

# UFO

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# UFO

## SEEING IS BELIEVING?

By JOANNE KIMBERLIN, The Virginian-Pilot

Nearly two centuries after a local man became the first American to report a close encounter in this country, we remain fascinated by mysterious objects we see in the sky.

UFOs – those tinfoil villains of vintage, late-night B movies – are alive and well in the high-tech age of in-the-know. Each year, the National UFO Reporting Center fields thousands of calls and e-mails from across the nation, including the commonwealth.

Since online posting began eight years ago, Virginians have reported 506 UFO sightings – 95 in Hampton Roads.

Locals filed 12 reports in 2005 alone. They told of strange triangles hovering over Suffolk; formations over Virginia Beach that switched directions on a dime; massive, glowing shapes that silently

skimmed Peninsula treetops. Hoaxes? A question of sanity? Perhaps sobriety?

Famous, credible people claim to have seen UFOs: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Henry Ford III, a number of astronauts, John Lennon, even Christopher Columbus.

### ONLINE

Chat with a national UFO expert, share your own experiences and watch video of a local sighting at [pilotonline.com](http://pilotonline.com).

Virginia's special place in ufology – as it's called – has grown from that first Colonial encounter. After the much-rumored Roswell, N.M., crash

of 1947, one military officer said that alien evidence was secretly shipped to Langley Air Force Base, with the base ultimately fingered in a book about the subject.

During that same era, as a UFO craze swept the nation, Virginians reported so many

sightings that government investigators publicly wondered what was up with the normally quite-sensible Old Dominion. Anxiety was so high in some areas that folks were toting guns, and Virginia became the first – and perhaps still only – state in the Union to officially ponder the legality of opening fire on little green men.

It was judged to be lawful. Appears it still is.

Are we alone in the universe? Ever-deeper probes into space have convinced mainstream science that we have company out there somewhere. Less accepted: the idea that Earth is a stop on alien travel maps. Years of study and untold thousands of sightings have failed to produce any concrete support for such claims – cover-up theories aside.

Yet outside the think tanks, belief persists. One in seven Americans say they or someone they know has had an experience involving a UFO, according to a 2002 Roper poll conducted for the Sci-Fi Channel. Another poll reveals that up to two-thirds believe that beings from faraway planets have visited Earth.

Many are reluctant to own up to it in public – which is why people who contact the National UFO Reporting Center are promised anonymity. Opened in 1974 and based in Seattle, the center has evolved into a worldwide UFO clearinghouse.

With the center's director acting as go-between, Terrell Copeland, a 23-year-old former Marine, agreed to be interviewed about his reported sighting over Suffolk in late October.

"I've pretty much stopped talking about it," Copeland said. "Everyone just thinks you're insane."

Copeland says he was driving along Constance Road around midnight when, for the third night in a row, he saw a bright, low-hanging light moving slowly across the sky. Curiosity made him drive toward it, until he wound up pulled over in a grocery store parking lot. The UFO, he says, was directly above his car, about 500 to 700 feet up. He could see that the glow was coming from lights mounted on a triangle-shaped craft.

"At first I thought it was a Stealth," Copeland said, referring to the Air Force's distinc-

tively shaped, radar-evading bomber.

"But I saw many types of aircraft when I was in the military, and we don't have anything this big," Copeland said. "It was huge, like a building – as big as a Wal-Mart or something. I turned off my radio, rolled down my window, and there was nothing. It made no noise whatsoever. Look, I don't scare easy, but this thing creeped me out."

Nathan Beberdick filmed a similar light over his neighborhood last summer. A 24-year-old waiter at Max & Erma's in the Pembroke area of Virginia Beach, Beberdick lives just across the city line in Norfolk. He first noticed the light while sitting on his back porch, watching a lightning storm at dusk. The light hung just below the thick cloud blanket. Beberdick filmed as it sank out of sight behind the tree line, an almost imperceptible descent that took about 10 minutes.

Then he called police – a move Copeland said he didn't make "because they would have just laughed at me."

Beberdick was not ridiculed by the officer he reached, but he was told that no one else had called in a sighting. Then he was offered a variety of possible earth-bound explanations.

"At one point, he tried to tell me that it was probably a news helicopter," Beberdick

said. "My sister flies helicopters in the Navy. I know a helicopter when I see one."

Beberdick didn't argue, though: "I just thanked him and hung up."

Police aren't always sure what to do with a UFO call. Their computerized crime tracking systems have no code for extraterrestrial encounters, making it impossible to gauge how many times UFOs are reported. Such calls are usually logged under "suspicious activity" or "unspecified trouble." Officers may or may not be dispatched. Much depends on how the caller comes across.

"We have a woman who calls every day – like clockwork – and swears UFOs are following her," said Chris Amos, a Norfolk police spokesman.

In Hampton, officers check out all reports of unusual lights over the water.

"It could be a flare from a boat in trouble," Cpl. Paula Hooks said.

Virginia Beach has a special form just for UFO calls. They're kept in a separate folder, and the information is called in to the National UFO Reporting Center. The procedure stems from the 1970s, when a group of UFO believers asked the department to handle the calls with more care.

Cindy Sassin, a department spokeswoman, said the file contains about 25 reports,

dated from 1976 to 2004.

"We send an officer out if they insist on one," Sassin said.

Yet with a typical close encounter described as just seconds or minutes long, it's usually over by the time police arrive. At a loss for what to do next, officers often advise people to call the military in the hopes of finding a logical cause.

Folks who do that, however, bump into a dead end.

Said Langley spokesman Sgt. Thomas Doscher: "If they call us, we refer them to local law enforcement."

The oldest UFO report in American history was addressed to Thomas Jefferson. Written in 1813 by tavern owner Edward Hansford, the letter describes an unidentified flying object over Norfolk County, now the city of Chesapeake:

"We saw in the South a Ball of fire ... as large as the sun ... which was frequently obscured within the space of ten minutes by a smoke emitted from its own body, but ultimately retained its brilliancy, and form during that period, but with apparent agitation."

Hansford's report included more details and a request for Jefferson's opinion. There's no indication Jefferson ever replied. Given his well-known passion for (continued on page 2)



SAM HUNDLEY ILLUSTRATION/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

**Norfolk** When: May 3, 2005 Shape: Disc Duration: Two to four minutes

"I was outside cutting the grass and cut off the lawn mower and went over to my porch and got something to drink. I looked up to see if there were any clouds in the sky and noticed a disc-shaped object ... it stayed there for about 2-4 minutes. I stood up and it began to go up and then all of a sudden it just shot straight up out of sight."

all things scientific - as well as mysterious - it's likely he was interested. From mystical, ancient cave drawings to last year's big-screen remake of "War of the Worlds," humans have been intrigued through the ages with the idea of alien visitors.

Even so, few eras compare with the mid-1900s, when UFO fever turned red hot. On one end of the furor: the famous panic fueled by Orson Welles' 1938 "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast. On the other end: the 1977 movie blockbuster "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

In between, as man raced for the moon, UFO sightings grew so rampant that the Air Force conducted a full-scale investigation. Stories of run-ins with otherworldly craft were regular newspaper fodder, including in Hampton Roads, where residents formed at least two UFO committees and a local newspaper carried step-by-step instructions for building alien detectors.

In the northwest reaches of the state, an epidemic of saucer sightings in about 1965 fueled so much fear that residents armed themselves, a situation that didn't sit well with the Augusta County sheriff.

"Who's got a right to mow them down?" Sheriff John Kent said of aliens.

That very question was soon posed to the state's attorney general, Robert Button. In a reply that drew national attention, Button said the law forbade the shooting of "persons." It made no mention of species from outer space.

Tucker Martin, spokesman for Virginia's newest attorney general, Bob McDonnell, mulled the same question last week.

"Could you shoot E.T.?" Martin considered. "Hmmm. Seems common sense that you'd have to be human to be a victim, but I just don't know for sure. It's an interesting question, though."

Martin said he knows of no legal developments that would make Button wrong now.

In a 1980 book "The Roswell Incident," a former Air Force officer claimed he personally saw alien bodies and wreckage and that the evidence was being hidden at three military installations, including Langley Field, now Langley Air Force Base in Hampton.

"Have I ever seen alien bodies at Langley?" base spokesman Doscher said. "Well, no, but some pretty weird things happen at my house now and then."

Seriously, Doscher said, the Air Force avoids the UFO arena these days.

"Our policy on that is spelled out in Project Blue Book," Doscher said. "That's our current position and our final say."

The cover closed on Project Blue Book in 1969, after the service spent 22 years checking out 12,618 sightings. Most cases were solved by linking reports with flight logs of then-new aircraft such as the U-2 spy plane, but 701 sightings remained a question.

New or experimental aircraft can spark a rash of UFO reports. Both Langley and Oceana Naval Air Station, however, say they fly only familiar-looking jets. Of course, that doesn't mean that odd-winged, hush-hush aircraft don't occasionally operate over Hampton Roads.

As for their own eyes on the skies, Langley uses radar supplied by Norfolk International Airport, which scans a 60-mile circle around the



Nathan Beberdick filed a report with the National UFO Reporting Center after seeing a mysterious light over Hampton Roads last summer. He filmed it and put the video on the Internet, where analysis by UFO buffs appears to reveal a triangular craft behind the light.

## LOCAL SIGHTINGS

Excerpts from The National UFO Reporting Center Online Database (2005)

[www.nuforc.org/webreports/ndxVA.html](http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/ndxVA.html)

### Virginia Beach

Date: March 9, 2005  
Shape: Changing  
Duration: 10 minutes

We were driving from Va. Beach towards the Langley airforce base. Right over the highway there was a very large craft. It was just hovering over the highway. There wasn't any movement of the object, but it was a very, very large object.

### Suffolk

Date: March 14, 2005  
Shape: Unknown  
Duration: Five seconds

Dear sir, I saw a flash of light with a cork-screw contrail that lasted about 2 seconds after the flash passed over my house. Then I heard a low boom that lasted about 2 sec. thereafter.

### Virginia Beach

Date: Sept. 16, 2005  
Shape: Formation  
Duration: One minute  
We watched an object fall roughly under the moon in the horizon. It was a ball with a tail that did not taper off like a typical shooting star. It was like a flare that is used for broken-down cars. It continued to descend and I said, "oh it looks like it is going to fizzle out," when it stopped and there were

four orangish lights shaped like a crescent moon but were sitting like a frown.

### Virginia Beach

Date: July 6, 2005  
Shape: Oval  
Duration: One hour

We saw what (to me) looked like a star moving across the sky when all of a sudden it stopped (seemed like it stopped on a dime) then went to the opposite direction really quickly.

### Gloucester

Date: July 15, 2005  
Shape: Triangle  
Duration: Two hours

We began to see bright streaks of light zoom across the sky periodically and then what we thought were stars in the sky began moving around and coming closer (about airplane

### Norfolk

When: July 27, 2005  
Shape: Sphere  
Duration: 10 minutes

I noticed a bright star in between two parallel power lines. It flickered violently between white and amber colors, just as a star rapidly twinkles in the distance. ... The object didn't appear to be moving at all. As I watched this mysterious light in the sky, it became clear that it was moving. ... This went on for about 2 minutes before I decided to ask my girlfriend's opinion and grab my video camera. I began recording for a total of 6 minutes. The glowing object ever so slowly hovers to my east and descends.

level). They were moving in very odd jumpy patterns ...

### Virginia Beach

Date: Oct. 16, 2005  
Shape: Unknown  
Duration: One minute

I was standing at the window at the front of my house talking on the phone to my sister who lives down the street closer to the object that I saw. I saw lights - red and white blinking. The object was hard to see but a good size. It was very low as it was behind the trees in the near distance.

### Williamsburg

Date: Dec. 3, 2005  
Shape: Light  
Duration: Three hours

4 dancing lights AGAIN IN VIRGINIA!! THIS TIME DISAPPEAR WITH A HUGE SONIC BOOM!!



"I've pretty much stopped talking about it. Everyone just thinks you're insane."

TERRELL COPELAND,  
SUFFOLK

### Suffolk

When: Oct. 31, 2005  
Shape: Triangle  
Duration: Five to seven minutes

I have witnessed a sphere of light twice, but tonight I have had the closest encounter to date. ... Two spheres, very large and very bright, about 500-700 feet off the ground.

Terrell Copeland says he saw a massive, slow-moving UFO three nights in a row near his parents' house in Suffolk in October. A former Marine, Copeland said he now feels anxious when outside at night: "You see something like that and it changes you."

runway.

"I've been here since 1988," said Tom Rountree, tower manager. "I don't recall us ever picking up anything that couldn't be explained."

Oceana has a bigger view, tracking air traffic from Wilmington, Del., to Wilmington, N.C.

"If an alien craft came in here, we'd know it," said Oceana spokesman Troy Sneed.

Over at NASA Langley, spokesman Keith Henry said the space agency runs no radar of its own, rarely flies experimental aircraft and closed its own book on UFOs with the shutting down of its SETI "big ears" program in the early 1990s. The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence sought to pick up transmissions from deep space. None was ever detected.

What about the web of sat-

ellites that constantly scan Earth from above? Based in the suburbs of Washington, the National Reconnaissance Office acts as "The Nation's Eyes and Ears in Space."

"We don't do UFOs," spokeswoman Cathy Bowers said. "We're looking at the enemy - and we're a little busy these days."

Peter Davenport runs the National UFO Reporting

BILL TIERNAN PHOTOS/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Center from his Seattle apartment. He has investigated the phenomenon for 40 years, been on radio and TV many times, and run for political office twice.

Since 1994, when he took over as the center's director, Davenport figures he's been on the receiving end of up to 100,000 UFO reports. Roughly 10 percent of the sightings, he

(continued on page 3)



Norfolk, VA - Jan. 29, 2006)

believes, are the real thing. Humans or nature, he said, are behind the rest.

Of Virginia, he said, "Many, many events have occurred in your state. Substantial events."

Davenport said he was on the phone with Winchester police in 1995 as they chased a UFO: "I was talking to the officers as they were standing out in a field looking at the thing - a disc."

Amanda and Chad Myers say something in the heavens above Virginia Beach left them open-mouthed on Sept. 16. She's a school bus driver; he has his own concrete finishing company.

"We're boring, sober people with three little kids," Amanda said. "We've never even talked to each other about UFOs before."

That night, the Myerses said, they were driving down Virginia Beach Boulevard, heading toward a pizza parlor on Lynnhaven Road, when Amanda noticed what she first thought was a shooting star. But it was descending too slowly, lasting too long and looking too large.

They took their eyes off the object just long enough to find a spot to pull the car over. When they looked back, it had split into four lights, now hovering in a diamond formation.

Altitude was tough to judge at night, but Amanda says the lights were close to Earth - lower than a typical airliner. They just shimmered there for a moment, she says, then suddenly zipped upward "to the stars as quick as you can imagine."

"We were stunned, and really, just so excited," Amanda said.

The lights left such an impression that Amanda returned to the spot the next night, armed with a video camera. Nothing odd materialized.

"I don't know what it was," she said, "but it seems like something out there has got its eye on what's going on down here."

The couple talked about the encounter for days, Amanda said, then gradually forgot about it.

"Wait," she corrected herself, "that's not true. Every time I look at the stars now, I'm looking for something - something out of the ordinary. After that, I guess I always will."

"Wouldn't you?"

# Town marks 40th anniversary of UFO

By Robert Igoe  
Gazette Staff Writer

What exactly landed in Kecksburg 40 years ago?

On Dec. 9, 1965, residents of this Westmoreland County town were expecting nothing to be coming out of the sky anytime soon, save for possibly Santa Claus, as they prepared for the holiday season.

Yet something did fall from the sky, attracting the attention of the United States Army, law enforcement, NASA and eventually thousands of the curious across the world who wondered what had happened, according to news reports from the day and many web sites since then.

Among the curious was Stan Gordon of Greensburg, who first heard of the incident of a local radio show and began looking into it for himself. Eventually, Gordon spoke to witnesses and sources, which led him to produce the documentary "Kecksburg: The Untold Story." In it, he examines that night and offers eyewitness testimony that contradicts "official" government denials of reports that a large, bell-shaped metallic object with odd writing on it was recovered at the crash site by military personnel. The object was then allegedly taken to a secure base for examination under a guard ordered to shoot anyone attempting to get a close look at the object.

What was the object? Could it have been a space probe? A satellite? An alien space craft?

"We continue to look into the possibilities," Gordon said. "We can speculate, but we don't know. It could have been a Soviet or American experiment gone wrong. But then again, it could have been something not man-made. I believe that something came down and the military located it and carried it away. We still do not have a definitive answer as to what it was."

The Kecksburg incident and the "official" explanations didn't satisfy Gordon's curiosity, and like many UFO enthusiasts, it only led to more questions, such as:

Is the United States government hiding the wreckage of extraterrestrial space craft and the existence of intelligent life on other planets?

Did astronaut Neil Armstrong see alien spacecraft watching Earth from the moon during his famous lunar mission in 1969?

Many feel the government is covering up evidence of extraterrestrial life forms, even suggesting that Armstrong radioed back to NASA during the Apollo II mission that their spacecraft was being observed by alien space craft.

