm of the road.

■ August 2003, Monroeville: A man was driving on a back access road when he came across what he first thought was a man wearing a fur coat. Upon driving closer, he discovered it was a creature sitting on a pile of rocks.

■ Nov. 28, 2003, Forbes State Forest: Two men hunting from tree stands report that they saw a large, upright, hair-covered creature walking out of the bush. One man shot the creature in the shoulder; it ran and screamed in pain.

Source: www.pabigfootsociety.com



D.J. PETERS - ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Novelist Eric Penz of Seattle signs one of his books for a buyer Saturday at the Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson, Texas.

They're on the heels of Bigfoot

Nearly 400 attend conference; some tell of latest reported sightings

BY ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press

JEFFERSON, Texas — Next to a lifelike replica of a giant ape head, the believers wandered Saturday amid tables covered with casts of large footprints, books about nature's mysteries and T-shirts proclaiming "Bigfoot: Often Imitated, Never Invalidated."

While they can have a sense of humor about it, the search for the legendary Sasquatch is no joke for many of the nearly 400 people who came to discuss the latest sightings and tracking techniques at the Texas Bigfoot Conference.

"It's not a matter of believing, like faith, when you believe in something you can't see," said Daryl Colyer, a Lorena businessman

who has investigated hundreds of reported Bigfoot sightings in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

"It's a flesh-and-blood animal that just has not been discovered yet. And I think we're getting closer and closer and closer."

Theories about the origin of Bigfoot abound, including that it might be an extraterrestrial. Many people believe that a towering, ape-like creature descended from a prehistoric 9- to 10-foot-tall gorilla called a *Gigantopithecus*, and that it now inhabits North American forests.

Hoaxes have been a large part of the making of the Bigfoot legend. California construction company owner Ray Wallace donned 16-inch wooden feet to create tracks in mud in 1958, and it led to a front-page story in a local paper that coined the term "Bigfoot."

But there have been more than 2,550 seemingly credible Bigfoot sightings reported in North America in the past century, according to Christopher Murphy's 2004 book "Meet the Sasquatch."

Murphy believes thousands more witnesses are too afraid of ridicule to come forward.

"You see one of these things and it changes your whole perception of reality," said Craig Woolheater, the office manager of a Dallas company who co-founded the Texas Bigfoot Research Center in 1999, five years after he said he saw a hairy creature walking along a remote Louisiana road.

Colyer and others estimate that about 2,000 are in North America today, reclusive nocturnal animals living in thickly wooded areas with waterways, eating meat and plants and making nests out of trees and brush.

Pictures and film footage are often disputed, such as the 1967 footage of a creature walking near a California creek. Most evidence centers on hundreds of casts of footprints collected since the 1950s.

On The Web

Texas Bigfoot Research Center:
www.texasbigfoot.com

Bigfoot's Hiding Out in Oklahoma

Get ready for the fur to fly as Oklahoma Today presents "Who Believes in Bigfoot?" In the September/October 2005 issue of Oklahoma Today, writer and Oklahoma native Chad Love explores the mystery of Bigfoot and its roots in southern Oklahoma towns from Sulfur to Octavia. The article covers the Bigfoot phenomenon, from serious Bigfoot hunters collecting scientific proof to the first annual Honobia Bigfoot Festival, an area-wide party thrown in honor of the mythic 10-foot tall local. Love interviews everyone from locals to scientists, park rangers to cattle wranglers, resulting in a purely Oklahoman take on a worldwide legend.

"These things are everywhere," says Charles Hallmark, a Sulphur resident and Bigfoot enthusiast. "They're extremely intelligent and extremely wary, but they don't mind being close to humans."

According to wildlife ge-

netist David Coltman in a July 2005 Yahoo News report, "It's highly unlikely that the Sasquatch exists, however, it's not really scientific to disbelieve anything either. You must always maintain an objective mind."

