

# UFO

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NEWS JOURNAL, Clovis, NM - June 18, 2006

## UFO INCIDENT RESURFACES

□ Researcher says he has photo of mysterious lights near Cannon.

By Marlena Hartz  
CNJ STAFF WRITER

marlena\_hartz@link.freedom.com

Thirty years after UFOs were reportedly sighted hovering over Clovis skies, another photograph of the event has surfaced.

A UFO researcher said this week he has a photo — albeit fuzzy — of a tubular shaped craft that danced above Clovis on Jan. 21, 1976.

Canadian resident Brian Vike said he obtained the photo about a week ago from a former Eastern New Mexico University journalism student. Vike would not reveal the identity of that

photographer, but said his source was threatened in 2004 after discussing the events on a radio talk show.

"His attitude now is 'people need to know.' And 'if anything happens to my family, people definitely need to know,'" Vike said.

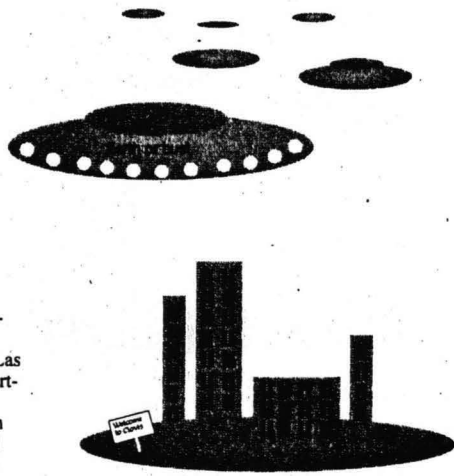
Vike plans to post the photograph on his Web site, [www.hbccufo.org](http://www.hbccufo.org). He is also searching for more eyewitness accounts of the events.

"I want to try to figure out what these people are seeing," said Vike, who said he has investigated scores of reports of UFO sightings from around the world.

"We don't have the answer: Is there life out there?"

Another photo of a UFO sighted in Clovis that same week appeared in the Jan. 23 edition of the Clovis News Journal. That photo, which shows a lightning-like streak in the sky in the shape of a telephone receiver, was taken by amateur astronomer Steve Muscato.

Muscato, who now lives in Las Vegas, Nev., remembers the reported sightings caused quite a stir. "I received dozen of calls from all over the country," said Muscato, who took the photo-



CNJ Illustration: Rick White

graph through a window from the top floor of the Clovis Hotel.

"I honestly thought it was Saturn," recalled Muscato, who was a high school senior at the time. Muscato said he checked with a noted astronomer, who told him Saturn would not have been visible at that time.

To this day Muscato's not sure what he saw that night.

"I remember him coming home all excited," said Frank Muscato, Steve's father, who then owned a doughnut store at 14th and Mitchell. "The only thing I was concerned about was whether (the UFOs) wanted carry-out doughnuts."

The elder Muscato said the buzz in town lasted awhile.

"Everybody was excited about it," Muscato said. "All the major networks were in town and they were all on the top of Hotel Clovis."

A document from the National Military Command Center confirms UFO sightings on Jan. 21, 1976, but does not offer an explanation as to the origin of the crafts.

"Two UFOs are reported near the flight line at Cannon AFB, New Mexico," the document reads. "Security Police observing them reported the UFOs to be 25 yards in diameter, gold or silver in color with a blue light on top, a hole in the middle, and red light on bottom."

The Military Command document on Cannon is lumped in

with 11 other declassified, military reports of UFO sightings which occurred across the nation near military installations, and in Iran, from 1975 and 1976.

Following the Jan. 21 UFO sightings in Clovis, other strange events were reported in the area, according to the CNJ.

UFO sightings continued in Clovis for the next two days, according to CNJ archives. On Jan. 22, 1976, the strange objects zipped around Cannon F-111s that were sent into the air to investigate them, according to testimony that appears on Vike's Web site. The objects darted out of the reach of the jets, cutting through the air at 90-degree angles, and racing at phenomenal speeds, the Web site reads.

A CNJ staff writer reported

seeing 23 UFOs, sliding in and out of complex formations, the next night.

Also, an unexplained circle was burned into the ground of a New Mexico ranch and a cylindrical object of unknown origin was discovered in the grass in the days following the initial UFO sightings, according to CNJ archives.

Several UFO investigative teams, including Project Starlight International, swarmed into Clovis after the sightings, according to CNJ archives. But most concluded that the sightings were likely a result of a weather inversion, or some other weather phe-

nomenon. One suggested they could have been glimpses of a planet.