Another man, Dr. Robert Lazar, claims to have been part of an experiment to copy alien technology for use by the military and that government officials have contacted alien life forms. Lazar says the reason for the cover up is that these aliens are not friendly toward Earth.

Government officials, including NASA, deny both stories, but those denials have not satisfied UFO enthusiasts, who believe that the government is hiding evidence of alien life.

Though Gordon agrees that most UFO sightings can be explained away as natural phenomena, enough of them remain unexplained and that's reason enough to convince him that extraterrestrial life is a possibility.

"Most of the time, (UFO sightings) can be explained away. But you have that percentage of reports that can't be dismissed as easily. We don't have all the answers. It is very likely that our government has in their possession captured alien spacecraft."

But why would the government be hiding evidence of such an important scientific discovery?

"They could be hiding such a discovery as a crashed extraterrestrial craft, because they might want to learn about the recovered technology and how it works," Gordon said. "It might be so advanced that we may not understand it yet. These sightings continue worldwide, and the governments of the world apparently don't have control over what is happening in their skies."

While Gordon understands the skepticism that many feel toward the idea of life on other planets, he feels that any possibility of discovering such life is worth the effort.

"I'm not trying to convince anybody one way or the other," he said. "We just need to get all the evidence together and let the people decide. My personal opinion is that at least a small percentage of these unknown sightings could be extraterrestrial spacecraft."

More information on Stan Gordon's work and "Kecksburg: The Untold Story," is available at [www.stangordon.com](http://www.stangordon.com).

## Kecksburg holds UFO festival

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa. (AP) — A Westmoreland County town is planning to celebrate a purported UFO sighting 40 years ago.

People in several states saw a streaking light on Dec. 9, 1965, and residents of Kecksburg reported that something had fallen into a wooded area just outside town.

Some people said they saw a metallic object with strange markings half-buried in the ground. Shortly afterward, the military showed up and some people claimed they were ordered to leave at gunpoint.

Authorities later said they found nothing and insisted that people had seen a meteor that likely burned up before impact.

Kecksburg's fire department plans to hold a day-long event Saturday and officials are hoping that people show up for food, T-shirts, ball caps and DVDs for sale.

"We're just an old, country-style fire department. We've got something we can hold onto, and we're going to capitalize on it," said Rich Comp, co-chairman of the department's UFO and festival committee. "One of these days we're going to need a new truck."

■ Reach Joanne Kimberlin at (757) 446-2338 or [joanne.kimberlin@pilotonline.com](mailto:joanne.kimberlin@pilotonline.com).

# Close encounters of the Green Mountain kind

By JOE DURWIN

As I chronicled in a previous column, modern UFO mania first hit Berkshire County early on, during the "Independence Day" wave of "saucer" sightings that swept the country in early July 1947.

Further north, in Bennington County's UFO history got off to a later start three years later, but ever since, sporadic waves of highly unusual sightings have been reported.

On June 26, 1950, just over three years from the day of the famed Mount Rainier saucer sightings thought to have started it all, Mrs. Walfrid Wahlquist, wife of the postmaster, was working in her garden when she was disturbed by a loud sound like that of an explosion in the sky above. She looked up to see what it was, and beheld "a strange looking object with flames emanating from both ends," which she described as being shaped like a disc. When her account appeared in the Bennington Evening Banner, it prompted others in the area that had seen the same object that afternoon to come forward. Maude Turner of Pownal said that she had seen it briefly, and though it disappeared almost as soon as she saw it, the smoke it left behind lingered for several minutes. A Bennington couple driving north not far from there watched the smoke trails the thing was leaving as it crossed the sky overhead. They couldn't make out the object at a distance and at first thought the trails were from a jet, but decided that it was moving too slowly. The sighting of another Bennington woman, Clara Louise Smith, matches that of Mrs. Wahlquist's exactly. She viewed the flaming object from her home on Beech Street, and reported hearing the same thunderous noise.

Curiously, the day after this mysterious flaming object was

seen, Bennington was pelted by a shower of metallic hailstones. The incident got media attention throughout the Northeast, perplexing meteorologists in Boston and Albany. The theory that was eventually posed to account for it was that fragments of slag were picked up from chimneys by low-passing clouds and discharged over the city. Overshadowed by the hail metal conundrum, the flame-spitting saucer was largely forgotten, and no connection between the two ever hypothesized.

Sixteen years later, a Bennington man witnessed another bizarre object in the same general patch of sky. Like the one in 1950, this one also appeared to be spitting out flames of some sort. On April 24, 1966, Robert Martin was returning home on Route 7 when "a big light suddenly came on about 200 yards away... like someone holding a big oil drum on fire." The light appeared to be changing colors and then dimmed until what looked like a jet tail became visible. This "jet tail," Martin said, "was definitely contained as though coming from a tube of some sort." At this point, what appeared to be red-hot coals began dropping from the object onto the ground, where they would blink out. Clearly frightened, Martin continued driving until he lost sight of the object.

The late 1970s and early '80s

were dominated by a different kind of unexplained aerial what's-it. Between 1978 and 1984, UFO investigators chronicled a spate of sightings of a large cylindrical flying object over southern Vermont. The "flying silo," as it became known, was first spotted by a

## These Mysterious Hills

schoolteacher on Battenkill Road in Arlington. Additional sightings reports came from Arlington and Manchester, as well as farther north in Rutland County and in New Hampshire. In September of 1984, Don Pratt reported to have seen the cylinder over Bennington. That same month, one Mrs. Hurley reported an intense encounter with a UFO in the vicinity of North Bennington while on the way to pick up a babysitter for her children. According to author Robert Ellis Cahill, "She confronted a bright light up ahead of her on the road which she thought was a jeep. She beeped her horn for it to move out of the way, for she was already 15 minutes late in picking up the babysitter." At this point, Hurley said, the "jeep" lifted up into the air, hovering in front of her and up over her truck, "during which time she felt an unbearable burning sensation in her cheek." Feeling dizzy

and nauseous, she turned around and went home. As she told her husband the story, he pointed out to her that her skin was covered in tiny boils.

In recent years, strange hovering spheres and lights, or strings of sphere-shaped lights, have been seen numerous times in the area, especially around the Shaftsbury area. In 1997, a college student purportedly obtained video footage of three ball-shaped objects with green and blue lights gliding slowly toward Glensbury. Though the video was said to have circulated on the Internet for a time years ago, I have been unable to track down the footage. In 2002, a Shaftsbury woman and her daughter reported watching a string of as many 50 lights drift slowly along the hills, heading south toward Bennington. Just over a year ago, in December 2004, a Hoosick Falls woman reported seeing a bright light hovering directly over Glensbury Mountain before vanishing abruptly in the middle of a clear night sky.

What are behind all the flying silos, flaming vessels and floating orbs spotted over the picturesque hills of southern Vermont? Are they related, or do they arise from independent causes? I often find questions such as these to be fairly thorny problems. Particularly on those occasions where multiple people claim to see substantially the same thing in the same general

times or locations, it is hard not to concede that they must have seen something unusual, at least enough removed from the usual things one sees in the sky every day to provoke a reaction.

On the other hand, the two times I been in the company of other people while spotting unidentifieds in the sky, the verbal description of the other parties present immediately after differs significantly from what I thought I saw. I think that when some truly unique optical event presents itself, especially suddenly, the human brain instinctively goes scrambling for some other memory or bit of datum to categorize it with. I can't help but wonder how much other people's impressions, not to mention news media, movies and a slew of other cultural factors, help to hammer out the specifics of any given close encounter. This is, I gather, part of why there continues to be a "U" in most UFO sightings, and I'm therefore not yet quite prepared to raise the alarm on any potential upcoming invasion of Bennington by extraterrestrial forces.

Don't get me wrong, though. I'm keeping Tom Cruise's address handy. Just in case.

Joe Durwin is a former Pittsfield resident who at one time had 20/20 vision. Send accounts of unidentified flying (or non-flying) objects to joe@durwin.net.

## UFO expert says farewell

SARAH GRANO  
Staff Writer

Since the age of 10, George Fawcett has been devoted to unidentified flying objects.

The Lincolnton man has had one sighting of his own, been visited by the Men in Black and

researched the phenomenon all over the world.

At the age of 86, however, it's finally time to slow down. The noted UFO expert will be giving his farewell address at the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, a group he has been involved in since 1973.

"I probably should have done it a year ago, but I was having so much fun," Fawcett said.

The 58th meeting will be held at the Charlotte campus of Pfeiffer University on Saturday. While it will mark Fawcett's official retirement, he plans to continue doing a limited amount of lectures and workshops.

"I intend to keep more than just a passionate interest in UFOs for the rest of my life," said Fawcett.

Retirement comes on the heels of a difficult year. Two knee surgeries and the resulting medication have taken their toll on Fawcett, but his schedule has stayed packed.

"Between (UFO work) and children visiting and singing in the choir and YMCA activities and family activities, I've never really known a time I wasn't busy," he said.

He's read a total of 1,768 books on UFOs, written two of his own and donated 148,000 items to a UFO museum in Roswell, N.M. where he is on the board of directors.

Over the years, he has received numerous letters and phone calls from those wanting to share their stories. He has discovered that people of all walks of life believe in UFOs — including astronauts, pilots and radar men.

As a young man, Fawcett made sure to "keep feet on the ground and tell it like it was." Even so, there were many skeptics who had no interest in his work.

"You were out on a limb ba-

sically by yourself," he said.

Times have changed, however, and Fawcett, who can spout facts on command, says 80 percent of people on a global scale now believe in UFOs.

"So if you're a skeptic, you belong to a minority group," he said.

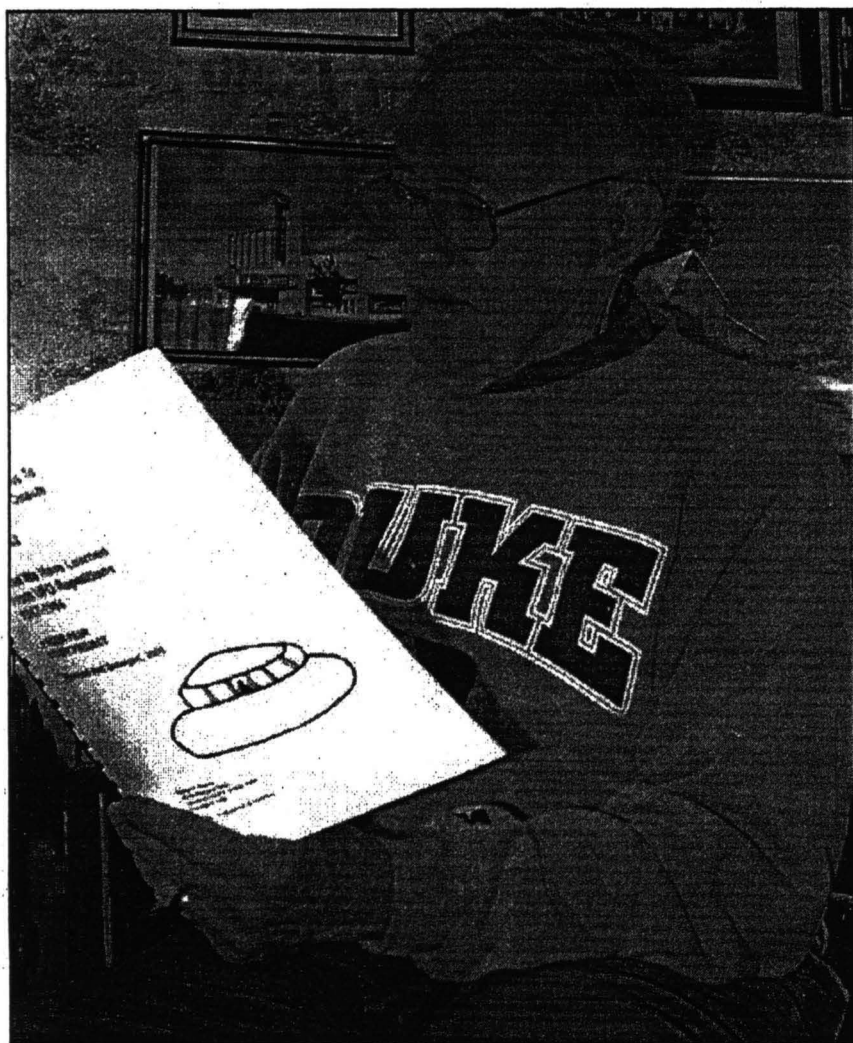
At his lecture on Saturday, Fawcett plans to state the conclusions he has come to after a lifetime of research:

- UFOs are a real, material, physical phenomenon, unidentifiable in conventional terms.
- There is a clear intelligence behind the phenomenon.
- The origin of UFOs is unknown, but the extraterrestrial hypothesis must rank high on the list of possibilities.
- The government has information on UFOs, which confirms their reality, but it has consistently tried to keep this fact hidden from the public.
- The government regards UFOs as a threat to national security, a point made very clear in recently declassified documents.

And though he's officially taking it easy, he has many plans ahead — spending time with his wife ("She's been my backbone"), family and church as well as organizing his UFO research and catching up on the six UFO books he has yet to read.

He plans to stay up to date on the most recent UFO information — what was sighted where, what that means.

And whether he's alive or not when astronauts make contact with life on other planets, there is one thing he can say for sure: "We're going to find out when we get there that they've been waiting for us to arrive."



Chris Dean / Lincoln Times-News

Lincolnton's George Fawcett, who is giving his farewell address to the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina Saturday, reads over his second book "Human Reactions to UFOs and UFOs Worldwide 1940-1983."





## FOREIGN NEWS

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

Experts say Ireland is growing in popularity as a destination for extra-terrestrial life

# Do we think anyone is out there?

DAILY IRELAND, Belfast, Ireland - Sept. 9, 2005

Sceptics believe the vast majority of sightings are easily explained but many still think that there's something out there



Is this a UFO or just a clever trick of the camera?



BY JOHN B. REILLY

Foreigners may be becoming the "lesser spotted" variety of tourist in the west of Ireland but a host of international experts say we are becoming an increasingly popular destination among another group of visitors - aliens.

A group of over 100 delegates convened at a hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim for Ireland's second International UFO conference.

Sightings in Ireland are becoming increasingly common at a time when extraterrestrial reports across the world are in decline, says Betty Meyler, who set up The UFO Society of Ireland in 1997 to facilitate a growing community here, which now boasts members in all 32 counties.

Meyler's presentation for attendees, "The UFO Scene in Ireland Updated", described how UFOs tend to favour Ireland as they are attracted to our comparative abundance of megalithic sites, such as Newgrange, which she said, are built on lines of magnetic energy or lay lines which UFOs use as guiding radar beacons in inter-planetary travel.

Although UFO culture and discussion is relatively new to our shores, says Meyler, sightings have been common for generations. Many people who until now had been reticent about relating their experiences, sometimes dating back 20 or 30 years, now feel comfortable about coming forward and describing strange sightings without fear of being laughed at or ridiculed.

Carl Nally of UFO and Paranormal Research Ireland (UPRI) gathers and investigates information in relation to alleged extraterrestrial observations. So far this year Nally has probed 78 cases from 79 individuals, with Roscommon, South Armagh, West Cork and Meath reporting the most activity.

After a UFO spotter contacts UPRI they are sent a detailed reporting form designed to ascertain the authenticity of the claim. Witnesses are vigorously cross-examined in a lengthy interview process. If necessary, relevant authorities including the Irish Aviation Authority, the

Air Accident Investigation Unit, The MET office, Gardaí, the army and the Irish Hand Gliders Association are contacted to eliminate there operations in the area at the time of the alleged observation from the investigation. Unexplained cases help provide the group with general UFO activity patterns.

A bio-energy therapist and reiki master, Meyler has witnessed several puzzling occurrences. Perhaps her most meaningful came before the beginning of the new millennium. As she looked through her bedroom window at around five am on a clear November morning in 1999 a "big cigar shaped object floated across the sky, from west to east, then disappeared". Another followed, and then another, until seven identical vessels cruised quietly and almost unnoticed across the early morning Roscommon sky.

A psychic member of the UFO society told her that, the UFOs she saw were there to assist the passage of time into the new millennium. "Computers were expected to crash and general mayhem would ensue at the start of the new millennium. This didn't happen. And I believe the extraterrestrials protected us from the chaos," says Meyler.

Paul O'Donoghue, psychologist and founder of the Irish Skeptics Society doesn't believe in UFOs and says most sightings are easily explained. O'Donoghue says the popularity of aliens is linked to our "strong desire to believe in something beyond the mundane. The emotional appeal of not being alone in the universe is very strong."

Degnan Geraghty is leader of the Irish section of the International Raelian Movement and doesn't accept the notion of earthly solitude. In a presentation entitled "There is Life in Space and on other Planets," he explained that all life was created by human scientists called "Elohim" on another planet. He believes we must prepare for their return by providing them with an embassy in Jerusalem where they can move freely and enjoy diplomatic status.

We too can benefit from positive cosmic relations, says

Meyler. She says Roscommon has become something of a "hot-spot" of alien activity and its extra terrestrial dimension could be promoted as a "mega attraction" for UFO spotters. Bonnybridge in Scotland has become a "Costa Del Sol" for flying saucers, so why shouldn't Roscommon develop this," she added.