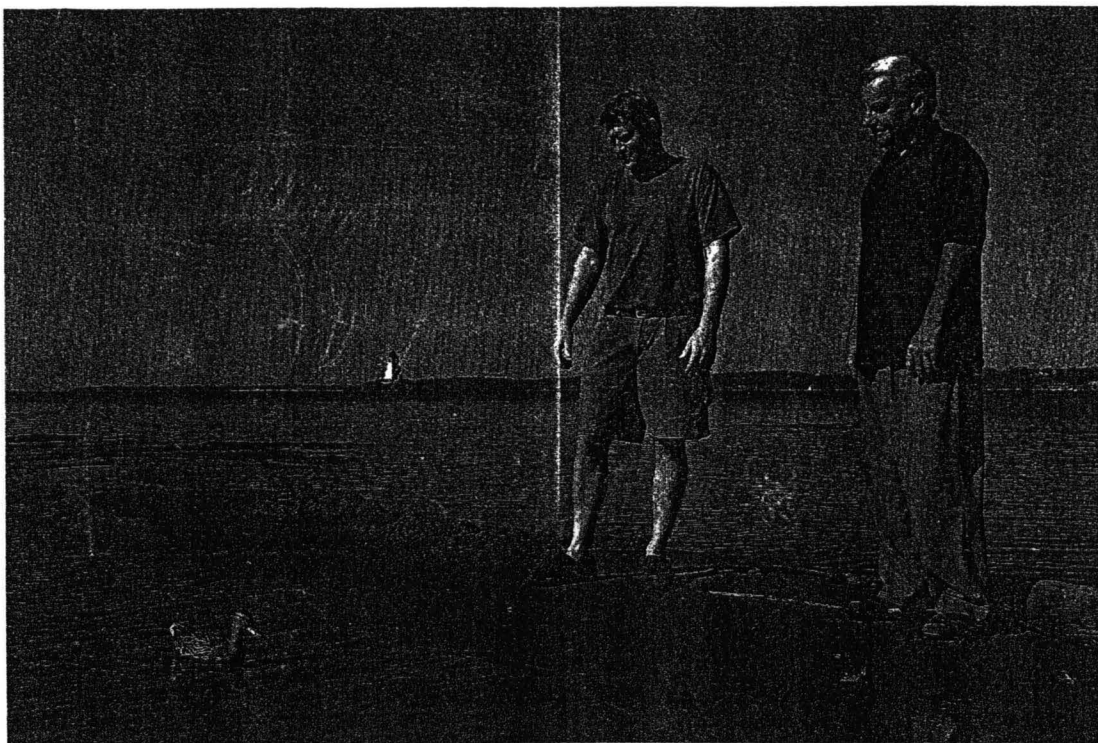
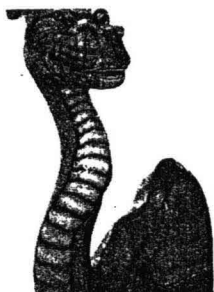
Oklahoma Today Editor-in-Chief Louisa McCune agrees. "There's something going on in southern Oklahoma, and it may well be Bigfoot. Or, at least, it's the possibility of Bigfoot that's got the area really hopping."

Join Chad Love and the rest of the Oklahoma Today staff as we discover the big noises, big smells, big footprints, and big-hearted people of southern Oklahoma.

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PETER APPLEBOME/Our Towns

A Serpent, or at Least Its Tale, Resurfaces in Lake Champlain



Paul O. Boisvert for The New York Times

Pete Bodette, left, and his stepfather, Dick Affolter, on Lake Champlain, in Burlington, Vt. In July, the two videotaped what they say was a mysterious creature swimming just below the water's surface that could fit the description of the legendary Champ.

fisheries biologist, offered a reward of \$50,000 for "hide of the great Champlain serpent to add to my mammoth World's Fair Show."

Enter Mr. Affolter, 64, a retired defense attorney and a graduate of Cornell University Law School, and Mr. Bodette, 35, his stepson and a sales manager for a fuel company, who has spent most of his life near the lake.

As the two tell it, they were fishing for salmon near the mouth of the Ausable River, about a third of the way down the lake, when they noticed something that looked like a log floating about 100 feet from their boat. Intrigued, they trolled toward it until, to their amazement, it submerged like a submarine only to resurface about a half-hour later, and they were able to watch it for another 45 minutes.

Neither can tell you for sure what they

saw other than that it was enormous, very clearly alive and unlike anything they had ever seen, at least 15 feet long, elongated like a snake or serpent. They say it had a head shaped like a sledgehammer, produced a high bifurcated wake, lacked the familiar dorsal fins of a fish and apparently did not need to come up for air like a dolphin or whale. They reject suggestions it was something familiar — mating snakes, a giant sturgeon, large otters.

"I'm not some guy who came fishing for a weekend and thought he saw something funny," said Mr. Bodette. "I've fished all over the world. I've been on this lake since I was a little kid. And I believe we saw something there that not many people have seen."

"I have no idea what it is. But I'm pretty certain what I saw isn't anything you'll find in any fish and wildlife books."

Unfortunately, the video, viewed at the office of Scott Shagin, an intellectual-property lawyer in Paramus, N.J., shows nothing more than a long dark shape impossible to categorize that floats at a distance and at one point seems to go under their boat. The men can be heard talking excitedly, describing it as being like a serpent. But no head emerges from the water, and in the end it's impossible to be sure what was seen.