Clovis resident John Fondrick was a senior in high school when the UFOs were sighted and a series of articles on the events appeared in the CNJ. He said he doesn't recall seeing the mysterious crafts. He and his friends attempted numerous sky vigils atop Hotel Clovis, but were always intercepted by police, he said.

At the time of the alleged sightings, Clovis resident Bill Gaedke was an advisor to the commander of the 27th Fighter Wing. He spent six years stationed at the base and retired in 1979 as a chief master sergeant, he said.

"I didn't hear anything about (the UFOs). I vaguely recall something about the crop circles, but I couldn't relate the details," he said.

The deputy chief of Cannon Public Affairs, 1st Lt. James Nichols, said the base could provide "no information" on the UFO sightings of 1976, or on whether or not there have been subsequent UFO sightings around Cannon since.

Several other longtime area residents contacted for the story said they were either unaware of the reports or had no first hand knowledge.

TRIBUNE, Coshocton, OH - June 25, 2006 CR: J. Fry

## This column is out of this world

If you would have asked me last week to suggest a column topic, flying saucers would have been last on the list.

Yet here I am, trying to determine if we're living in East Roswell instead of Coshocton.

(Roswell, of course, is the New Mexico town where aliens supposedly landed a half-century ago.)

The Internet is the home of all sorts of crazy stories, including some about our area.

A group that researches UFO sightings has a description of something that supposedly happened at Dillon Dam in May 1999.

According to the narrative, which appeared on the Internet last week, two brothers and their father were fishing at the dam about 10 p.m.

"Suddenly, right in front of us, it sounded as if something 'huge' was

coming out of the water," one of the eyewitnesses wrote. "Later when we talked about it, my brother mentioned something as big as a house, but that was just because that was the biggest thing he could think of. It sounded as if an aircraft carrier was emerging from the water. You could sense it rising up out of the water, but we could not see it. You could also hear the water falling back down off of the object, back to the lake."

Is this common knowledge, and I'm just the last guy at the party? Or is a major investigative project in order?

Those who are old enough might remember a more famous UFO investigation. On Nov. 13, 1966, Zanesville barber and amateur astronomer Ralph Ditter took two photographs that clearly show a UFO hovering in the sky. People were excited and amazed; the Rand Corp. was not. The think tank's researchers proved the photos were a hoax.

Mr. Ditter wasn't trying to fool anyone at first; he was just trying to fulfill a promise to his daughter to take a picture of an alien spaceship.

Not to be outdone, Coshocton has its own UFO tales. According to a blog

called "Coshocton Then, Coshocton Now," residents swore they saw a flying saucer hover over town for several hours back in June 1954.

In October 1973, United Press International said citizens and police officers reported dozens of orange-colored UFOs in central Ohio, "including a woman who said three UFOs forced her car off a roadway."

Personally, I've never seen a UFO. I do believe we are not alone in the universe, though, and always wondered how I would react to a bona fide alien encounter. Would they be logical, like the Vulcans of "Star Trek," all-powerful like Superman or murderous like the aliens of "Independence Day"?