Meyler is not alone in her belief in Roscommon's extra terrestrial potential. Eamonn Ansbro is qualified as a meteorologist and astronomer, a NASA-run Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) scientist and Director of Kingsland Observatory, Boyle. He has developed an 11 camera all-sky automatic tracking system dedicated to analysing the strange recurring UFO phenomena in the skies of the region.

Ansbro agrees that Ireland is a UFO friendly nation. He says the Irish have a more "relaxed and open-minded" attitude to extraterrestrials and unlike more militant western nations, are less likely to attack flying saucers visiting our airspace.

His lecture, "Communications with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence," is closely linked to the Astronautical Theory which considers hypothetical spacecraft motherships which follow well-defined paths through space as they approach Earth. The motherships are "somehow camouflaged while they eject a number of probes. These probes are what people see and report at ground level." However Ansbro is sceptical of most reported sightings: "At least 95 per cent are not UFOs. I am only interested in the other five per cent," he says.

Ansbro says that developments in this model cannot be overstated. Careful monitoring of UFOs has produced distinct patterns, which he says, "indicate windows of opportunity when events may occur at specific times at specific area," thus predicting future UFO visitations.

Meyler also forecasts extraterrestrial events, but using less scientific means. Holding a crystal aloft on a string she asks direct questions which warrant a yes/no answer.

More info from [www.ufosocietyireland.com](http://www.ufosocietyireland.com).



NEWS, Portsmouth, England - Jan. 4, 2006

## UFO-spotter thinks Spinnaker Tower has become an alien tourist spot

A UFO spotter is convinced aliens have been hovering near Portsmouth's newest tourist attraction.

Ernie Sears believes an alien craft has been drawn to the tower out of curiosity - but he has been told it's more likely to have been a plane.

Mr Sears said: 'We can only

speculate but I think the Spinnaker Tower may be attracting curiosity from alien life.'

'They want to know why it has been erected and what it can do for them.'

Mr Sears, 81, said he was told by a Gosport resident that the bright, cigar-shaped object remained in the sky for

a few minutes before vanishing.

Mr Sears, of Rotary Court, Netley Abbey, said: 'It was a cigar shape, rounded at both ends, glowing and has several black globes around it.'

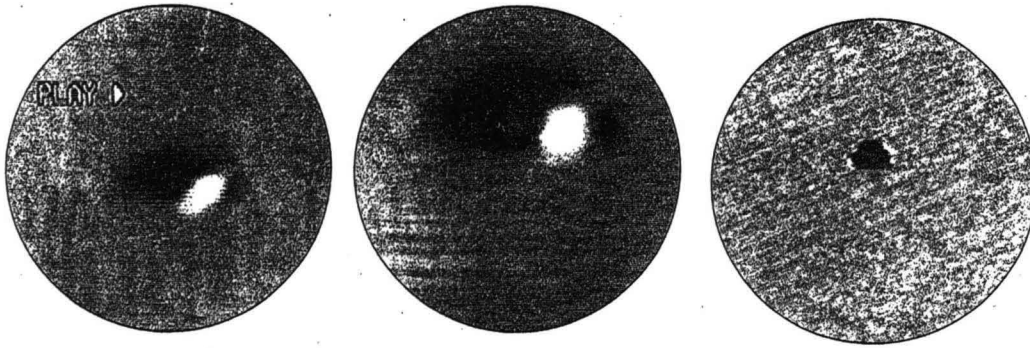
It is the second UFO sighting in the area reported in *The News* in recent months.

In September, we revealed how Martin Pragnell, 38, was amazed to capture a picture of a strange object in the sky as he was trying out his new digital camera in the garden at his home in Priddy's Hard, Gosport.

And Mr Sears, who runs the Southampton UFO Group,

said there had been about eight or nine UFO sightings over Portsmouth Harbour in the past few months.

It is a significant rise in the number of south coast sightings reported to the society, which also investigates other paranormal phenomena, such as crop circles and ghosts.



interpreted as sightings, so it won't go away."

Whitehead, a graphic designer by trade, became hooked as a youngster after spotting a UFO while walking along the Durham coastline.

"I was out with a few friends walking along the cliffs one day with my metal detector and I suddenly noticed a black cigar-shaped object quite low and it seemed to follow the coastline as we watched it. The following day in the local paper there was a headline on the front page 'UFO sightings across the North-East' and that got me into it."

# 'We saw a disc in the sky... our jaws dropped'



Recent reports claim that UFO-spotting is in crisis. But as **Chris Bond** discovered at the Great British UFO Show at the weekend, there is more to the phenomenon than meets the eye.

THERE were far more people queuing for Leeds Rhinos tickets outside than attended the Great British UFO Show.

Not that the 120 or so who filled Leeds Rugby Supporters Club for this inaugural event were remotely bothered.

These ufologists, as they are known, made their way to Headingley from all over the country where they listened to talks by paranormal experts and a man who claims to have been abducted by aliens.

If you believe recent newspaper reports these are difficult times for UFO enthusiasts. Only last month, the Cumbrian branch of the British UFO Hunters reported no sightings so far this year, compared to 40 last year and 60 the year before that.

It seems the idea of little green men from Mars and inter-galactic visitors from Alfa-Centuri may have lost its lustre.

Russel Callaghan, who organised the event, and runs a UFO website [www.ufodata.co.uk](http://www.ufodata.co.uk) disagrees.

"The UFO subject is alive and well," he says. "There are hundreds and hundreds of websites dedicated to the subject so I don't think the interest is waning, it's still there you just have to look for it in different areas."

"Websites now make it so much easier for groups to pool information and internet forums have taken over from UFO meetings," he says.

The whole notion of flying saucers and extra-terrestrial beings has always sailed close to the wind in terms of credibility, though.

It is deemed perfectly acceptable to watch films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* or *War of the Worlds* and believe in the possibility of alien life, but mention you are a UFO-spotter and you'll probably be met with the kind of response that greeted Copernicus when he suggested the world was round.

Callaghan, who lives in Kippax, near Castleford, admits there are a few oddballs but insists they are outweighed by more serious-minded ufologists.

"Yes there's a few kooks out there, we know that, but we've got doctors, we've got professors, nuclear physicists, people with PhDs, pilots and policeman and they're not afraid to come forward," he says.

"All the pundits tell us that 95 per cent of what goes on can be explained and fair enough, accepted, but that still leaves a small portion that were unknown aircraft or don't have a logical explanation."

"We're not saying that aliens are landing in fields all over the place

and maybe it's not ever happened, but something is happening that makes people believe that this subject is founded on reality."

Callaghan himself has been fascinated by UFOs ever since he spotted something hovering over Bradford in 1980.

"I was working at the time as a bus conductor, I was only a teenager and the driver and myself were a little bit early one day and we parked up at Odsal Top."

"It was October time and it was about quarter-to-four, it wasn't dark but the sun had gone in and we were stood having a ciggie and we were looking out towards Emley Moor and in front of us a thousand feet up in the sky was a silver spinning disc, there was no sound and both our jaws just dropped."

"We both said 'what the hell's that?' It was only there for about eight seconds and it took off and that was me convinced. I had seen something that I couldn't explain."

He has experienced other UFO sightings since but says there is a general lack of interest among today's media.

"All you ever see in the TV clips is the out of focus ball of light in the sky and there's far better evidence out there than that, but why this footage, which does exist, isn't taken up I don't know."

"I think we've grown out of mass hysteria these days and I think if one actually landed tomorrow it might make the six o'clock news but I don't think the impact would be fantastic and I'm not sure people would be that shocked."

But Callaghan believes sightings should be taken more seriously.

"We've all seen satellites before and you know when an aircraft is going over and we're all aware of what's going on in the skies and what's normal and what isn't."

"Satellites in the sky look like moving stars they move in a straight line, it's the things that don't move in straight lines that are interesting."

Rob Whitehead, of the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society (Lapis), also disagrees that UFO enthusiasts are a dying breed.

"The grassroots are thriving and there's at least a dozen conferences a year around the country so people are still interested without a doubt."

He admits that interest generated by TV shows like the *X-Files* has levelled off but believes there will be a resurgence in the future.

"It's been going on for thousands of years, stuff was reported in Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece and the Bible talks about heavenly objects that some people have

He readily admits that most sightings can be explained as either atmospheric phenomena, mis-identified airplanes or temperature inversions, but says it is the remaining fraction that tantalises people.

"Everybody loves a mystery and once you have seen something unusual it stays with you."

One of the guest speakers at the weekend UFO show was Jason Andrews who, apart from an overload of "bling", could pass as any normal 22-year-old. His claims, though, are anything but ordinary.

Andrews says he's a multiple alien abductee and calls himself a "walk-in" also known as a wanderer - an extraterrestrial soul that has been incarnated in a human body.

"I have been getting abduction experiences since I can remember," he says. "There was the obvious abduction which is laying in bed, they come for me and then it progressed to them teaching me how to astrally project, showing me things, telling me things about the possible future."

Such as? "Such as I'm not going to tell you."

He goes on: "Imagine being a child and you're laying in bed at night and then these beings come along and they take you away, so you're obviously scared of that because it's the unknown and everyone's scared of the unknown at first."

"I tried screaming out and tried moving even though I was paralysed and every time I screamed nothing came out, no one ever came to my aid."

Andrews, who is training to be an HGV driver, says initially he thought the aliens were teaching him things like telepathy, healing and astral projection, but realised they were simply helping him to remember the past.

Despite being terrified initially he says he gradually learned to trust the aliens and still claims to have abduction experiences nearly every night when he is taken to different places.

At this point his story, if it hasn't already, begins to lose credibility.

"I can remember every single existence I've ever had. This is only my second life as a human, as far as dying goes I have never died and neither have you because nobody and nothing can ever die, everything is energy in one form or another and you can never completely destroy it, all it can do is change its form. Which when I say I can remember previous existences it's just remembering previous forms which everyone is capable of doing."

He insists he is here to help and hopes if he can teach others what he has learned then it can spread the galactic word.

"I know what I am and I know everything in my head is real, if other people chose not to believe that, then that's fine."

Callaghan, who invited him to speak, defends Andrews and others who have come forward.

"It takes a lot of bottle to get up on a stage and talk about alien abductions to a room full of people and if you listen to the abduction stories you feel there is something happening. I mean it might turn out to be over the counter medicines that trigger something, but these people are having real experiences," he says.

It seems that UFOs and little green men haven't disappeared off the radar just yet and you never know, one day they might just pay us a visit.

[chris.bond@ypn.co.uk](mailto:chris.bond@ypn.co.uk)

WEST BRITON, Truro, England - Nov. 3, 2005

## Do you recall a strange green light in the sky?

ON A dark Thursday evening at 9.30pm between September 1953 and April 1957, my mother and I watched a strange green orb float across a foggy field close to our home near Morvah in a North Westerly direction.

The memory might have been forgotten had it not been reinforced by a report in the West Penwith Edition of *The Cornishman* the following Thursday claiming that a mysterious green light had been spotted at Porthleven at 9pm on the previous Thursday.

Now that I am a pensioner with some spare time, I researched the *Cornishman* records at the Redruth Cornish Studies Library but missed the article.

Rather than travel up and down to Redruth persistently until I find the article I am asking if you would kindly place a suitable piece in your paper appealing to Porthleven pensioners seeking their recollection of "the green light event".

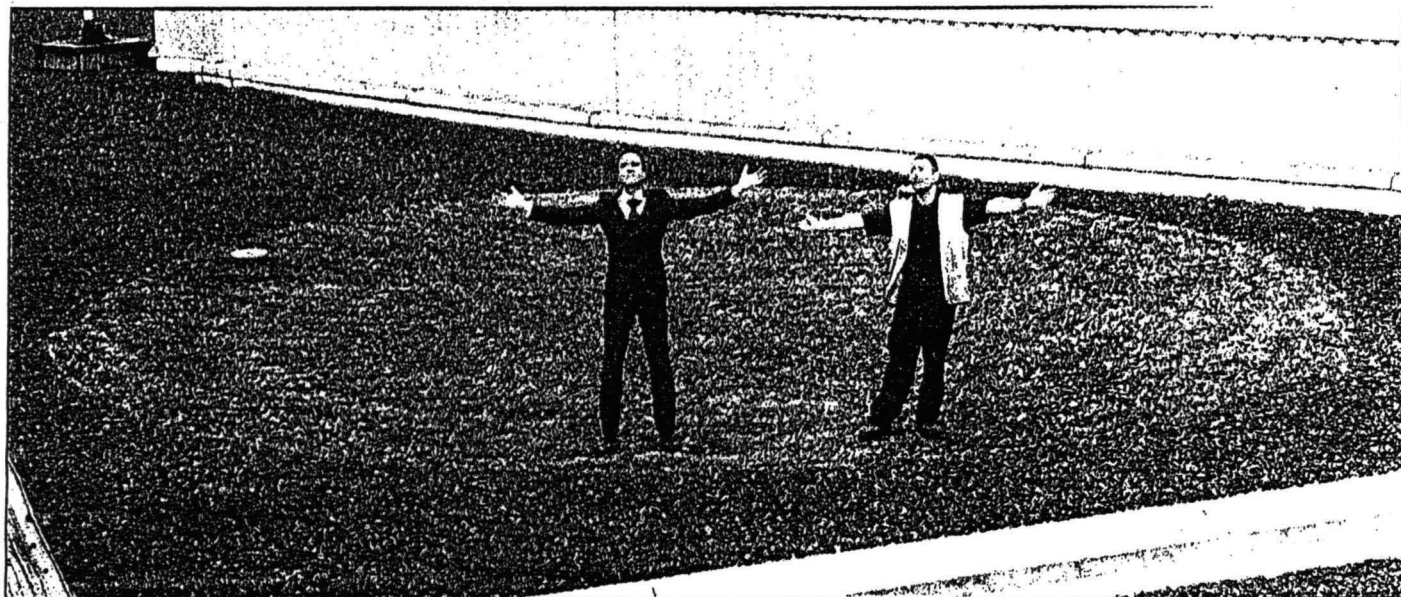
Hopefully, someone will recall the approximate date and then I can return to Redruth with a much better chance of success at finding the article.

The local Cornish UFO Society only goes back to the early 1990s, so they are not able to assist with this query.

**PHIL JILBERT**

1 Abbottswood, East Ogwell, Newton Abbot, Devon, tel: 01626 337624





ALIENS? Paisley Centre manager Andrew MacKinnon, left, and maintenance engineer Jamie Lavery stand in the mysterious circle

# UFO MYSTERY AT PAISLEY CENTRE

## Manager convinced aliens are trying to make contact

By KENNETH SPEIRS

**THE mysterious appearance of a 'crop circle' on the roof of Paisley's leading shopping centre has led to claims that aliens landed in the town.**

The bizarre circle, measuring six metres across, appeared on the flat roof area of The Paisley Centre following a series of strange goings-on at the popular mall.

And yesterday sober-suited centre manager Andrew MacKinnon was convinced someone from another planet is trying to make contact.

He said: "This is not a joke. I believe it was a UFO. I believe aliens are trying to get in contact with us."

The circle, which is greyish in colour and has a gold-coloured edging, appears to have been burnt into the roof's gravel covering.

And its appearance followed the simultaneous malfunctioning of office electrical equipment at the centre that included blow-outs on a photocopier, a fax and the vitally important CCTV equipment.

Mr MacKinnon said The Paisley Centre roof is a secured area and not accessible to the general public.

It plays host to a number of radio communications devices which are used by the centre's stores to communicate information.

The centre manager's theory is that a UFO attempted to make contact with the people

of Paisley via the radio equipment located within this remote site.

A satellite dish housed near the possible landing area also malfunctioned after the appearance of the circle.

The strange claims have been made after one employee experienced what he believes may be the mystery alien craft while carrying out work on the roof.

Jamie Lavery, 47, a maintenance engineer, said: "While undertaking some roof maintenance, strange activities started to take place."

Jamie, from Glenburn, went on: "Some equipment I was using to apply weed killer moved location, then out of the corner of my eye I briefly saw what appeared to be a brightly-lit flying object."

Mr MacKinnon added: "I believe this is a genuine UFO sighting, with aliens possibly looking to send some sort of coded message to us."

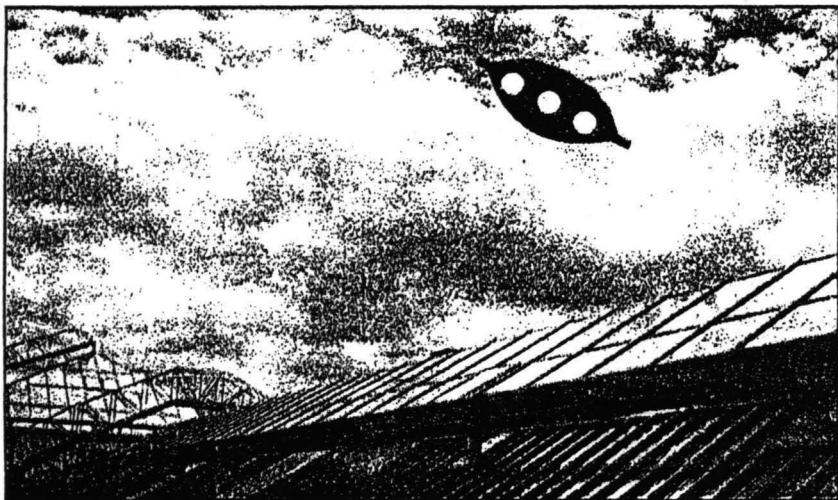
"Why they have chosen the Paisley Centre is unclear. However, I would urge Buddies to keep an eye on the sky and a camera to hand as I would expect more contact soon."