Mr. Shagin took the video to Melanie L. J. Stiassny, curator of fishes at the American Museum of Natural History, and some of her colleagues there. They were seriously underwhelmed.

"The evidence I was presented was singularly unconvincing," she said. "We didn't see anything that led any of us to feel anything other than bemused as to what led these guys to think this was anything so special. It

certainly wasn't any large vertebrate. We're sure of that."

A study in 2003 in the magazine *Skeptical Inquirer*, which tends to debunk claims of the paranormal, concluded that the tales over the years have been so contradictory as to be meaningless, and that there is no serious evidence any such creature exists: "One cannot draw a conclusion from a lack of knowledge, and so, until an actual specimen presents itself, the possibility that any large unknown animal inhabits Lake Champlain remains somewhere between extraordinarily slim and none."

But some local scientists, including Ellen Marsden, a fisheries biologist at the University of Vermont, say the sightings are so numerous that it's certainly possible there's something intriguing and unexplained in the lake, if not necessarily a 10,000-year-old dinosaur.

And besides the multitude of sightings, believers tend to point to two bulwarks of the modern Champ canon.

FIRST is a 1977 photograph, taken with a Kodak Instamatic camera by a woman named Sandra Mansi, of a large serpentine neck emerging from the water of what she said was Lake Champlain. She does not have the negative and waited several years to make the picture public, so its authenticity is easy to question and impossible to prove. But her lawyer said that Ms. Mansi "could no more have constructed such a hoax than put a satellite in orbit."

Second is a 2003 study by Fauna Communications Research Institute, a nonprofit institute that studies animal communication. It conducted audio research in the lake and found evidence of echolocation, a high-frequency signal that allows animals to detect sounds and identify objects underwater — a highly sophisticated response it said was associated only with dolphins and whales, neither of which live in the lake.

"What we can say is that there is a creature in the lake that produces bio-sonar, and we have no idea what it is," the institute's report concluded. On the other hand, a recent lake study by researchers at Middlebury College, in Vermont, found nothing similar.

As it is, the only thing people do agree on is that almost everyone wants to believe there is something unknown, magical out in the lake. Mr. Affolter, for his part, says he doesn't know what he saw in Lake Champlain, and part of him hopes no one else does either. "Everything gets demystified," he said. "We're all so jaded. Maybe this is better as a mystery that's never solved."

Poison ruled out in 7 animals' deaths

POST, Denver, CO - Oct. 26, 2005 CR: P. Noonan

Officials are looking at weather-related causes after 6 horses and a burro died in El Paso County.

By Amy Brouillette
Denver Post Staff Writer

Preliminary test results released Tuesday ruled out poison or dangerous food sources in connection with deaths two weeks ago of seven animals in rural El Paso County, leading investigators to speculate about weather-related causes.

"Basically, this is a process of elimination," said Dr. Jim Kennedy, a veterinarian at Colo-

rado State University in Fort Collins.

A team of veterinarians from across the state continues to investigate the deaths of 22 horses and a burro in two separate incidents near Calhan.

In the first case, six horses and a burro were found dead Oct. 11 with mysterious puncture holes. Another 16 horses were found dead Saturday.

The State Veterinarian's Office is coordinating the efforts of doctors from CSU, a state facility in Rocky Ford and El Paso County.

While no formal ruling has been made, Dr. Keith Roehr, an assistant state veterinarian,

said the general consensus is that the causes of death in both cases are weather-related, the first incident perhaps due to a "flash blizzard."

Dr. John Heikilla, who responded to Saturday's case, initially speculated the animals were killed by lightning.

El Paso officials issued a statement Tuesday reiterating Heikilla's view that lightning is the most likely cause of death.

The horses were found near a barbed-wire fence, which could have attracted the lightning, officials said. Residents reported lightning in the area Oct. 19, which is when it is estimated the horses died.

Investigators said they didn't see any signs of trauma.

"Animals do not always exhibit outward signs of electrocution," said Dr. Charles D. Vail of Littleton Large Animal Clinic, who is not involved in the investigation. He said a postmortem examination of the brain and other organs could determine whether an animal had been electrocuted.

The lightning theory has riled some area ranchers. "They are grasping at straws," said William DeWitt, 72, the rancher who owned the dead horses discovered Saturday. "I did the same thing when I heard that the first time. I

laughed out loud."

DeWitt said the animals were spread over too wide an area, around 150 yards, to be killed by the same lightning bolt.

"You normally would find burn marks on the ground or the animal's hair singed," he said.

El Paso County investigators said the cases remain open until final test results are available.

Staff writer Amy Brouillette can be reached at 303-850-1201 or abrouillette@denverpost.com

TimesSelect: An interview with Pete Bodette and additional photos at nytimes.com/applebome.