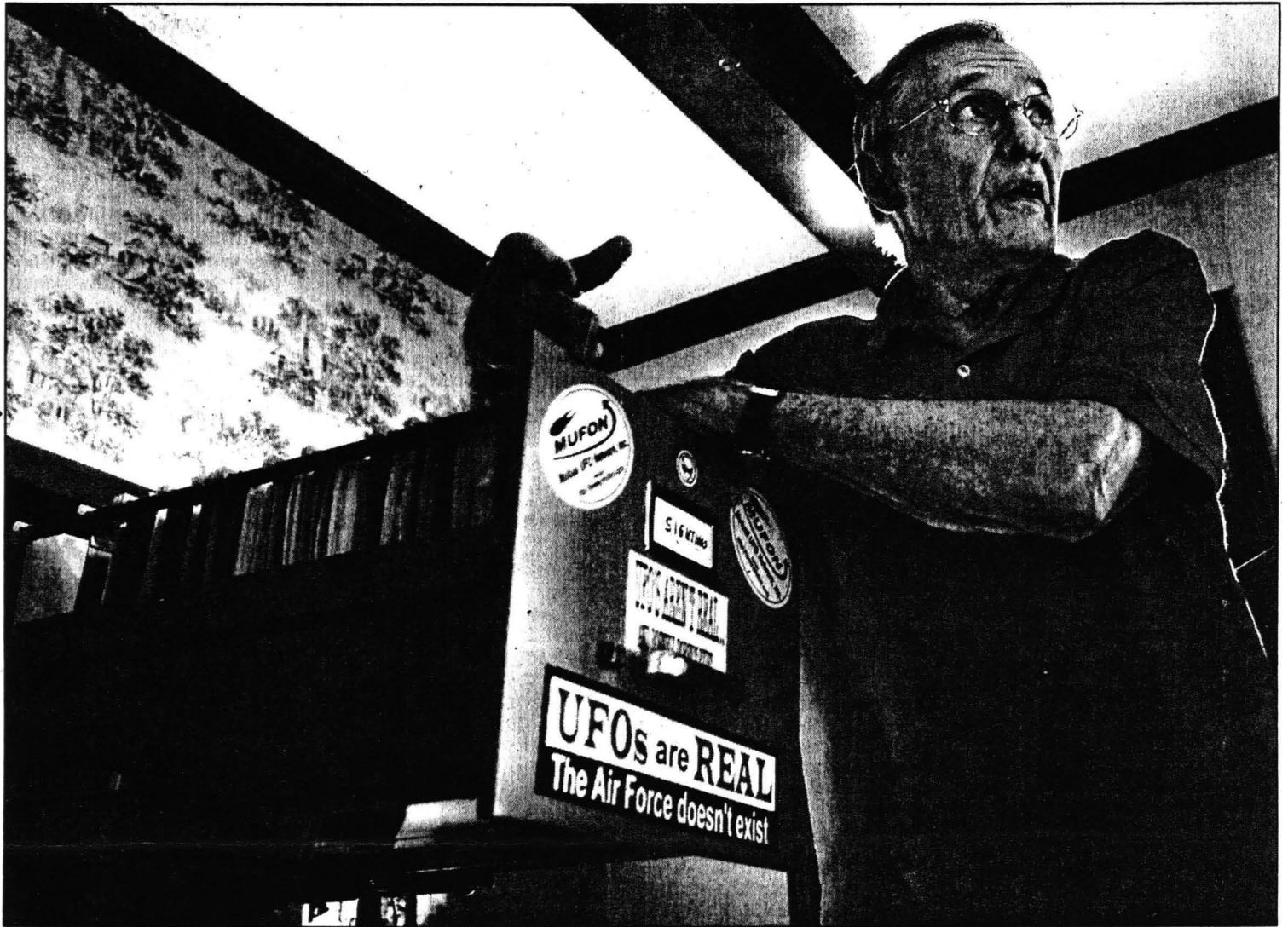
Or are there already aliens in our midst? Guess it's off the supermarket tabloid section to find out.

Len LaCara is managing editor of the Coshocton Tribune and Zanesville Times Recorder. You can call him at (740) 295-3420 or e-mail him at [llacara@nncogan-nett.com](mailto:llacara@nncogan-nett.com). You also can read his blog online at [www.coshoctontribune.com](http://www.coshoctontribune.com).



LEN  
LaCARA  
Managing  
Editor

# What a long, strange trip



NATHAN W. ARMES | HICKORY DAILY RECORD

George Fawcett has been a UFO investigator for more than 60 years. He's the founder of MUFON, Mutual UFO Network. He will be speaking at the Lincolnton Library Saturday, July 15.

## UFO investigator: I'm not a know-it-all, I'm a seek-it-all

BY JOSH YODER  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

### LINCOLNTON

George Fawcett doesn't care if you don't believe in UFOs.

It doesn't bother him if you deny the existence of visitors from outer space. He'll just know you're wrong.

"I've never met an informed skeptic," Fawcett said, flashing a grin. "They don't exist."

Fawcett, who turns 77 next week, is a somewhat of a guru among UFO believers. He's spent decades researching the unexplained phenomena, investigated thousands of cases and written two books on the subject. He's donated photographs, case files and other items to UFO museums in Roswell, New Mexico and Ankara, Turkey. And yes, he's personally seen – or claims to have seen – a UFO.

"I've never had a dull life,"

Fawcett said Tuesday in his Lincolnton home.

Fawcett recently retired from his position as director of Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, which he founded. He will speak about his passion Saturday at the public library in Lincolnton. The presentation is called "A 66-year Personal Trip Through UFO Land."

Fawcett's fascination with UFOs can be traced to a 1944 news brief. He was 10 years old, and collecting clippings of World War II stories. A particular item caught his eye.

The headline read, "Silver Balls Floating in the air: Nazi's new war device." The story gave a brief, unclear account of a possible UFO sighting during World War II. The story triggered young Fawcett's curiosity.

"I've had it like a tiger by the tail ever since," he said.

During Saturday's speech, Fawcett will detail some of the highlight cases of his career as a UFO investigator for hire.

He'll talk about the wave of sightings in 1973 in his native Mt. Airy, and the subsequent media blitz that followed.