And to add even more mystery to the claims, a strange metal-like material was found on the centre roof after the appearance of the circle.

Now, it is to be sent for analysis.

"I'm considering sending it to Paisley University to see what they think of it," Mr MacKinnon said.

"It could have something to do with the UFO."



UFO LANDING: A mock-up picture of the craft that could have landed on the roof

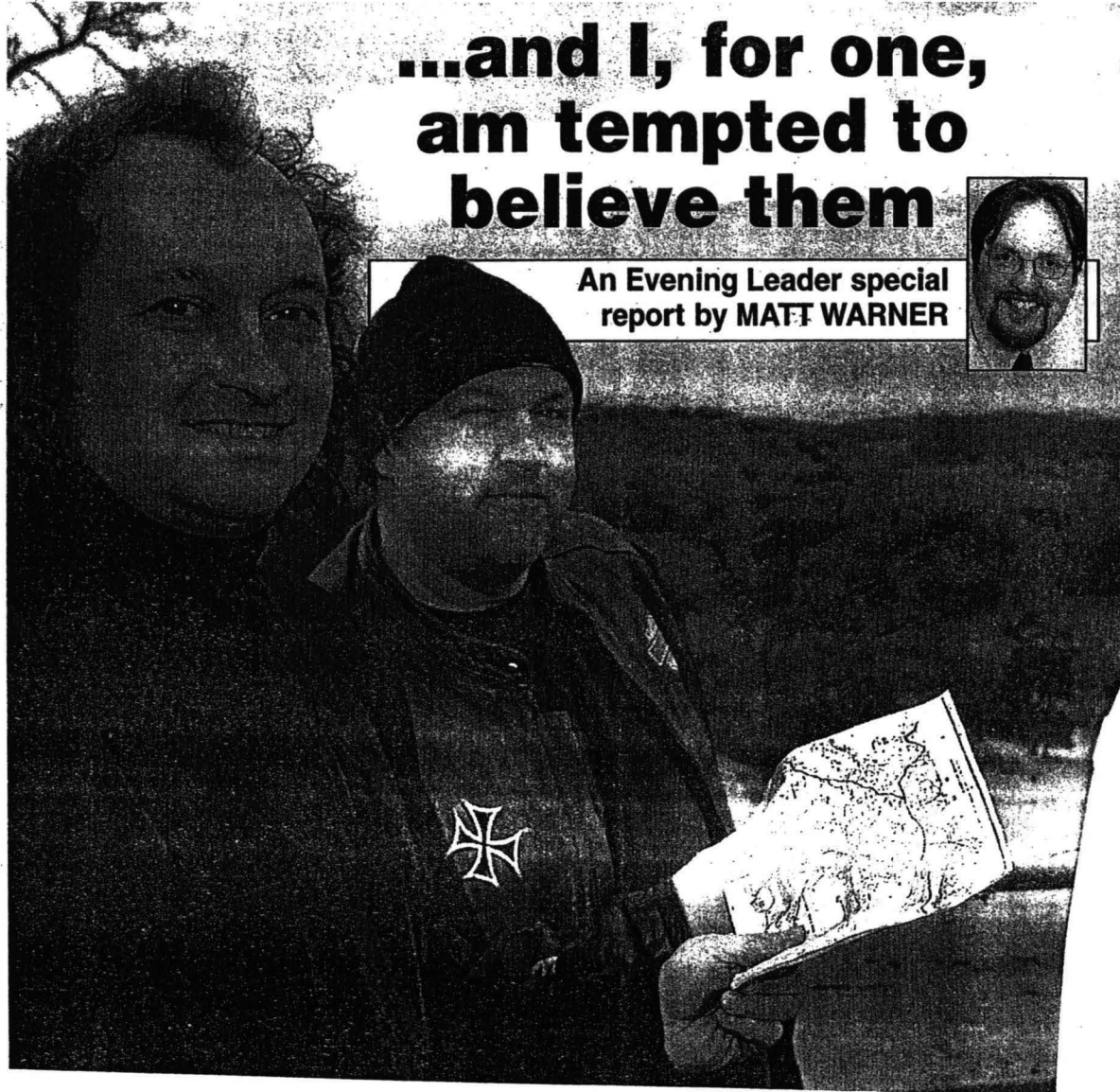


STRANGE DEBRIS: Andrew MacKinnon, left and Jamie Lavery with the unusual debris found on The Paisley Centre roof

# THESE TWO MEN ARE CONVINCED A UFO CRASHED LANDED ON THE WELSH HILLS...

...and I, for one, am tempted to believe them

An Evening Leader special report by MATT WARNER



THE place most people would associate with an alien crash landing is the town of Roswell, New Mexico, where an UFO allegedly came down in 1947.

In that desert town a whole UFO industry has sprung up, with alien theme diners, novelty stores and a museum. The story has also inspired several films and television shows, including *The X-Files*, *Star Trek* and *Futurama*, so when I heard of a series of events described as North Wales' very own Roswell, I was keen to find out more.

A series of lights flying in formation across the North Wales skies and an explosion, estimated to have gone off with the force of 600 tonnes of dynamite, and convoys of military vehicles seen in the area, does seem the stuff of fiction.

The rust coloured winter lanes weaving through the Berwyn Mountains, between Gwynedd and Denbighshire, do not fit the usual picture of a UFO landing site. But it was here, between Llandrillo and Llandderfel, in 1974 that many believe the truth of one of the country's best kept secrets can be found.

Arriving in Llandderfel to meet two Yorkshire ufologists, it is hard to imagine that it has change much in the past 30 years. The chapel still dominates the village. The telephone box is reassuringly red and the only shop in the village closes at 11.30am.

## Veteran

Although veteran media interviewees, UFO experts Russ Kellest, 42, and Win Keach, 40, are both excited when they meet me at the pre-

arranged time by the village post box.

They are fresh from having a meal in Bala with an ex-serviceman who they say has shown them where the object seen flying across North Wales on January 23, 1974, landed.

Russ, of Filey, says this is a breakthrough in the quest for the truth that began years ago when he read about the Berwyn Mountain incident in a book.

He and Win have been visiting North Wales regularly, so often that their families have suggested they relocate, and each time they learn another piece of information, speak to another witness or uncover another document.

On this cold, drizzly day, they believe they have made one of the most important breakthroughs yet. But, again, the new information has raised as many questions as it has answered.

When asked about why he regularly drives from Yorkshire to Wales to research a 30 year old mystery, Russ says that this story could create a whole new tourist industry in the region and inspire a blockbuster movie. But, most of all, he is a man that wants to know the truth and questions the authorities' position of what we do and do not need to know.

Russ said: "I've researched this for quite some time and what you've got here is a blockbuster. We've got something here in Wales like Roswell."

"What we have is, at around 8.30pm, a massive explosion and people ringing in to say they had seen lights in the sky. People in Llandrillo had crockery rattling as this thing fell to earth. This isn't hearsay, we have got a number of videos from HTV and the BBC talking about this. The explosion measured about 3.4 of the Richter scale, and expert at Keele University estimated it was the equivalent of 600 tonnes of TNT going off."

It is his conversation with the ex-serviceman, who did not want to meet anyone from the press, that led Russ and Win to this spot near Llandrillo.

"In the conversation, Russ plays to me on his dictaphone, the man says the military were in the area a long time before and after the incident. He tells of the military recovering a craft about 20ft in diameter that had five occupants. It was loaded on to a flat bed lorry and disappeared. Russ and Win now think the nearby railway track is the key to how the object was taken away.

On tape, he said: "My section was in the area for some time before the incident and for some time after."

"The incident on the January 23, 1974. We were waiting for something to happen; just what was to happen we had not been told."

## Extra-terrestrial

Russ added: "This thing was hovering, it was still working. By the time this military person arrived there were others down there pushing it. I asked him was it extra-terrestrial and he replied it was up to me to find out. He said 'are you missing something? What is here?'"

The Berwyn Mountains incident is still a regular conversation topic in this part of the country. The freelance photographer who met us to take photographs of Russ and Win saw the lights and heard the big bang that is one of the most intriguing parts of the tale.

And as we stood at the roadside, retired farmer Hugh Edwards, 88, pulled up his Landrover and told us how he saw the unidentified flying object.

Evan said: "I saw the lights first and thought what on earth could it be. I went back to my lodgings and the old ladies there said the whole house had shook."

"A lot of people saw and felt it." At the time Mr Edwards was interviewed by the world's media.

He said: "I could see it coming. It was an orange object, the same shape as a rugby football, but much bigger. I watched it going and thought it would land in the forest, but I went there the next morning and there were no marks or signs at all."

"There has been no explanation. I don't know if it's right or not what people say about police being up here telling people to keep off the mountain, but I didn't see them."

So, did a UFO crash into the Berwyn Mountains. Or was it an experimental aircraft, perhaps a prototype stealth bomber, or even a meteorite that came down to earth that night? Whatever the answer, Russ and Win have more than 115 documents, several rejected Freedom of Information requests to the MoD, and countless witness reports suggesting that something did happen on January 23, 1974.

And I, for one, believe that one day they will find out the truth and that the next time I visit the area I may well be served a coffee served by a teenager wearing a pair of alien antennae in a flying saucer shaped cafe.



# MAN'S CCTV SPOTS LARGE BLACK CAT AND A UFO AT ASHBY-CUM-FENBY

Mr and Mrs Butters were checking through CCTV footage when they saw a large cat-like animal running through their field and also what looked like a UFO (inset). They are pictured here in front of the field that was under surveillance by the cameras.



## Strange sightings in the night for couple

**BEWARE - the beast is back.**

By PAUL DONOVAN

paul.donovan@grimsbytelegraph.co.uk

After several months with no sightings, a large black cat has again been seen prowling North East Lincolnshire.

Keith Butters says he has seen a large cat walking in a field near his house on Barton Street, Ashby-Cum-Fenby.

And adding to the intrigue, he believes his CCTV cameras have picked up a UFO circling the area.

"I first saw the cat on a Thursday at 5.40pm," said Mr Butters.

"I have got CCTV footage of it running across the field."

The Grimsby Telegraph has seen the pictures but they prove inconclusive.

However, Mr Butters (37) said: "I saw it again on the Monday at 6.50pm."

"I saw it with my own eyes and it frightened the life out of me."

"The size of it and the speed with which it was running made it look like a big cat."

"I have never seen anything like it before."

"It has got to be a panther or something of that ilk because of the way it ran and jumped over the hedge at the bottom of the field."

"There are bales in the field

and you can clearly see the size of the cat compared to them."

His wife, Joanne (42), said: "I haven't seen it, but I have seen Keith's face after he saw it."

"In the village in the week there have been two horses spooked for no apparent reason."

And the couple believe there have been other unusual visitors to the area.

On an inspection of their CCTV film, Mr Butters was again left stunned.

"There was this sudden flash," he said. "I saw what looks like a UFO."

Mrs Butters said: "I think it was a UFO."

"We are right on the top of the hill and there is nothing in front of us apart from fields."

"The CCTV doesn't usually pick up colour at night time, it stays black and white, because of the night vision. There were definitely no planes and no helicopter."

Have you spotted the big cat? Has a UFO spooked you? If so, email [newsdesk@grimsbytelegraph.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@grimsbytelegraph.co.uk)

JOURNAL, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England - Oct. 6, 2005



### Albert and the aliens, pulsating UFOs and the Gateshead doll-people

THE North-East has had its fair share of close encounters with UFOs. In the Sixties, a cigar-shaped craft was seen in Rothbury and a huge, glowing object with porthole-style windows hovered over the North Sea.

Shining pink discs, shimmering silver objects, and a roving fireball were seen in the sky over Gateshead - as well as a silver disc the size of a car and tiny green humanoid.

And it was during the swinging Sixties that squaddie Albert Lancashire recalled his alien abduction. In 1942, Albert, aged 27, was on sentry duty near Newbigin-by-the-Sea when he was zapped by a yellow light.

He passed out and was overcome with a "floating sensation". Two decades later he regained his memories of the events, and claimed to have walked up a beam of light and been taken aboard a craft by a pygmy-sized man.

Once inside he was given a medical examination by strange creatures wearing goggles.

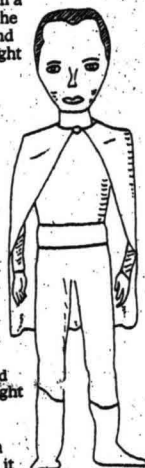
In March 1978, on the opening night of Stephen Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, a helium-filled cigar-shaped balloon tethered to a supermarket roof broke free.

Gale-force winds carried the balloon over Sunderland and it was last seen heading over the North Sea towards Norway.

Other sightings were not so easily explained.

A young woman reported being tailed in her car by a blue and green ball of light while a dazzling pink and orange shape-shifting UFO lit up the sky. Two policemen watched a "white ball with a red light above it" vanish as silently as it had appeared, while a woman out walking saw a "shiny spherical object".

In August 1979, a bizarre case involving UFOs, doll-like creatures and a housewife from Felling, Gateshead, made headlines.



A drawing of a strange entity seen in Gateshead in 1979

The strange events started when she became aware of white and red lights flashing outside her bedroom.

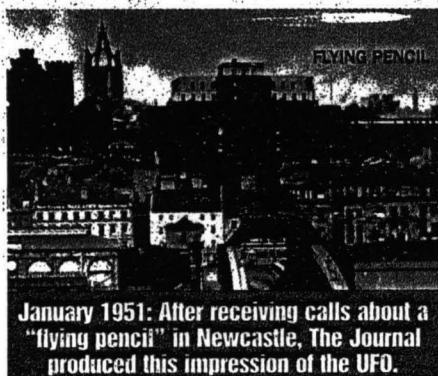
She said a grey bell-like disc came through the window followed by glittering objects that looked like a bee swarm. She wanted to scream, she said, but was paralysed. "Time seemed to stand still and it seemed as though the thing was examining me," she said.

In the following weeks she developed a painful rash on her face. The disc returned the next month. So did white, doll-like figures with large heads and feminine features, which stared up at her from the floor.

She said the creatures "appeared on the carpet making clicking noises... they seemed to be watching me and then disappeared".

Another report of doll-like figures occurred less than 12 miles away in Fence Houses, Houghton-le-Spring, in September 1976.

Two women spotted "large dolls" after encountering a small oval-shaped object. The "dolls" had long white hair, parted down the middle, and large round eyes.



January 1951: After receiving calls about a "flying pencil" in Newcastle, The Journal produced this impression of the UFO.

RECORDED, Ilford, England - Oct. 7, 2005

### Lake UFO

RECENT sightings of UFOs, reminded me of an incident in the late '70s, when a large red object was seen near Hainault Forest lake in the early hours. It was a red pulsating object, which hovered for a few minutes before suddenly vanishing from sight.

RAY SMALL  
Huntsman Road  
Hainault

POST, Burntwood, England - Dec. 22, 2005

The plot thickens after reports of strange lights in the sky over Burntwood.

For the last two weeks The Post has been reporting various theories about the coloured lights which could clearly be seen sweeping backwards and forwards above the clouds on Sunday December 4.

But for one 21-year-old, the reports served as a chilling reminder of a night eight years ago.

Now a young man, but still living in the same house in Rawsley, he will never forget his ninth birthday.

He was awoken in the middle of the night by coloured lights dancing in formation in the sky, getting closer and closer to his bedroom window.

Then a terrified youngster, he ran screaming into his parents' room - and has never slept in that room

again to this day. On the same night there were reports of similar lights as far away as Shropshire - which were investigated 'X Files' style by the authorities.

What is particularly chilling for the 21-year-old now reading this is the lights reappeared again on his birthday - December 4.

There is an even more bizarre twist.

All those years ago UFO investigators went to visit the lad in Rawsley.

To get to his house they had to turn left at Eastgate.

'Left at Eastgate' is the title of a famous UFO book about an incident in America...

# Spiritual Seekers Coming Together

ancient, sacred symbols that for centuries have conveyed a deep awareness of reality. Viewers of crop circles often feel an uncanny recognition of what they are seeing.

The phenomenon of crop circles is increasing in numbers of sightings, places of sightings, and complexity of design. There are approximately 11,000 documented sightings around the world to date and no two are alike. Last year alone, there were 20 reported cases in Canada and approximately 2300 worldwide.

And finally, experts agreed the message being conveyed is an important one, we should pay attention and try to learn from these communications. Although the spiritual and mathematical implications of the geometric symbols are clear, some of the designs are so complex they baffle today's scholars.