He'll recount to the audience his encounter with one of the shadowy 'Men in Black' – iconic, sinister figures in UFO lore. Fawcett said he had a cup of coffee with the mysterious men, and turned down a \$10,000 offer to keep mum about some of his findings.

He'll tell the story of his own sighting in 1951, when he spotted an orange globe hovering above the ground on a college campus in Lynchburg, Va.

Despite his years of research and expert status – he says he gets about 50 emails and letters each day – you won't hear him bragging.

"I'm not a know-it-all," said

### WANT TO GO?

**What:** "A 66-year Personal Trip Through UFO Land" presentation by UFO expert/author George Fawcett

**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Charles R. Jonas Library, 306 W. Main St., Lincolnton

**Cost:** Free

**For more information:** (704) 735-5725

the retired Lincolnton man. "I'm what I call a seek-it-all."

For all he says he's seen over the years, Fawcett has never encountered an alien life form firsthand. But that's not to say he wouldn't like to.

"Curious as I am, I might just ask for a trip aboard," he said.

jjoder@hickoryrecord.com | 322-4510 x5410  
or 304-6917



# Otherworldly event draws alien enthusiasts

BY MARK MUCKENFUSS  
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

**LANDERS** — The aliens came back to Landers on Saturday.

There was the bullet creature. He looked like a man, except his bald head was entirely silver and his otherworldly eyes were hidden behind goggled sunglasses. In fact, all of the "extraterrestrials" looked nearly human except for their blue and silver outfits of varying designs.

Nothing like E.T. or the bug-eyed creatures from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" showed up. But if they had, they certainly would have been welcomed at the Retro UFO Spaceship Convention.

This was the first convention to be held at George Van Tassel's Integratron since 1978, the year after his death. Van Tassel popularized Landers, about 40 miles north of Palm Springs, as a UFO landing site. He claimed travelers from Venus first contacted him in 1953 and regularly after that. He began holding annual space conventions soon after, putting Landers on the map as a hot spot for extraterrestrial activity.

He might have been happy to see the site of the Integratron — a two-story domed structure designed as a rejuvenation machine — overrun with people in foil hats and clothing more than 50 years after his first contact. After all, said the Rev. Bob Short, who knew Van Tassel, the Integratron was essentially an alien gift. Van Tassel's visitors, he said, provided him with the design.

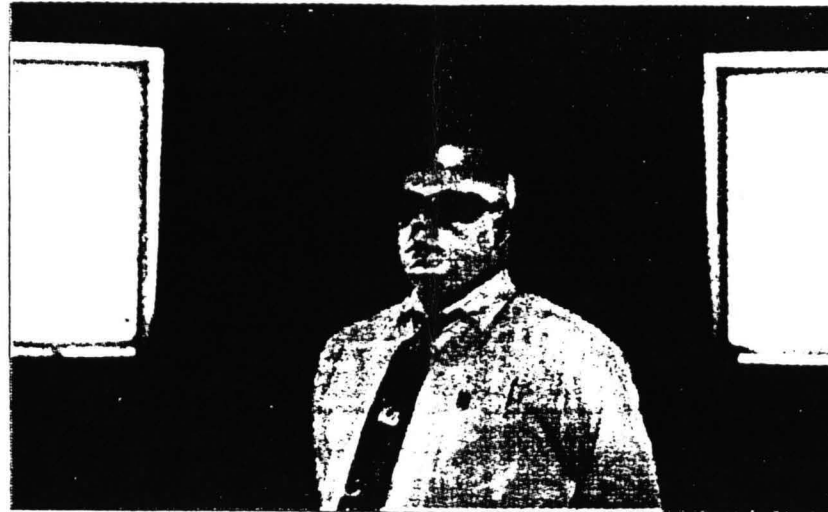
"They really did want to make contact with the people of our world," Short said.

The Integratron was intended to show "that they had good intentions," he said.

Short, dressed partly in American Indian regalia, opened the day's event with some traditional Indian singing and drumming. A woman assisting him shook a gourd rattle and waved burning sage over each of the nearly 60 people forming a circle in front of the Integratron.

Short assured that crowd that his grandfathers, who he said were Standing Elk and Sitting Bull, gave the crowd their blessing.

"If there are any ETs among



PAUL ALVAREZ/THE PRESS ENTERPRISE

Guy Malone, of Los Angeles, meditates during the Retro UFO Spaceship Convention at the Integratron in Landers.

us," he added, "I want to welcome you."

The daylong event, which was a fundraiser for both the Integratron and the Morongo Valley Historical Society, featured lectures from contactees such as Short, UFO historians, and theorists promoting such ideas as the Earth being hollow.