Robert MacDonald, the publisher of *Balanced Life Magazine*, and I met with Reverend Mark Lemon today to discuss the spiritual implications of crop circles and why he provided a forum for seekers of all sorts to come together to investigate a new "Quantum Consciousness" that speaks to our times. Mark spoke of the need to create safe places where we can gather to forge a new culture of cooperation and acceptance where we can learn together, discuss together and explore spiritual awareness together, unimpeded by old conceptions and prejudices.

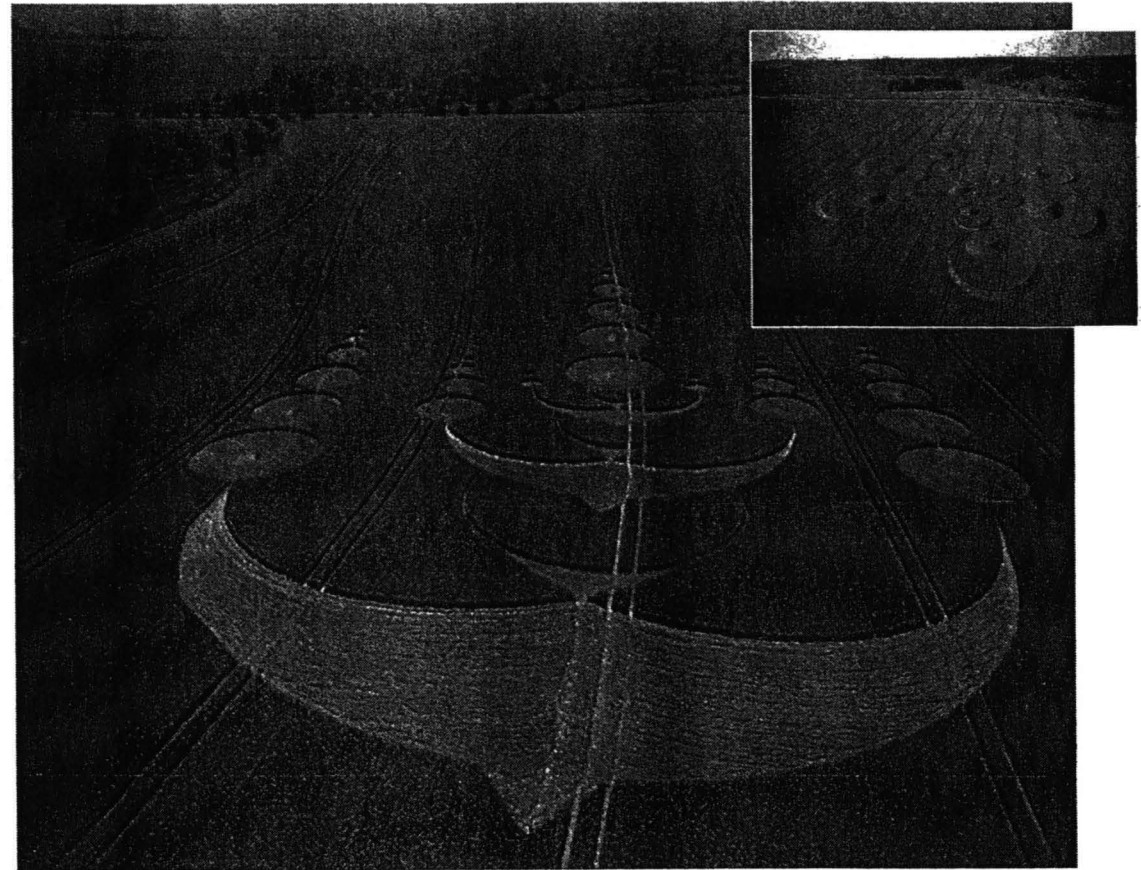
Reflecting on the Dalai Lama's visit to Vancouver 2 years ago, Mark said, "The relationship between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a great example for us all. Each represents a distinct and rich spiritual tradition, but neither has to compromise. They enrich each other's perspective, broaden and deepen each other's awareness.

aim is to open ourselves up to a wider and richer range of experience within our everyday lives."

Robert Nichol's documentary, "Star Dreams", explores the mysteries of crop circles. Several specialists were interviewed in the film with areas of expertise ranging from scientific to spiritual, agricultural to psychic. All of these experts agreed on several points.

Most crop circles are not man made. The complexity, precision and size of these geometric symbols astound viewers; some measure over an acre while others have several layers of design. As one farmer whose fields have been imprinted with intricate designs put it, "If these circles are hoaxes, where do they practice?"

There seems to be an intelligence trying to communicate with human beings through the crop circles. Designs often replicate



Not only do they respect and honour each other, they also share a deep affection and friendship." Mark is inspired to facilitate civil dialogue between people of difference in an attempt to help others do the same.

Mark talked about the need for mainstream religious organizations to promote understanding and tolerance across a spectrum of diverse religious belief. Referring to the birth of Anglicanism, Mark explained, "The Anglican Church was forged out of the spiritual and political conflicts of the Reformation of England. The Elizabethan solution was to create a church that attempted to walk the 'via media' or middle way."

Mark commented on the tendency of human beings to make ideas about God and reality absolute. "Language is symbolic, finite and limited, but God is infinite and beyond human conceptualization. During times of accelerated change, the temptation is to anchor in language and mistake it for reality. We have to sit lightly with theological concepts because they are temporal. While we honour the legacy of our religious traditions, we must also realize revelation is ongoing and Spirit is always manifesting now. All

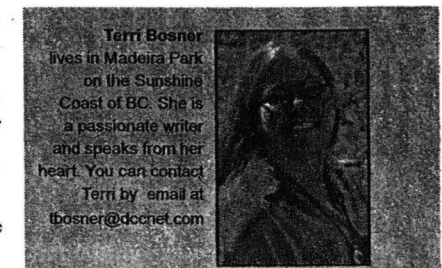
mystical traditions point to the revelation of now."

The experts interviewed in "Star Dreams" had different explanations to describe how crop circles come into being. Some suggested Mother Earth has a sentient awareness and is crying out to us during this time of ecological crisis. Others believe elemental nature spirits, in collaboration with extraterrestrial intelligences, are seeking to awaken human consciousness through the healing energies transmitted through this phenomenon.

Mark offered this perspective. "The universe is a very big place with forces at work that are beyond our comprehension. I do not find it difficult to believe that we have been in relationship with beings described as extraterrestrials for a very long time or that we have a galactic connection with the cosmos. 'Star Dreams' moved me because it offers us a compelling new vision of hope for our world that expands our minds, stretches our imagination and grounds us in an awareness that we are not alone and we are deeply loved. We live in a culture of fear and terror fed by mass media. This is an important time to remember to choose unconditional love.

When we work from a perspective of unconditional love, everything changes and we understand we are all called to be expressions of the Divine."

"Quantum Consciousness and the Journey to Self" is a non-sectarian group open to everyone and all relevant avenues of investigation. They meet twice a month at St. Hilda's Church. For more information contact Reverend Mark Lemon, Rector at St. Hilda's, at 604-885-5019 or Michael Siddall at 604-740-8369. Go to [www.earthfiles.com](http://www.earthfiles.com) or [www.stardreams-cropcircles.com](http://www.stardreams-cropcircles.com) for more information on crop circles.



By Terri Bosner

Anglican Minister, Reverend Mark Lemon, and Michael Siddall welcomed a diverse group of spiritual seekers at St. Hilda's Anglican Church in Sechelt on November 16th to screen the 2005 edition of the film "Star Dreams". With approximately 160 in attendance, the church was filled with young and old, Christian and Buddhist, farmer and scholar together; all looking to deepen spiritual awareness through participation in a new forum called, "Quantum Consciousness and the Journey to Self".

When asked about the purpose of the group, Michael Siddall explained, "We want to explore and learn more about the forces that shape our world and our individual lives. This is really a process of self-discovery, using various tools and inspirational materials that are available. Quantum physics describes a universe of infinite possibilities, and our



## UFO extra - Sightings

More readers report strange sights up in the sky

# 'It seemed to be gliding or floating in the air'

By ELGAN HEARN

**F**OLLOWING last week's revelations that an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) had been seen hovering above the Menai Strait, several more people have come forward to share their experiences with *The Mail*.

Former Holyhead Mayor **Ron Williams** had seen a UFO as recently as Monday, December 12. He said: "I saw a strange object while driving on the A55 and after seeing the story in the *Mail* thought I would get in touch."

"Last Monday I was taking my wife to Caernarfon when I thought I saw one of those advertising blimps above Valley railway sidings."

"The closer I got the more obvious it became that it was something else."

"It was sparkly silver in colour and I had expected to see the name of whoever was advertising on its side."

"It was like a bright metallic cigar-shaped balloon and it just hovered above the railway sidings."

"I was racking my brains to think about what it could be and then saw the story in last week's paper."



**Strange occurrences:** More readers tell the *Mail* of their UFO sightings.

ZZHH121205uto-2.jpg

**John Barnett**, from Bodedern, saw something sinister near Gwalchmai. He said: "Six years ago, my wife and I were travelling from Bangor back home to Bodedern with our son along the old A5."

"After going through Gwalchmai

near the quarry, my wife noticed an object in the air that seemed to be unusual due to the way it was shaped and moving."

"I drove a bit further down the road still puzzled and stopped by Treban

crossroads to see what it was."

"It was not making a noise and seemed to be gliding or floating in the air."

"I realised it was not an aircraft after I checked with RAF Valley when I got home."

"Whatever it was it disappeared quickly and to this day, I cannot make head or tail of what it was and why it was there and chillingly enough it was also near Christmas, the same time that this couple spotted something over the Menai Strait."

**Frances Allsopp**, from Red Wharf Bay, remembered seeing a UFO back in the 1970s.

She said: "Back then I lived in the West Midlands."

"On an October morning at 6.30am I was walking my dogs before going to work."

"I saw a very large bright light, like a large football. I watched it for 10 minutes and then it began to pulse."

"It then shrank to the size of a lightbulb and then the light went out."

"I then saw a dark object that then moved at a fantastic speed straight up in the air and disappeared."

**Gareth Caradog Jones**, from near

Porth Llechog, Amlwch, saw something strange near Llangristiolus just over three years ago. He said: "I was travelling back from Malltraeth towards Llangefni one morning when I saw this strange light hovering behind me. I could see it in my rear view mirror."

"It seemed to be following me all the way back to the main road, so I pulled in to have a better look, it was just a bright object in the sky moving at high speed."

"I'm a bit of a cynic really, don't believe in UFOs but I thought that it could have been some experimental aeroplane as RAF Valley is close. But they denied everything."

"I did have a camera with me in my car boot but by the time I thought of taking a picture, it had gone."

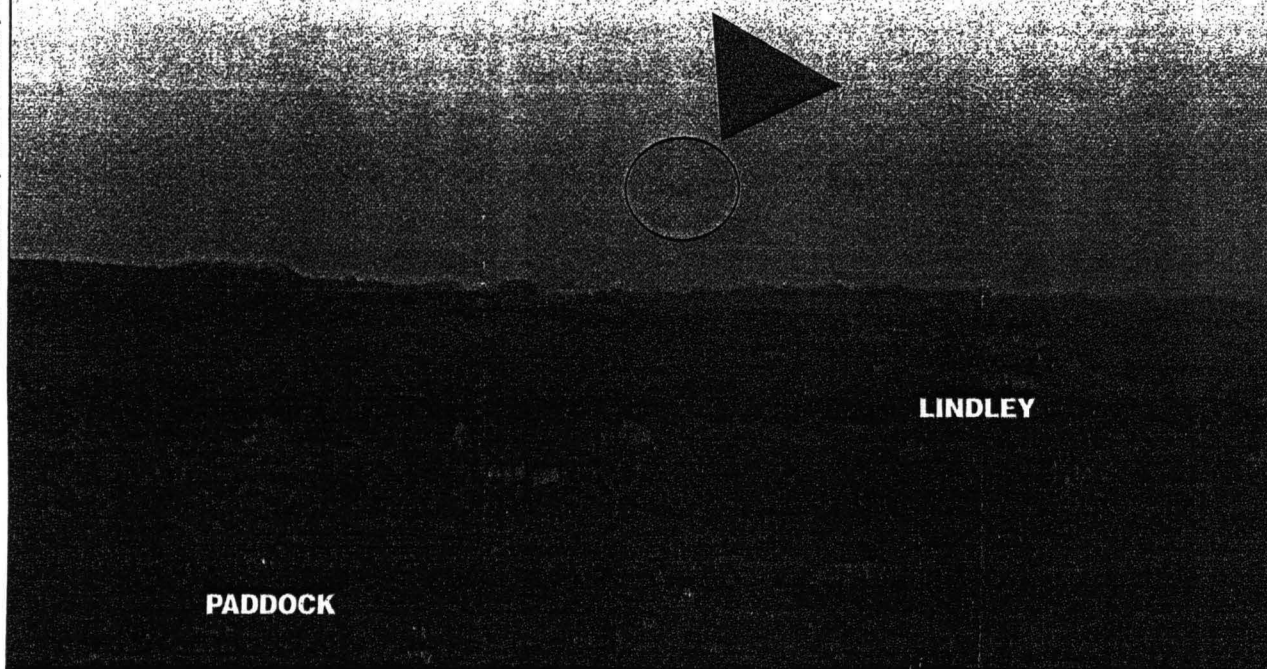
"When I got back to work and told my colleagues about it they just laughed at me."

Officially, the RAF policy is not to comment or record UFO sightings and an RAF spokesman said: "To be honest we don't pay much attention to these sightings."

□ If you have experienced a similar sighting, write to the *Mail* at 319 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1NP, or e-mail [elgan.hearn@northwalesnews.co.uk](mailto:elgan.hearn@northwalesnews.co.uk)

DAILY EXAMINER, Huddersfield, England - Dec. 15, 2005

## 'I don't believe in UFOs, but I've no idea what this was'



■ **MYSTERY FLIGHT:** The blurred object, arrowed, as seen from Crosland Moor, captured on digital camera

(s)



■ **WITNESS:** Teresa Millward, who took digital and video pictures of the UFO

**A CROSLAND Moor woman has captured images of a strange object in the skies above Huddersfield.**

Now she is hoping someone can identify the object, which she saw on Monday afternoon.

Teresa Millward, 28, of Crosland Moor, said: "It was very strange and slow-moving. It was shaped a bit like a triangle."

"I watched it travelling into the distance over the town, then it returned and seemed to move sideways."

She added: "I thought it was a hang glider or a balloon, but when it came closer I could see it was neither of those things."

**By HENRYK ZIENTEK**  
News Reporter

Teresa photographed the UFO using a digital camera and recorded its movements on video.

Teresa, who is in a wheelchair while recovering from an accident on holiday in New Zealand, described the sighting as "very unnerving".

She said: "I am not a believer in UFOs, but I have no idea what this was."

"I thought I must be hallucinating, until I saw some people outside stopping and pointing at it."

Several Examiner readers reported UFO sightings over Christmas last year.

[henryk.zientek@examiner.co.uk](mailto:henryk.zientek@examiner.co.uk)

## 'UFO' seen by brothers

A man believes he may have seen a UFO after he saw a "ball of bright white light" in the sky in Telford.

Tony Millward said he and his brother, Steve, were getting groceries for their father when they saw a light flying in a straight line above Attwood Terrace, Dawley, at around 6.30pm on Tuesday.

Tony, 28, of St Leonards Road, Malinslee, said: "You could tell it was close but there was no sound and it was clean as a whistle in the way it moved. It just carried on going at the same pace and I saw it getting smaller and further away."

STAR, Shropshire, England  
Oct. 27, 2005

# Is there anybody out there?

## SNAPSHOT

Experts at a major conference in Norwich next month will reveal all they know about paranormal activity in Norfolk and investigate why the county is such a hotspot. The event marks the 60th anniversary of the Norwich Astronomical Society.

To many, it is the stuff of Hollywood films, but an astronomy conference is to investigate why Norfolk is a hotspot for paranormal activity and mystery bright lights in the sky.

The gathering, which is being held to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Norwich Astronomical Society (NAS), will feature four world-class speakers on the subject.

They will reveal all they know about the paranormal phenomenon in the county, which boasts twice the national rate of unexplained activity, and also probe new allegations about NASA's findings in Mars and the secrets of Black Holes.

Conference organiser Mark Lawrik-Thompson FRAS (Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society) and chairman of 160-member strong NAS said information that would surface at the conference would place the existence of extra terrestrial life form firmly within the realms

## Strange sightings

→ One of the most intriguing UFO reports of recent times took place in Norwich in 1995. Remarkable video footage of a glowing 'biscuit shaped' object was captured by painter and decorator Glenn Webster from his home in Appleyard Crescent.

The bright light first appeared zigzagging at considerable speed over the city before spinning rapidly and shooting off in the direction of Great Yarmouth.

Numerous sightings of the UFO were also made by other members of the public on the night of November 3 1995.

And police at Great Yarmouth took several calls supporting the evidence captured on film.

→ One of the more bizarre happenings in East Anglia happened on October 5 1996 when coastguards spotted red and green rotating lights south east of Skegness.

of reality. He added it would also raise serious questions about the motives prompting the USA's federal space administration to deny the existence of extra terrestrial life while lending support to sightings reported within Norfolk.

Already this year, a league table of paranormal supernatural and mythical phenomena ranked a 234sq mile "Bermuda Triangle" area in Norfolk behind only Cornwall and Yorkshire in the spooky stakes. The Norfolk Triangle covers most of the north-eastern area of the county, which boasts well above average reports of UFO sightings from military personnel, police and families.

Referring to transcripts showing how coastguards were dumbfounded by strange red and green rotating lights in the

skies off the East Anglian coast in the early hours of Saturday, October 5, 1996, Mr Lawrik-Thompson said: "People in Norwich and Norfolk are much more aware of the night time sky than people in many areas and cities in the UK.

"Our rural surroundings encourage an interest in astronomy because the relative darkness allows people to see things occurring in space — as this transcript shows."

Mr Lawrik-Thompson said representatives from paranormal groups within the area would be present at the conference to discuss local peculiarities.

He said: "People will come away from this conference with an understanding of how big our galaxy is and how it fits within the several billion galaxies out there.

"While it can make us feel insignificant, it's also awe-inspiring. Every time we discover something new about it, we discover another 10 things we don't know about."

Speakers at the event will include Dr David Whitehouse, Dr Robin Catchpole and Professor Paul Murdin, Dr Heather Couper (FRAS) who has interviewed 60 of the world's leading space scientists and Nigel Henbest — the latter two of whom will be signing copies of their books.

The conference, which will include trade stands and exhibitions, will open at 9.30am for registration and run until 4.30pm on Sunday, October 9 at the John Innes Centre.

Norfolk-based space memorabilia retailer Space Rock will also have a stand at the event.

It is open to all ages and costs £15 plus an optional fee of £5.50 for lunch.

→ Call 0791 7817583 or e-mail: [nasjii@btopenworld.com](mailto:nasjii@btopenworld.com) for a ticket.

Alternatively make a cheque made payable to The Norwich Astronomical Society to: NAS-JII, Broads Acre, Upper Street, Horning, Norfolk, NR12 8NG.

Further details can be found at [www.norwich.astronomical.society.org.uk](http://www.norwich.astronomical.society.org.uk)

Jane Denny  
[jane.denny@archant.co.uk](mailto:jane.denny@archant.co.uk)



# TRANSLATIONS

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

January 3, 2006 — *El Liberal Digital*, Argentina — LORETO WOMAN PHOTOGRAPHED WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS A UFO — LORETO - Miryan Coronel is one of the many residents of Loreto who return home to celebrate the holidays with family. She has been living in Chubut for over 20 years and on December 29 undertook her yearly journey, not knowing that 19 hours after leaving, she and her fellow travelers would be witnesses to the takeoff of what she described as an unidentified flying object.

According to the protagonist, the event took place on the road linking the provinces of Cordoba and San Luis in the vicinity of Mount Uritorco in the middle of the Cordoba mountains. This site is well-known as the location for many events related to the manifestation of strange lights associated to extraterrestrial craft.

"At two o'clock in the morning, we boarded the bus belonging to the Andesmar bus line with my sons Santiago, 8, and Angel, 4. We occupied seats 40, 41 and 42. After nearly 20 hours of travel, the first stars began to appear through the bus's windows. The time was around 21:45 hours," Miryan notes, later adding: "Suddenly the bus stopped, and when I looked down the aisle, I saw an immense light in the middle of the road."

"I immediately jumped out of the seat and saw that my sons were asleep, along with many passengers. I moved to the front of the bus and saw the cone-shaped light in the middle of the road, and got off with the bus drivers and a passenger from Salta who had a camcorder. At no time did I feel fear -- on the contrary, I was engulfed by a sensation of peace and curiosity, to the extent that I began taking photos with my cellphone camera. When I tried to get closer, one of the bus drivers held me back," she explained.

Proceeding with her account, Miryan says: "Suddenly the object, that was enveloped in a bluish white light, began spinning like a top and rising vertically, lighting up the landscape as though it was daytime. In the measure that the giant spinning top rose, it gave off multicolored lights in intense phosphorescent tones before vanishing into a brilliant spot. I immediately began perceiving a smell of heated metal, combining with a very particular odor similar to sulfur."

According to Miryan, the event lasted only a few minutes and no sound was heard. Upon returning to the bus, they exchanged remarks with the people who shared the experience and with the drivers, who said that they had always seen strange lights in the area, but nothing to compare with the experience on the night of December 29, 2005. "After the chat I returned to my seat and fell into a deep sleep. I slept until we reached the Loreto bus terminal. They had to wake me up to get me off the bus," said the passenger of this highly unusual journey. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

January 6, 2006 — *El Once Digital*, Argentina — Priest Performs Blessing at Location of Imp Sightings — Residents of Parana's Antartida Argentina district requested the presence of the parish priest of the Our Lady of Guadalupe church in order to receive spiritual assistance after the alleged apparition ofimps.

Under these circumstances, Father Eduardo went to their homes, performed several prayers, blessed the site and sprinkled holy water in the homes and trees where the strange figures were seen "with the purpose of calming the spirits seen."

Neighbors said: "Following the manifestation of theimps and their exposure in the media, we began to feel fear. For this reason we asked the parish priest to assist us."

Once the subject became widely known, "many people came by and notified others. There were even mentalists or parapsychologists who gave their opinions on radio and other media," said one of the spokeswomen for the group, who swears having seen sevenimps on Friday, December 30, who attacked personnel from the Fifth Sheriff's Office with stones during the moment of greatest tension. The fact itself was not confirmed by the authorities, but they did agree to note that something threw stones at them from the dark.

The local parish priest, who requested that his name not be published "due to hierarchical matters," remarked that "one must be careful with the things that are being said. Some remarks must be taken with a pinch of salt and without saying that anyone is lying, it can be understood that there is a great deal of fantasy in these remarks."

"The subject ofimps has no logic and cannot be rationally explained. I know that some people came to church asking for spiritual assistance," he summarized.

He made it clear that "It is very strange [for people to say] that they flew and turned up everywhere. Therefore they will continue to believe in this, which borders on fantasy."

On the other hand, he cautioned that "no one has requested an exorcism, but this can only be authorized by the local bishop when faced with definite proof of the Devil's presence. From what we were told, there is nothing diabolical or related to evil in this place."

Along these lines, he differentiated between "assistance to souls in purgatory, which must be aided through prayer; but to go from there to say that [that they can turn] intoimps is another story."

Another resident told *Diario Uno* that in the canyon area "men and women can be seen involved in strange things, such as practicing some sort of rituals like Umbanda, which request the presence of spirits for doing good and evil." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

January 10, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: STRANGE LIGHTS OVER VICTORIA — [The following is an open letter from Silvia Perez Simondini. For those who may not know her, Ms. Simondini has a distinguished career as a UFO researcher and writer in her country, having personally investigated many cases in her part of the country together with her daughter Andrea]

"Dear Friends - We are truly excited here. Since Sunday, the first one of the year 2006, we are being astonished by a swarm of lights that numbered 12 on that first day, emerging two by two or singly with a very bright light. At first we thought they might be Iridium satellites, since they have their own sources of light, but upon following their trajectory, we quickly realized that these made a full spin from the NW to W -- to be clearer, as if they were coming from Parana and were heading toward Santa Fe.

On that first day, there was a sky-blue one directly over my car, and since I was with a member of my team and my niece, I became alarmed when they both broke down in tears. This isn't the first time that something like this has happened with people who come to accompany us on our skywatches -- some of them [weep] due to being very mystical, others due to suddenly believing in something anomalous, and the rest because they never thought they would have a sighting of their own. The fact is that these events have

continued over the following days: nine on Tuesday, eight on Wednesday, five on Thursday, with the unaccustomed presence of an uncommon flight over the area of the sightings. The number remained at that. No others were seen. On Friday we didn't go to Cerro de la Matanza because it was overcast. On Saturday we saw seven lights appearing one by one. They always appear in the same site, and yesterday [Sunday] three of them turned up at a startling rate of speed over the clouds, but at a higher altitude.

I don't know what they are, but quite frankly, I'm concerned, because I don't know what else can be seen in the skies in such numbers, after seeing that they apparently emerge from the water and rise swiftly, and vanish with a turn. If someone has seen something similar, please let us know in order to discuss the matter. The truth is that I'm worried.

Silvia Perez Simondini"

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January 11, 2006 — *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense (COR)*, Argentina — 20,000 Liters of Water Vanish Mysteriously from "Australian" Water Tank in the Province of Cordoba, Argentina — On Tuesday, January 10, at 17:52 hours and by means of a phone call, Mr. Eduardo Virgilio Sangoni, calling from the town of Canada de Luque near Totoral, northern Cordoba Province, indicated that on Thursday, January 5, 2005, nearly 20,000 liters of water had vanished overnight from an Australian water tank in a field belonging to Mr. Domingo Ordonez, the caller's neighbor.

According to Sangoni's statements, Mr. Ordonez had checked said water supply the previous day and it was absolutely normal, being unable to explain how so many liters of water could vanish from one day to the next. Interested in the UFO phenomenon, Mr. Sangoni reported to his neighbor's field to ascertain that there was no water seepage through any crack in the vessel's walls or bottom, but nothing abnormal was seen, thus discarding the possibility of a structural failure in the reservoir.

When asked if it could be natural evaporation due to the very high prevailing temperatures on domestic territory, Sangoni said that while temperatures in excess of 40 centigrade (105 F) had been reported in the region, it still would not account for the evaporation of such a massive amount of water, considering that when a minimum limit is reached, the pump replenishes whatever may have been consumed or what could eventually evaporate.

Sangoni informed C. O. R (Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense) that barely 10 centimeters of water were left in the bottom of the tank, that there was no turbidity in the water, and that no traces of humidity had been seen outside the tank.

The caller also noted that he had made a series of investigations among the few neighbors of the area (separated by 500 meters from each other) in order to corroborate that anyone might have seen the presence of luminous objects over the area. His research was fruitless, as no one was able to answer his questions.

Sangoni expressed his astonishment at this development, the first in the area, and when he learned that similar cases to those in La Pampa had occurred in the province of Cordoba in less than 35 days, he considered the possibility that a similar phenomenon may have taken place in Canada de Luque. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

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January 12, 2006 — MEXICO: Spherical UFOs over Mexico City — \*\*A Report by Ana Luisa Cid\*\* — On January 4, 2006, at 4:45 p.m., I recorded some spherical objects over Mexico City using a Sony TRV 340 camcorder with a 25x optical zoom.

For the time being I can find no explanation to the event, and strangest of all is that while one sphere ascended, another descended, and a third one traveled horizontally -- all of this against clear skies and the Moon about to enter its waxing phase.

The spherical objects appeared to be self-motivated, following defined trajectories and keeping a constant speed.

This video was transmitted on Monday, January 9, on the "Viva La Manana" TV program hosted by Alfredo Adame of Televisa Channel 4.

Leonardo Sanchez Galindo's Eyewitness Account, Mexico City.

As did Ana Luisa Cid, I was also able to see those spheres in the sky on Saturday, January 7, 2006. I was at the Plaza Satellite shopping center and from the moment I reached the shopping center, I became aware of the spherical objects. At first I assumed they were balloons, because Three Kings Day was just over. However, I noticed they were following a very well-defined trajectory.

I was startled to count more than 14 of them and while some moved south (using the Periferico (beltway) as a point of reference), some headed east and that's when I realized that what I was witnessing was not exactly commonplace. During the sighting, an airliner crossed the same space as one of the lights and I was then able to realize that the spheres were flying at a very high altitude.

I can say that, despite their altitude, it was possible to make out that they weren't just dots in the sky, since it was possible to notice some structure or body, and these spheres (or at least so it seemed) reflected the sunlight. Finally, out of the fourteen spheres I saw at first, they literally vanished from my field of vision until only one of them remained, maintaining a back-and-forth motion and remaining static for a period of time of about 1 hour until finally vanishing.

I was rather awestruck by what I witnessed.

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January 13, 2006 — *Diario Extra*, San Jose, Costa Rica — COSTA RICA: UFO CAUSES COMMOTION IN SAN JOSE — A UFO sighting galvanized the attention of hundreds of onlookers at noon yesterday, causing commotion in the city's downtown area.

It was a point of light that stood out in the blue skies and moved very slowly. Word spread very quickly that there was a strange object in the sky and corners became filled, in a matter of minutes, with people straining to see the mysterious point of light that no one could readily identify.

The UFO was seen for one hour and experts consulted about it could not offer an answer to explain what was seen.

The fact is that it unleashed the curiosity of the passersby and there was even a measure of fear, as there were those said this portent represented the end of the world.

The clock marked 12:40 in the afternoon, the time at which employees take their lunch breaks. Office workers wearing ties and eating ice-cream cones on their way back to work stopped to look. Peddlers, shopworkers and pedestrians turned their eyes skyward as others pointed at the zenith.

At the busy El Parque soda fountain, Ariel Chavez, a reporter with *Diario Extra*, received the phone call of a girlfriend who informed him about the sighting. Ariel's journalistic instinct was unleashed and he abandoned the tasty meat dish he had just ordered, and accompanied by sports writer "Chico" Sanabria from *Diario Extra* - who also forsook his lunch - left the eatery to look at the sky. It's not that they wanted to leave without paying



- they just wanted to see the famous UFO.

Even the eatery's owner, Francisco "Pancho" Flores, went after the journalists to try to get a glimpse of the "flying saucer."

As it turned out, the [sighting] involved three white lights moving slowly across the sky, one near San Jose's Parque Central, the other by the Jimenez Institute and the last one alongside the old facilities of Radio Monumental.

More than one took advantage of the tumult to steal the billfolds of the unwary who stared heavenward. This is what happened to reporter Silvia Nunez of *Prensa Libre*, who was relieved of her wallet. But the pickpocket was not expecting that cameraman Omar Rivera from Extra TV42 would be on hand. The thief was caught and seized by the neck, constrained to return the billfold. This is not the first time Silvia's been mugged.

While all of this took place, Mario Castillo was able to take a photo of the object from Avenida Segunda in downtown San Jose. "It was hard to pin it down. Sometimes one could see [what appeared to be] reflections," Castillo remarked.

Many remarks were voiced aloud in the street. People pointed to the sky and said that it was a "flying saucer" that had come because the end of the world was at hand. Others said that UFOs come to Earth in search of something, while others quoted Biblical revelations. There were also those who were sufficiently "eagle-eyed" so say that it was only a piece of space junk, a star or a satellite.

In the midst of so many strange comments, many crossed themselves and thought it best to keep walking. The object was discovered because many people have taken to skywatching after the news programs broadcast images of UFOs filmed this very same week.

"I was indeed able to see something in the sky, but I think it was a satellite. If it was, it would have to fall at some point. One thing is sure, it was moving all over," said Jerry Bermudez.

"We were all witnesses to something, but it couldn't be a UFO. Must be some space particle," said Rebecca Zeledon.

"I saw it too - it was a moving dot. I think it's a satellite, well, I think so. But it would be fun if it was a UFO," observed Mauricio Astorga, the renowned actor who plays "Benito Losetodo" on Channel 7.

"Look, we were out shopping and we could see the white dot in the sky that was a flying saucer...who knows if it's space junk?," said Jose Luis Cerdas.

"It wasn't a UFO, well, I think it was space junk," decided Abigail Zeledon. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

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January 14, 2006 — *Nicaragua Hoy*, Nicaragua — ALLEGED UFO CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN COSTA RICAN CAPITAL — SAN JOSE - When uncertainty still lingers in the air over the arrival of a giant tsunami, that later never appeared and was initially reported by commercial airliner pilots flying over the Central American Pacific Coast on Wednesday the 11th, hundreds of residents of [the Costa Rican] capital were witnesses to a new inexplicable phenomenon at noon on Friday.

Initial information on the tsunami's existence emerged from Honduras, but a journalistic account in Costa Rica's *La Nacion* indicated that an airliner pilot who took off from Juan Santamaria airport on his way to Ecuador, also reported the phenomenon to the terminal area's control tower.

"Telenoticias", Channel 7's news report in Costa Rica, presented on Thursday the recording in which the pilot can be heard informing the tower as to the apparent tsunami.

Emergency prevention and relief authorities from the various Central American countries, after consulting with scientific institutions linked to the case, dismissed the existence of a wave or any earthquake in the high seas that could have caused it. So what did the pilots see?

According to reports appearing in the Saturday editions of Costa Rican newspapers *Extra* and *Al Dia*, the sighting of an alleged UFO caused a commotion among pedestrians and prompted the mobilization of reporters, photographers and cameramen from various branches of media, who were mostly on their lunch hour.

"It was a luminous point that stood out in the clear blue skies and moved very slowly."

"Word spread rapidly that a strange object was in the skies and within minutes, streetcorners were filled with people who strained to see the mysterious dot that no one could identify," according to part of *Diario Extra's* information.

According to the information, the phenomenon was seen for over an hour and Costa Rican scientists have no explanation.

"As it turned out," added the paper, "they were three white lights moving slowly in the sky, one of them near San Jose's Central Park, another over the Jimenez Institute and the last one by the old Radio Monumental facilities." All of these locations are in the Costa Rican capital's business district.