"I have been to Antarctica," said speaker Hans Peterman, of Palm Springs. "I know where the entrance is to the inner Earth."

During a two-hour talk, Peterman, author of "Gravity, Matter and Space Travel," said Lake Vostok provides an opening into the Earth's center, where alien beings live.

Peterman also talked about government-built underground tunnels crisscrossing the United States, a subterranean reptilian race and civilizations on Mars.

"Where did the Martians go?" he asked his audience. "The scenario was that the

name Cairo actually means Mars. There you have absolute proof. No ifs, ands or buts about it."

Not all the attendees or speakers were as wild as Peterman. In fact, most seemed to be there to have fun while sharing some of their strange and unexplained experiences.

Greg Bishop, author of "Weird America," took a humorously skeptical approach in his talk on alien contactees.

Historically, Bishop said, "Every time someone has a spiritual experience it's something coming from the sky. What was coming from the sky in the 1950s and '60s was these things people couldn't identify."

"I think there's something going on," Bishop said. "What that something is, I'm not sure, but it's out of the ordinary."

Daniel Toscano, 46, is a teacher from Riverside. He wasn't willing to speak about his personal UFO experience as he sat beneath Giant Rock, but he said he is encouraged by the messages most contactees share.

"They say there is hope for humanity," he said.

Standing nearby, Ken Keller,

69, of Yucca Valley, had a different opinion about extraterrestrial visitation.

"I think it's a crock," he said. The closest thing he's observed to aliens, he said jokingly, "is my next-door neighbors."

But others are convinced we are not alone.

Michael Barr, 58, of Las Vegas, showed up at the convention dressed in a blue jumpsuit with a high foil collar and a white Beatles wig. He has had his own experience with an alien encounter and believes extraterrestrials are watching humans and waiting for us to learn how to cooperate and get along.

"At some point, and they will decide when that is, they will come back and invite us into their neighborhood," he said.

Until then, he added, conventions are the best thing going, especially when, as in Landers, the atmosphere is right.

"I've been to so many of these conferences (where) everybody's like a stuffed shirt," he said. "Have some fun with it."

Reach Mark Muckenfuss at (909) 806-3059 or mmuckenfuss@PE.com



Camille Harmon believes she was abducted by aliens.

*Story and Photography by Steve Renzi*



**W**hat would you do if you saw a UFO or had been abducted by aliens? One place you could go would be the Wilmot-Murphy Library, where the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an organization "dedicated to the scientific study of unidentified flying objects, for the benefit of humanity," meets the third Saturday of every month.

According to MUFON's Web site, [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com), over 10,000 Americans have seen what they believe to be a UFO. On one Saturday afternoon, nearly 100 people attend a meeting of the Tucson chapter of MUFON. Most of the audience is middle-aged or older, but not all. Most of the audience is Anglo, but not all. There is an equal number of men and women. The group looks like an ordinary garden club, except these people aren't interested in the best time to plant; they're more concerned with alien implants.

Today's speaker is an attractive, auburn-haired young woman named Camille Harmon, who begins her presentation by turning on a tape recorder that plays a "hypnotic-regression" tape on which she emotionally recounts her own encounter with aliens.

After a few minutes, the tape recorder is turned off. Not a sound is heard. Harmon breaks the silence as she begins to expound on her story.

Camille Harmon, a recent transplant from Los Angeles, has a master's degree in fine arts. She is a teacher, married to a professional astrologer, the mother of a four-year-old son, and she believes she has been contacted by aliens.

"I was pulled out of my bed," Harmon says, "through the ceiling, in a blue beam of light, and then, the aliens . . ." She goes on to describe creatures with big black eyes, no pupils. She is a good speaker; the audience listens intently.

At first, she says, she was reluctant to tell her story. What would people think? As time went on, she learned to "own" it. Her students back in Los

Angeles began calling her the "alien lady." She told her friends, her family, other people. Soon others began telling her their own UFO experiences. Harmon was often told that she was the first one to hear those stories, because people were afraid others would laugh at them, call them crazy or worse.

Harmon explains: "At a gas station, the attendant told me a UFO landed in his backyard, and he walked up to it and

touched it. My hairdresser said her family saw a UFO while driving in the mountains on a camping trip. When they got to the campsite, parked and opened the car trunk, it was filled to the brim with pinecones." (Aliens with a sense of humor.)

Harmon's parents grew exasperated at their daughter's behavior. Her mother said, "Why can't you just be gay, like your brother?"

*(continued on page 5)*



Seventy-year-old George Parks nods and smiles as Harmon tells her story. He has heard many stories like this before. Parks is the Arizona state director of MUFON, the Pima County section director, and a field investigator.

saw seven windows. Behind every window stood a figure. An instant later, it flew off and disappeared."

Parks says that he has seen several UFOs since then.

"Are they extraterrestrial or are they our government's?" asks Parks. "Or are they both — the government's and extraterrestrial? I'm still looking for answers, still looking for facts."

MUFON was founded in 1969 as a not-for-profit organization. It has federal tax-exempt status as a scientific research organization. With headquarters in Denver, Colo., the organization is international in membership and scope. It reports a roster of more than 3,000 members, field investigators and research consultants worldwide.

Cari, who asked that her last name not be published, is training to be a field investigator for MUFON. A field investigator studies the several-hundred page MUFON investigation manual and, after passing an exam, is certified to investigate the validity of UFO sightings.

According to Cari, now in her mid-30s, one of the most interesting case files she has seen is about a woman who was driving alone on a rural highway during the day. The woman saw a very bright light above her. The next thing the woman recalled was waking up in her vehicle, on an unknown road, in the mid-

dle of the night. The woman had marks on her neck, and the dashboard of her car was covered with a thin translucent resin.

The modern era of UFO encounters began on June 24, 1947. That day, Ken Arnold, while piloting a small airplane over the American Northwest, radioed a message that he saw nine shiny, metallic objects traveling at a speed he estimated to be well over 1,000 mph. When asked about it afterward, by a reporter, Arnold said, "The objects behaved like a rock or saucer skipping across water." The press called them flying saucers.

Since then, the American Southwest has become a popular area for UFO enthusiasts and "ufology" — the study of UFOs. For the enthusiasts, two UFO-related events seem to dominate all others. The first was the suspected crash of a UFO in Roswell, N.M., in 1947. The second was the mother of all UFO sightings, which occurred on March 13, 1997 — the famous "Phoenix Lights." It is believed to be the largest mass UFO sighting, with hundreds, if not thousands of people purportedly witnessing six to nine unidentified lights in the night sky over Arizona.

Charlene Tillman is not an official member of MUFON, but has been attending meetings for about a year. She describes herself as a "dimensional clairvoyant" and has worked as a "dimensional mediator" in Sedona. She carries a thick black notebook filled with her own colored pencil drawings of "dimensional beings." "There are over 500 types of extraterrestrials around us on this planet, fighting for control of our souls," she says.

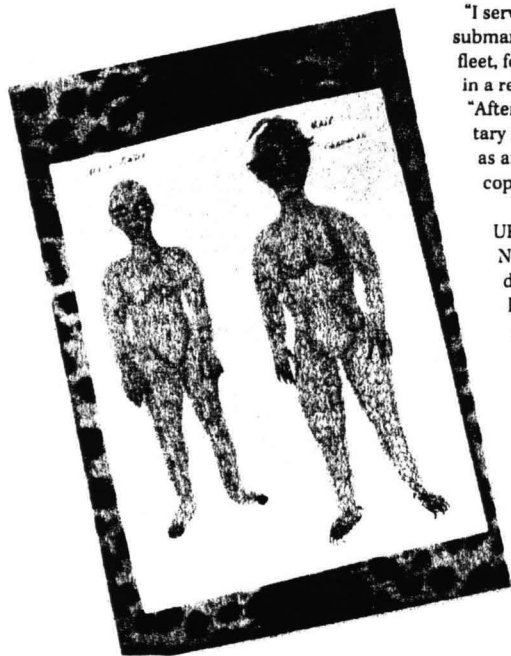
Victoria, who describes herself as a nurse in a hospital, shares her UFO story with those gathered: One night, she and a friend were camping in Aravaipa Canyon. They were the only ones in the campsite. A large saucer-shaped object, with multicolored lights surrounding it, slowly descended toward them. It made no noise. A bright white light, like a searchlight, shot out from the saucer and illuminated the area. It came to rest on the two campers and then turned off. The object then went away.

As the meeting draws to a close, Parks and Harmon lead a question-and-answer session. Questions and comments concerning implants, a government conspiracy, "indigo children," the end of the Mayan calendar, as well as other subjects are mentioned and discussed. Outside, a passerby yells a mocking comment aimed at those attending the MUFON meeting.

After the meeting ends, the crowd files out through the entrance of the Wilmet-Murphy Library, which is adorned with Egyptian hieroglyphics, astrological signs, petroglyphs and Einstein's formula for energy — symbols of mankind's never-ending quest for knowledge and the search for our place in the universe.

Steve Renzi is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to [letters@desertleaf.com](mailto:letters@desertleaf.com).

## THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST HAS BECOME A POPULAR AREA FOR UFO ENTHUSIASTS AND "UFOLOGY" — THE STUDY OF UFOS.



"I served in the military as a submariner, with the submarine fleet, for over 20 years," he says, in a relaxed, folksy manner. "After I retired from the military in 1973, I went to work as an electrician for BHP copper in San Manuel."

Parks has had his own UFO encounters. "In November 1980, I was driving home from work late at night after the night shift at the mine," he says. "Coming around the bend at Oracle Junction, I saw a metallic craft hovering not far from the road. On the craft, I

Drawings of dimensional beings, by Charlene Ford



George Harmon serves as director of MUFON in the state of Arizona and Pima County.

## Believe in UFOs? You are not alone

WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - July 6, 2006 CR: J. Buder

UFOs are being covered up, a retired Omaha professor says, for one basic reason — the government believes we can't handle the truth.

Jack Kasher, who won awards for teaching physics and astronomy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said officials believe the truth would cause panic.

On the contrary, he said, the interested response he has received in years of giving talks convinces him that people welcome information about unidentified flying objects.

"This," he said, "is one of the biggest stories of the millennium."

Well, it certainly would be — if there were proof. Although some say there is evidence, aliens are — shall we say — undocumented.

Saturday in Omaha, people can see what's billed as a "theatrical feature film" about visitors to Earth.

Titled "UFO — The Greatest Story Ever Denied," it was produced by Jose Escamilla of Roswell, N.M.

Kasher, who knows him well, says Escamilla "pushes the envelope, but he's not a wild man. He's usually pretty careful."

Escamilla has said his independent film "proves" that UFOs "are not a

fantasy or a figment of anyone's imagination."

The film is being premiered at locations around the world Saturday, the 59th anniversary of "the Roswell crash."

On July 8, 1947, a press release from the U.S. Army Air Force said something unusual had been found near the town of Roswell — a crashed saucer. Hours later, the statement was changed to say it was a weather balloon.

Jack Kasher long has said he strongly suspects that the forms found in the crash were bodies of extraterrestrials — not, as the government says, dummies.

Kasher, state director of the Nebraska chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, which is hosting the Omaha screening of the film, said he hasn't seen it and can't say whether it proves anything.

But it addresses a question that for centuries has intrigued many, including some skeptics: Is anyone out there?

The producer says the film unveils people who were paid or ordered to deny that UFOs are real.

The screening will be at 11:15 a.m. at the Westside High School auditorium, 87th and Pacific Streets. Admission is \$5.

The retired professor, 68, began researching the paranormal in the 1970s and UFOs in 1987. It's clear that the government is covering up UFOs, he said, because judges have ruled that releasing information would be detrimental to the national interest.

If the truth were disclosed, Kasher said, the response wouldn't be panic — it would be outrage at the government for withholding its deep involvement and vast information.

He acknowledges that there have been hoaxes and says each one harms the UFO movement. But he is a true believer.

At his Omaha home several years ago, the professor saw a V-shaped object with 10 circular lights. After 15 seconds, it silently flew away. He called Offutt Air Force Base and asked

whether anything unusual had been seen.

"We don't track that stuff," he was told. "But there's a guy at UNO you can call."

Because he himself was the "guy at UNO," Jack could only laugh. Though seriously interested in the topic, he keeps a sense of humor.

"I guess I am opening myself to ridicule by talking about this," he said, "but as a scientist, I never make a wild accusation."

As an optimist, he doesn't fear alien visitors. If they wanted to harm us, he said, they would have done so by now.



Michael Kelly

# Extra-Terrestrial Visitors in the Ozarks

## A Case Of Missing Time

by Robert M. Stone, M.S.  
www.geohanoover.com

An edited version of the presentation at the Ozark UFO Conference - 1995.

### Introduction

On the night of April 4, 1991 while driving to the Ozark UFO Conference, a missing time experience occurred. I cannot say that this was the first missing time experience that has happened in my life, although at the time I was not consciously aware of any. However, this is the first one that was structured in such a manner that it would be difficult to overlook. I feel that it was conducted as a learning experience to demonstrate how easy it is to have such experiences and not remember them or to rationalize them away.

There are many people who live a dual life but only remember half of it. The half they don't remember involves interaction with extra-terrestrial beings. I am going to present some details of my missing time experience....

### Personal Background

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am a Masters level Psychologist.

I have been in private practice, specializing in Hypnotherapy since 1977. Over the years, I have conducted thousands of hypnosis sessions. I have extensive research experience in Social Psychology, both research design and field experience. I am not a UFO researcher and disagree with the methodology that many UFO researchers employ.