The object was discovered because many people were looking skyward, after news programs presented UFO images taken that very same week, said *Extra*.

*Al Dia*, on the other hand, cited the statements of atmospheric physicist Walter Fernandez, who claimed that the spectacle was "caused by one of the balloons employed in Costa Rica for a series of atmospheric experiments and measurements." These balloons are launched at 6 am, 12 noon, 6 pm and 12 midnight.

But Alexander Cordoba, an official with the Costa Rica National Meteorological Institute in charge of launching said balloons from the Juan Santamaria Airport, located in Alajuela Province, explained that the wind pushes them westward "making it very hard for the balloons to appear over San Jose."

Airport control tower staff at Juan Santamaria and Tobias Bolanos (airports), the latter located in Pavas, to the west of the city, claimed not having picked up any anomalies on radar or reports on the subject.

Despite the fact that the radio version of "Revista Informativa Nicaragua Hoy" was not transmitted on Friday to make way for Nicaragua's professional baseball series, many people phoned the newsroom and Radio Cucu to say that they had witnessed the phenomenon and requesting information about it. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

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January 17, 2006 — *www.milenio.com* — MEXICO: YUCATAN ALIENS MOCK RESEARCHER — \*\*Alleged evidence presented is a prank connected by minors\*\* by Daniel Barquet - Merida — They mocked Jaime Maussan in Merida, Yucatan, and alleged aliens disclosed it was all a prank.

Last week, the ufologist presented evidence of alien life in Merida, which circulated over the Internet and show an alleged alien concealed behind a light post.

Authors of the "jape" disclosed that they did it merely to "to mock" Maussan and try to "get some dough" out of him. The prank, which "even passed the analysis with special equipment," was made with a mask that one of the participants purchased during last year's carnival in Yucatan's capital city. The alien evidence was broadcast by Televisa during the last episode of the *Otro Rollo* program, hosted by Adal Ramones.

After the end of this program, the prank made with a supermarket mask became, for some ufologists "further proof" that aliens are on Earth and that one of them appeared in Fraccionamiento del Parque in eastern Merida.

The recording, presented by Maussan as a world exclusive, is of poor quality and was made with cell phone. The pranksters claim that they made it "in order to make a good amount of money from the sale of that material," but are now afraid and undecided about disclosing the truth or maintaining the hoax.

"The events are fake. There is no such alien," said Sergio Valdez Diaz, member of the Centro de Investigacion de Fenomenos Paranormales, a group dedicated to studying such events.

Two re-enactments have already been made in Merida using camcorders and cell phones similar to the one employed in making the recording, yielding elements that dismiss [its credibility].

"We engaged in this event shortly after the events, before Maussan came to listen to their story. It's not true that the alien vanished behind the lightpost, since it is large enough for a young man to conceal himself. The alleged entity's long arm, which touches the young man, is a visual effect. It was said that contact took place when the boy went to fetch the ball, but the ball was on the left and the post was on the right," stated Valdez Diaz, who met with the authors of the prank, all minors.

According to Valdez Diaz, "all of the youths involved were aware of the deception but decided to maintain it, partly because they hoped to obtain money through their hoax."

"Now this teenager is frightened by the scope of the events and by the visits from people wanting to interview him. He no longer wants to speak with anyone. His companions did not tell the truth because, as they said, they hoped that Maussan would pay them a good amount of money for the recording and they could 'have a good laugh' at his expense," he concluded. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

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January 18, 2006 — [www.milenio.com](http://www.milenio.com) — MEXICO: CONTROVERSY RAGES OVER YUCATAN ALIEN — Maussan: "There's proof, I wasn't taken."

Jose Alonso Herrera denies that he and his friend asked for money and accuse Carlos Trejo of slandering them.

According to a written instrument sent to Milenio by Jaime Maussan, radioactivity was found at the site where three youths recorded a seemingly non-human being on March 20, 2005 using a cell phone.

The text says that astronomer and physicist Jorge Guerrero stated that the discovery was astounding and inexplicable, since there is no reason to justify the existence of radiation in Fraccionamiento del Parque. Measurements taken with specialized equipment detected the presence of radiation not deemed hazardous, but merely as "dark matter."

"I wonder if it was me who was hoodwinked or you, dear friends of Milenio."

The text goes on: present at the site were the youths who participated in the video's recording, Jose Alonso Herrera and David Espada.

Maussan points out that great expectations have emerged around the so-called Merida Alien. However, this has allowed some like Jorge Moreno or Sergio Valdez Diaz of "Misterios de Merida" magazine to slam the researchers. "According to Moreno and Valdez, the video is only a prank by a young man who donned a carnival mask, which they state was admitted by not one, but all of the youths participating in the event."

Maussan says that Valdez Diaz told Daniel Barquet, a reporter for Milenio, that the youths had mocked Maussan because they wanted to "get some dough" out of him and also because they wanted to pull the wool over his eyes. In stating this fact, notes the journalist, neither Barquet nor Valdez exhibit a single shred of proof or authoritative evidence.

He goes on: Herrera and Espada state that Valdez Diaz's declarations are false, and accuse Moreno of having offered money to minors to admit their part in the prank.

"The video reached me accidentally, after having circulated for months among teenage cell phones. I was never asked for money, and I have never offered it."

Maussan says that the video has been analyzed by experts and that it has been established without a doubt that no animation is involved, although they admit that it could be something else, either a prank or a legitimate video.

In the early hours of March 20, two young men from Yucatan, Jose Alonso Herrera and David Espadas, filmed strange figures using a cell phone, a recording they later disseminated through e-mail. They were then contacted by ufologist Jaime Maussan, who asked them for the film, to which they agreed, as he promised to investigate it. However, a man named Carlos Trejo came to Merida a few days ago with the intention of discrediting Maussan and the video fans.

The story given by Alonso Herrera, 17, is that he and his friends make daily recordings in different places, as would any young men with a cell phone. "We shot several videos that day and nothing had happened," said Herrera, who said over the phone: "Then suddenly this happened." In other words, the controversial images of alleged aliens -- as published by reporter Daniel Barquet in Milenio yesterday -- hidden behind a street lamp.

-- *Then it's not true that the images are fake, or that you were playing a prank, or that you asked for money?*

No, not at all, on the contrary. We resorted to Maussan because we lack the means, but Carlos Trejo is putting us in a bad light. All of this is due to a problem between Trejo and Maussan.

The story of the alleged aliens also came from a local paper, according to Herrera, the author of the recording, who is uncomfortable with the stories that are circulating. "They only publish accusations and that seems unfair to me," he insists. At no time are they referred to by name, but he and his friend feel attacked, "because they say that we had a mask and we hid behind a street lamp."

Herrera says that at no time did they ask for money in exchange for the images. "The papers said that our sister had a mask and who knows what else. But we haven't made any statements. The problem is that the papers here made them up on their own."

-- *How did the video come [into Maussan's possession]?*

We showed them to people here, and suddenly it was going from one cell phone to the next until a chain was formed. And the day that Maussan came to make his presentation here, I have no idea who told him about the video. He came to see us and we told him about it.

The Merida International Airport control tower received at least 75 UFO reports last year. Jorge Moreno Gonzalez, director of the Centro de Investigacion de Fenomenos Paranormales, said that tower personnel received at least 75 UFO reports over the last 12 months, but most of them were dismissed due to a lack of evidence or by being notoriously fake. Only 8 are still under investigation. Regarding the Fraccionamiento del Parque case, in which a group of teenagers admitted to creating a prank about an alleged alien in order to be able to mock Jaime Maussan and other researchers, Jorge Moreno Gonzalez, one of the best-known ufologists in the Yucatan, stated that he also received the alleged evidence and that his team of researchers looked into the case, but the result was the same as others: "The teenager who used the mask to play a prank on his friend no longer wants to discuss the subject. He's scared, as are his parents."

Newsroom / Humberto Rios, Mexico City. Daniel Barquet, Merida.



# Search for Bigfoot no joke for those on trail



Staff photo — Duane A. Lavery

Lorena resident Daryl Colyer, the lead field investigator for the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, talks about his quest to document the existence of the hairy, apelike creature.

Local field researcher says seeing is believing

By Cindy V. Culp

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Daryl Colyer, of Lorena, is obsessed with Bigfoot. But don't call him a fan, aficionado or enthusiast. Those terms are for people who watch B-movies about the hairy creature or collect Sasquatch dolls, he said.

Instead, Colyer prefers to be called a field investigator. That's the title he holds with the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, a group dedicated to proving the existence of an undocu-

mented, bipedal primate that people commonly refer to as Bigfoot.

"I'm trying to solve a mystery," Colyer said.

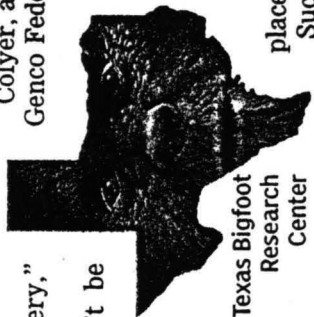
Needless to say, Colyer won't be dressing up in an ape costume for Halloween. But like nearly every other day of the year, he will probably mark the holiday by doing something related to a creature that most people put in the same category as ghosts and goblins.

That work might entail interviewing people by phone who say they have encountered a Bigfoot. Or it might take the form of planning a weekend trip to look for the creature in a

Texas forest.

Colyer, a 44-year-old collections manager at Genco Federal Credit Union, said he knows a lot of people think he's nuts. That's especially true in Central Texas, where Bigfoot stories are not part of the culture. But in other areas, especially East Texas, the idea that an unidentified apelike creature lives in the woods is commonplace, he said.

Such stories, like those related by his father and others in the northeast Texas community where he lived as a boy, are what initially sparked his interest, Colyer said. Al-



Texas Bigfoot Research Center

though he dismissed the stories as tall tales when he became a teenager, he couldn't completely get them out of his mind. They stuck with him through a stint in the U.S. Air Force and were still there nagging at him when he moved to Lorena in 1991.

After a years of mulling over the idea, Colyer finally decided to investigate the stories for himself. He was still skeptical, he insists, but wanted to know for sure. So in 2003, he did an Internet search and located two groups that looked credible — the Texas Bigfoot Research Center and the international Bigfoot Researchers Field Organization.

Colyer, who now works exclusively with the Texas center, soon found himself on scouting mission in some of Texas' 22 million acres of timberland. The group chooses areas to explore based on reported sightings of Bigfoot and then uses an arsenal of high-tech equipment to try to locate and document one of the creatures.

The first experience Colyer says he had with a Bigfoot came in September 2003, when he and his wife, Dalinda, were on an expedition in northeast Texas and heard a call go out in the

forest.

"They sounded like gibbons on steroids," Colyer said. "It was a big sound."

Then, in May 2004, Colyer said he caught a glimpse of a Bigfoot. He was following up on a sighting report about 60 miles northeast of Houston when he saw a 5-foot-6-inch creature with reddish-brown hair walking on two legs, he said.

"It just jumped across the trail, went into the woods and ran off," Colyer said. "At first I tried to deny it. I tried to think of all the other things I could have seen. The closest thing I could come up with is an orangutan on two legs. But they aren't bipedal. And it's not like we have feral orangutans in East Texas. ... You have to remain skeptical, but you have to accept something at face value when you experience it."

*"They sounded like gibbons on steroids."*

Daryl Colyer, Bigfoot researcher

Colyer and other Texas Bigfoot seekers have been getting national media attention in recent years. Much of the coverage has been focused on the Texas Bigfoot Conference, which the research center has hosted for the past five years. This year's event, which was held two weeks ago in the East Texas town of Jefferson, drew a record crowd of 500 people.

The center will likely draw more attention next year, when it teams up with the University of Texas in San Antonio. From

April 7 to July 30, the university's Institute of Texan Cultures will host a museum exhibit about Bigfoot and the hunt for it in Texas, said Craig Woolheater, a 45-year-old Dallas resident who founded the Bigfoot center 6½ years ago.

Someday, the group hopes to get funding from a university or another group, Woolheater said. Right now, individual members have to pay for all expenses out of their own pockets and are limited by work and family obligations.

Without such funding, Colyer said, it's unlikely that conclusive proof of Bigfoot's ex-

istence will be obtained. He noted that last year it took a group of about 50 well-funded researchers more than 7,000 hours to prove that the ivory-billed woodpecker still exists in Arkansas.

But a lack of funding won't stop Colyer from trying to solve the mystery. He says he knows what he saw and won't stop until he finds a way to prove it.

"This is the zoological discovery of the century if we can validate that this species exists, he said.

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## Observations

# Bigfoot Country

I think the folks in Honobia were a little pleasantly overwhelmed last weekend when they put on the first Honobia Bigfoot Festival.

One local remarked he didn't realize there were so many believers.

Believers is one thing, but curiosity seekers, gawkers and just plain fun-loving folks is another.

People showed up in droves at the festival, along with various news media (me included) perhaps in the hopes of catching an actual Bigfoot on film.

As you make the drive into Honobia, your eyes sort of drift to the thickly wooded areas on both sides of the road, perhaps with the hope that you might actually see the Hairy Man take a step out into the road. It is prime Bigfoot country - isolated and plenty of cover.

That would have made the festival complete.

He was the only thing missing, but then he has never been one to mingle with the general population, particularly in the daytime.

For those of you who are into computers, there is an actual Bigfoot Sightings Database set up by the Texas Bigfoot Re-

search Center. In that, you can find the Oklahoma Sightings Database.

Now I am not one to make slight of the folks in LeFlore County, but when you get to the website there is a breakdown by county of Bigfoot sightings. As you read along you see Bryan County 1, Atoka County 1, Cherokee County 2, McCurtain County 2, etc., etc., then all of a sudden, bam!, LeFlore County 7. We have the highest number of sightings right here in LeFlore County.

Either we've got a lot of folks living here with overactive imaginations or we have ourselves quite a Bigfoot population, either that or there's one Bigfoot that gets around alot.

Here in Oklahoma we have given the big primate a variety of names. They include Big Ed, the Boggy Depot Monster, Green Hill Monster, Hairy Man, the Noxie Monster and the Oklahoma Chicken Man.

Honobia's festival stems from a sighting in 2000 by Tim Humphreys.

Humphreys has told reporters he first had encounters with not one, but several Bigfoots on his property in the late 90s.

Humphreys said he first started noticing odd-looking creatures and strange screaming several years ago. In the winter of 2000 it came to a head when one of the creatures stared through a window of his home scaring his daughter.

"They had been beating on my house, scaring my kids playing in the woods, yelling and screaming and scratching," Humphreys is quoted as saying.

He said the closest contact came when he was in the woods and saw four at one time and shot one of them. However, there is no body.

Humphreys is not the only one. There have been at least three sightings by hunters around the Big Cedar area, in the past couple of years, two in 2004 and one in 2005.

The range of Bigfoot seems to be anywhere in the Kiamichi or Ouachita Mountains.

Another sighting was reported in 1981 by a family living along the Forche Maline near Wilburton in Latimer County. This one was first noticed by its odor which is often described as musky. More

than likely the smell is that akin to someone never taking a bath. At least that would be my guess.

When you get into Honobia, you can stop off at Clancy's Country Store. You can talk to the owners about stories they've heard or sit on the front porch of the store and visit with locals about the sightings and sounds they've seen and heard.

At any rate, the first Honobia Bigfoot Festival came off better than most locals expected. Hundreds showed up for the event. Organizers quickly sold out of Bigfoot t-shirts, but you could still pick up a Bigfoot keychain, or even a rock with Bigfoot written on it and other Bigfoot memorabilia. No doubt, Bigfoot is a hot item in that area.

With hunting season upon us, we might expect more sightings.

Hunters might want to take extra precautions when entering the deep and darkened woods. That darkened shadow might actually be a lightning-scarred tree, or it might be something watching...who knows what lurks in the woods, or in the minds of men.

## 'Bigfoot' expedition gears up

As officials and scientists in Malaysia plan a trip to track down a "Bigfoot" creature rumoured to be lurking in the Jorhor forests, one team of enthusiasts from Singapore has been forced to stay at home.

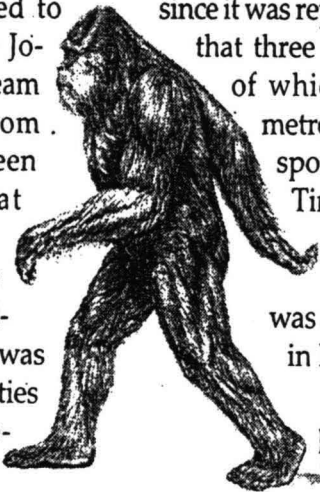
The Singapore Paranormal Investigators (SPI) group was told by the authorities across the Causeway to postpone its Jan 21 expedition to hunt for the large, ape-like beast.

An SPI team of 20 had planned to inspect footprints

and bite marks on fruits to uncover the mystery that has gripped the Malaysian press since it was reported last year

that three creatures, two of which were three metres tall, had been spotted near Kota Tinggi. A trail of 50 centimetres long footprints was also discovered in Pant.

SPI vice-president Toh Seong Fai said the most widely accepted theory is that Bigfoot is a descendant of the giant primate species, *Giganto-pithecus Blackai*.



SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 21, 2006 CR: G. Conway

### China's 'Wild Man' park closed to tourists

SHANGHAI — China has temporarily closed parts of a nature reserve that attracts scores of people each year looking for evidence of an ape-like Bigfoot creature, a park official said this week.

Sections of Shennongjia Nature Reserve will remain closed for at least three months to allow its natural attractions to recover from the wear and tear of visitors, said Wang Yong, an official from the park's tourism bureau.

"... we are going to do some research on how to improve the attraction of Shennongjia," said Wang. Proposals included a possible airport in the area to facilitate tourist arrivals.

Located in the remote mountains of Hubei province, the park has long been rumoured as the home to the elusive creature known in Chinese as the Yeren, or Wild Man.

Scientists say there is no scientific evidence the creature exists, but scores of people claim to have seen it roaming the park, about 1,000 kilometres southwest of Beijing.

The park is offering a \$60,000 US reward for the Yeren's capture.



# 'Bigfoot' sighting in Nenahnezad dismissed; evidence points to bear

— By Ryan Hall —  
The Daily Times

**NENAHNEZAD** — A reported "Bigfoot" sighting more than a week ago in Nenahnezad has been dismissed by Navajo Nation Police.

According to Lt. Clarence Bilagody of the Navajo Nation Police, Shiprock District, residents said they had witnessed up to three Bigfoot-like creatures roaming a field.

"Yeah, we had that report come in to the office. Some people out there said they saw something hairy," he said.

Contrary to rumors, the animals did not attack any livestock, according to police.

A member of the Criminal Investiga-

tions Division of the Navajo Nation Police took a cast of the footprints left by the alleged Bigfoot.

An analysis conducted by police and Navajo Nation Rangers concluded the animals seen in the field were not the elusive creatures residents thought they were.

"It's a bear track, no such thing as Bigfoot," said Capt. Douglas Joe of the Criminal Investigations Division.

According to William Tsosie of

*'Yeah, we had that report come in to the office. Some people out there said they saw something hairy.'*

Lt. Clarence Bilagody, Navajo Nation Police

is a giant, oafish creature similar to the Anglo concept of Bigfoot.

"It means really monstrous," he said.

Wallace Charley of Shiprock, said according to Navajo legend, Yef'tso is a "people-eating monster." He noted the creature is also thought to assist in bringing rain to the Navajo people.

He added there was no such thing as Bigfoot in Navajo legends.

Shiprock, Bigfoot doesn't exist in Navajo culture, per se, but "Yef'tso,"

Charley, Tsosie and LoRenzo Bates of Upper Fruitland, all said they had heard of the alleged Bigfoot sighting in Nenahnezad.

Richard "The Bigfoot Man" O'Neill of Farmington said he believes there are Bigfoot creatures in the Four Corners area, including around Shiprock.

"I looked for him for four years," he said, adding a friend had seen a Bigfoot in the 1980s near Cortez, Colo.

O'Neill, who has conducted interviews with over 200 people claiming to have seen Bigfoot, described the creature as between 10 and 12 feet tall, and "kind of reddish-brown."

He noted several witnesses describe the creature as being very human-like.

O'Neill was never able to catch a glimpse of Bigfoot, but said several Shiprock residents had seen him, particularly in the areas of Teec Nos Pos and the Shiprock itself.

After four years of searching for the creature, he was asked by a Navajo man to leave Bigfoot alone. The man claimed elders had told him to pass the message on to "The Bigfoot Man," because the creature brought the rain by roaming the mountains near the community.

He stopped his search shortly afterwards when his vehicle's motor inexplicably shut down at the same spot in the road three times while he was stalking the creature.

The third time, O'Neill said he heard a voice in his head that said "Next time, I'm going to kill you."

He never searched for Bigfoot near Shiprock following that incident.

"I'm crazy, not stupid," O'Neill said.

Capt. Joe said the footprint found in Nenahnezad was definitely a bear track and the case was considered closed.

## The Reclusive Forest Primate Chronicles

(Fourth Installment)

Creatures like the North American Bigfoot or Sasquatch, or their close relatives, also inhabit other parts of the world. For hundreds of years such animals have been known to exist in Nepal, China, and Russia. In those areas they are known as Almas and Yeti. In Australia they are called Yowies. The indigenous people of Brazil, Belize and other South American countries are aware of such animals and have various names for them.

Since late December of 2005 the Malaysian National News Agency has reported several sightings of large enigmatic primates in the forest reserves in Johor state. In one instance three workers building a fish pond saw a family of the animals consisting of two adults and a child. The adults were estimated to be between 8 and 10 feet. This and other recent credible reports and associated tracks in that area have resulted in the Johor National Park Corporation undertaking a scientific study to verify the existence of the animals that the indigenous people have known about for generations. Scientists from other countries are being asked to assist in these investigations.

Older residents in various areas of the U. S. have their own names for the animals. In some areas of the mountains in North Arkansas they are called "Pine Monkeys". There is a town called Monkey Run just west of Mountain Home. Not far away is a mountain some call Monkey Mountain. Nearby is a mine that is called Monkey Hill mine. That area of Arkansas continues to generate some sighting reports to indicate a sizeable population of the animals still survive there. In Southwest Arkansas an old man referred to the Bigfoot that often watched him from the wood line as he worked his fields as, "That damn ole monkey." In places in Alabama the old timers called them "ghost apes", others in that state call them "Bama Boogers".

In the United States and Canada the home ranges of these animals are extensive, although they apparently do not migrate. It appears from the plotting of sighting reports from Arkansas that during the winter months- during the hunting sea-

sons- they move to the higher and more inaccessible elevations within the Ozark and Ouachita mountains. During the hot, dry summer months they move to the lower elevations where there are springs or fresh water streams.

Like most animals, they must obtain drinking water during hot summer days. Many sightings that have been reported during the late afternoon occur as the animals are going to or coming from fresh water sources. About 4 p.m. on the first day of October a few years ago, a hunter in the Ouachita Mountains in the northern part of Saline County had the unusual experience of seeing and hearing two large Sasquatch males fighting or roughhousing down the side of a large, rough mountain as they made their way towards pools of cold spring water. The weather was unusually warm for the date, and the animals may have been seeking water earlier in the day than normal. For both the two animals and the man, the trips were wasted. When they became aware of each other's presence, the animals disappeared up the mountain hollow, and the man immediately left for home. The man's detailed descriptions of the animals included his observation that both animals were about the same size and height, and both were about three feet taller than himself. The witness, an ex-police officer, is 6 feet, 3 inches in height.

In Arkansas the animals forage and hunt along mountain creeks and rivers, and around manmade and natural lakes. They seem to prefer foraging in areas along the upper ends of the lakes. They have been seen and/or heard along the shores of every major lake in Western and Northern Arkansas. They are excellent swimmers and have been seen trying to catch fish in streams in various areas of the country. Numerous people have seen them enter deep holes of water in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest and stay submerged for more than two minutes and resurfacing after swimming underwater for great distances.

In July of 1998 a man and his wife saw a large Bigfoot standing in the swift water of Hurricane Creek in Johnson County, Arkansas near Ft.

Douglas. The animal was stooped and leaning forward with its arms outstretched and its hands positioned to scoop up fish coming up the shoal.

In the South the animals prefer the safety and seclusion of the swamps and the bottomland along the rivers. In Arkansas and other states they have been seen tearing open rotted trees and overturning large rocks looking for grubs, rodents and other small prey in the same fashion as bears. In the Pacific Northwest they have been frequently seen picking up large rocks in search of such food sources, and in the process stacking rocks neatly in piles.

(To be continued)

The author of this article may be contacted by email at [tallbranco@aol.com](mailto:tallbranco@aol.com) or by telephone at (501) 352-1159.

STAR NEWS, Pasadena, CA - Sept. 23, 2005

## A beast of an attraction on the Idaho-Utah border

By Mark Thlessen  
Associated Press

**T**HERE'S no photographic proof, but some say it looks like a walrus minus the tusks.

Others are adamant it's a dinosaur. Or a big alligator that swims really fast.

But while the existence of the Bear Lake Monster has been debated at coffee shops and campfires since the first published report in 1868, this much is undisputed: Stories about the monster can make cash registers sing at stores ringing the lake on the Idaho-Utah border.

"Yes, it's good for business," said Vic Tilt, who along with his wife owns Gladys' Place, a combination convenience and liquor store, deli, post office and gift shop in nearby Fish Haven, Idaho.

The Tilts have no firsthand sightings to confirm the creature's existence but are quick to say anything is possible.

"I believe in the tooth fairy," said Gladys. "I love having these things to think about."

The 137-year-old tale got new fins in recent years when Bear Lake business owner Brian Hirschi announced that he had seen the creature. Skeptics were quick to point out that his recounting of the sighting appeared in a Salt Lake newspaper on Memorial Day weekend — the start of the summer tourist season.

It happened, he insists, one night three years ago as he was anchoring his large pontoon boat — shaped like a sea monster — after a day of ferrying tourists

around the 20-mile-long, eight-mile-wide, 208-foot-deep crystal-blue lake.

After throwing the anchor, he saw "these two humps in the water" about 100 yards from the boat. At first he thought they were lost water skis, but they disappeared. Then, his boat lifted up.

"I started to get scared," said Hirschi, who owns five watercraft rental locations around the lake. "The next thing I know, a serpentine creature shot up out of the water."

He said it had "really dark, slimy green skin and deep bearded eyes." It went back under water and made a sound like a roaring bull before taking off.

Hirschi said he hesitated before telling anyone about his experience, fearing they would "think I was crazy or on the lake too much." But eventually he broke his silence.

To those who say it's obviously a publicity stunt, Hirschi responded: "Once you've seen the monster, you really don't care what other people say."

Steve Siporin, a professor of English and history at Utah State University in nearby Logan, said stories about the monster have "more to do with tourism than belief. It seems like an awful lot of vacation lakes have their own monster, a local symbol of pride. What self-respecting lake can there be without its own monster?"

The origins of the Bear Lake Monster go back to a series of articles written by Joseph C. Rich, a Mormon colonizer at Bear Lake. His articles in the Deseret Evening News claimed

friday Great Escapes

### BEAR LAKE, UTAH

From Salt Lake City, take Interstate 15 north 54 miles to the Logan exit. Take U.S. 91 north 27 miles, then U.S. 89 north for 40 miles to Bear Lake.

Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Located on the north end of Bear Lake. The refuge is 17 acres of marsh, open water and grassland that is home to large numbers of waterfowl. (208) 847-1757; [pacific.fws.gov/refuges](http://pacific.fws.gov/refuges).

General information: [www.bearlake.org](http://www.bearlake.org); (208) 845-3333

several upstanding citizens, but not Rich himself, had seen the creature. However, in 1888 he recanted the stories, saying he had made up the monster.

Coincidentally, Rich owned the first general store in Bear Lake County, Idaho.

Local tourism director Judy Holbrook invites people to come look for the monster themselves. "But you will need to stay at least a week," she said coyly.

Besides, Holbrook noted, there are other things to enjoy when you're scouting for the Bear Lake Monster: famous raspberries, the natural resources of the lake, mountain scenery and clean, fresh air.

Vic Tilt is quick to agree. "The lake is nice," he said.

SPECTATOR, Ozark, AR - Jan. 18, 2006

# HE'S BACK



Photo by Alex McRae

Coweta County's Donna Robards isn't laughing anymore about possible Bigfoot-type creatures lurking in the Happy Valley Circle area of north Coweta. She now believes the critters are alive and well after almost running into a pair of the giant creatures in late August near her Happy Valley home. The skid marks where Robards stopped to avoid hitting the creatures are still visible.

## Another 'Bigfoot' sighting in the Happy Valley area

By ALEX MCRAE  
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He's back.

And he's not alone.

The so-called "Happy Valley Horror," a Bigfoot type creature which was first sighted last April, is still alive and kicking... and causing potential traffic problems, according to Happy Valley Circle resident Donna Robards.

Robards, a lifelong Coweta resident, remembers laughing when reports of the creature first surfaced in April after an anonymous e-mailer to The Times-Herald claimed he had

"It wasn't human, but you could call it ape-like. It stood upright, but the hair on its face was shorter than on the rest of its body. And the eyes didn't bulge like an ape's. They were set back like human eyes."

Donna Robards

sighted a large, hairy creature walking upright in a field on Happy Valley Circle.

"My husband and I laughed ourselves silly over that one," Robards says.

She's not laughing now after almost running over two of the critters in late August.

"I thought it was funny before," she says. "Now I'm

not so sure."

Robards' thinking about the possibility of strange, hairy critters in north Coweta began to change on Aug. 22, when her son Jeff, 18, had a strange encounter while returning to the Happy Valley home he shares with his folks.

He had just dropped his sister off at her east Coweta home and was heading west

on Cedar Creek Road near its intersection with Happy Valley Road just after 2:30 a.m. As he approached the stop sign, Jeff was startled to see a huge, hairy creature strolling down the middle of Cedar Creek Road toward his vehicle, according to Donna Robards.

"He said it was big and hairy and walking upright," says Donna Robards. "At first, he thought it might have been a bear, but he didn't stick around to see. When I asked him about it later, he said it couldn't have been a bear because

the face was flat and didn't have a snout like a bear. He didn't know what it was, and I didn't either," says Donna Robards.

Three nights later on Aug. 25, just before midnight, Donna Robards got to see just what her son had described. She had worked late in LaGrange and was heading north on Happy Valley Circle toward her home. When she reached the Cedar Creek Road intersection, she saw not one, but two of the creatures standing in the road just yards ahead.

She slammed on the brakes and skidded to a stop within 20 feet of the hairy pair.

She says the larger of the two creatures was eight feet tall and covered with coarse black hair. The other was a

foot shorter, and its hair was reddish-brown in color, Robards says.

When Robards screeched to a stop, she says the smaller one ambled into the woods west of Happy Valley Circle. The big one, however, turned and started right at her.

"I thought oh, dear God, that thing is going to come in the car after me," she says. "And I was scared to death."

After what seemed like an eternity, the larger creature followed the first one into the woods, and Robards headed home as fast as she could, an awful image imprinted on her memory forever.

"It wasn't human, but you could call it ape-like," Robards says. "It stood upright, but the hair on its

face was shorter than on the rest of its body. And the eyes didn't bulge like an ape's. They were set back like human eyes."

When Robards told her husband Michael, his response wasn't what she expected.

"We'd both been laughing since the first Happy Valley Horror was sighted," she says, "and he still didn't believe what might be going on. He thinks I've lost my mind." She says with a laugh. "But I know what I saw, and I don't want to see it again."

Robards says that soon after she and her husband moved into their Happy Valley home in March 2003, she and her husband came home on more than one occasion to find items missing. The thefts

were reported to the Coweta County Sheriff's Office, but Donna Robards never suspected anything might have been responsible other than normal low-life human sorts.

She still didn't believe a non-human burglar could have been responsible when the Happy Valley Horror was first spotted last April.

"I thought that story was great fun," she says. "It reminded me of all the fuss that happened when the Belt Road Booger was around."

The Belk Road Booger, Coweta's first reported creepy creature, made several appearances in the 1970s, scaring people and inflating newspaper sales for weeks. The Booger was never identified and never harmed any

humans, although it is reported the monster ate several plants right off people's porches.

The Booger was eventually written off as an urban legend. But once the Happy Valley Horror was sighted in April, research revealed that Coweta County was not entirely out of the question as home to a Bigfoot-type beast. In fact, some unidentified monsters have been spotted less than 50 miles from the Coweta County Courthouse.

A 2003 story in the Athens (GA) Banner-Herald recounts the story of Steve Hyde, of Griffin, Ga., whose hobby was searching for Bigfoot in central and south Georgia. In 1999, the story says, after locals reported barn damage and disappearing animals, Hyde and a friend, former law enforcement officer James Akin, began a search of Elkins Creek, which flows into the Flint River in Pike County south of Griffin.

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

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

Georgia Bigfoot (Georgia bigfoot.com) offers links to possible sightings in Georgia and surrounding areas and has a form to submit new sightings. The website of the Chattahoochee Bigfoot Organization (chattahoochee-bigfoot.org) reports a possible Bigfoot sighting in March, 2005, in Harris County, Ga., between Coweta and Columbus.

The Bigfoot Research Organization (bfro.net) provides a map showing geographic distribution of Bigfoot sightings in the U.S. Although Washington, Oregon and northern California lead with hundreds of sightings each, 22 Bigfoot sightings were reported in Georgia through the end of 2003.

Most Bigfoot sightings occur near a stream or other body of water. Lake Redwine, located on Happy Valley Circle, offers enough water to support a large Bigfoot population.

The creatures sighted by Robards and her son were both headed in the direction of Lake Redwine when spotted, but Lake Redwine representatives report there were no costume parties scheduled on the night of either encounter. They are relatively certain the creatures are not Lake Redwine property owners.

Donna Robards expects some strange looks and good-natured ribbing after going public with her Bigfoot sighting. She doesn't care.

But she also says that when she's driving home after dark these days, she's a lot more cautious than before.

"I'm always careful to look for deer when I'm on the road," she says. "But now I'm going to be even more careful. Whatever that thing was, I sure don't want to run up on it again."