My first conscious sighting of a UFO occurred in November of 1975 in central Alabama. I was out planet gazing with a refractor telescope when I saw a dull yellow light moving slowly across the sky. I was able to train the scope on it and when I did, the yellow light disappeared. I saw a dull gray disk, a typical flying saucer, with two red lights and two green lights. After verifying that I did have the yellow object in view, I watched it for a few minutes. I was so impressed with the sighting, I wrote up a description that very night and sent it to the address I had for APRO, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

In the next morning paper, in the back sections, there was a small article about an FAA observer in Mobile, Alabama who saw the same thing with the same description and could not identify it. Interestingly, my letter to APRO was returned because the organization had moved and forwarding had expired. Being busy in Graduate School at the time, I did not pursue filing the report.

In 1989, I had the urge to attend my first UFO conference, which was the Ozark UFO conference. I had never been to, or even thought about attending, such an event. However, the conference served as, what I call, a triggering event. It set in motion the retrieval of memories that had been buried in my subconscious since childhood. Let me tell you that something is well hidden when you haven't had a clue about it for 35 years.

So I can pose this question, "How many of you really know yourselves?" As a psychologist, a necessity of which is self analysis. I thought I knew myself extremely well. I had no idea that I was leading a double life; that there was a whole aspect of life in which I participated that I couldn't remember. I'm sure there are many people in the audience and among the speakers who also lead this double life. Whether you consciously acknowledge or deny it, does not alter the reality of a dual existence. Perhaps something that I say this evening will serve as a triggering event to help you discover a part of life you didn't know was there.

### Details Of Trip

Now I want to tell you about my missing time experience. The drive from my home to Eureka Springs, AR takes about 16.5 hours. On the night of April 4th, 1991, it took me about 18.5 hours.

It wasn't until Sunday morning, over 48 hours

after the experience, that the realization occurred that it had taken an excessive amount of time to travel to Eureka Springs.

My first impulse was to rationalize the missing time away by assuming that I had misread my arrival time. However, I had my wife call our answering machine to leave a message for our teenagers as to how to contact us within 20 minutes of the time we arrived. The machine records the day and time automatically and the message was still on the tape when we got home. We had left Pensacola around 9:00 am Thursday morning; the message was logged on the tape at 4:04 am Friday morning.

Thus, I really couldn't rationalize away that there was a large segment of time missing. Since I couldn't remember anything definite happening, I attempted to reconstruct the trip.

I had decided to approach Eureka Springs from I-40 using ST RD 23. I had used this road to return from the 1989 conference and had found it better than US 65. As near as I can tell, we were on schedule when we arrived at the ST RD 23 exit. It was about 12:20 am. To my mind I drove continuously after leaving I-40, except for a 10 minute stop for gas, but we didn't get to Eureka Springs until 3:38 am.

There were a few unusual things about this segment of the trip. The first was that shortly after leaving I-40, we came upon a police car sitting partially in the road with its blue lights flashing. There appeared to be no one in the car or visible around it. Also, I found it odd because it didn't have to be sitting partially in the road when there was space to pull completely out of traffic. I thought it might be a roadblock to check drivers licenses or that maybe there may have been an accident but there were no indications of anything, including the police.

Driving slowly, I passed around the police vehicle and proceeded. We didn't see anybody or any indication as to why the police car was stopped. After this point, things got rather weird. I thought over and over to myself as well as aloud that this trip was taking forever.

My wife was looking up at the sky and saying that the Big Dipper constellation was not in the right place. She repeated this comment several times. I never have been one to track the constellations or even identify most of them so I couldn't comment as to whether it was or was not. Also, I couldn't look because it was taking an incredible amount of concentration to drive the car. I asked her why she thought it was not in the right place and she gave me a plausible explanation.

As the trip appeared to take longer and longer, I told my wife that this was spooky and that this trip was taking forever. I repeated this a number of times. At this point she was looking at what appeared to be a bright star out the driver's side window. I glanced at it and could see it but again, it was taking every ounce of concentration to drive.

Finally we arrived at Huntsville, AR. I'll tell you I was thrilled to see that a local gas station was open at that hour in such a small town. I stopped for gas and we got something to drink. This was approximately 3:05 am. We were there no more than 10 minutes before we resumed our trip to Eureka Springs. We arrived there at approximately 3:38 am. I am sure of this arrival time and is the correct amount of elapsed time of the 28 miles from Huntsville to Eureka Springs.

The missing time sequence appears to have occurred on ST RD 23 between I-40 and Huntsville. It should not have taken two hours and forty minutes to drive 50 miles. As a matter of fact, I drove that route to the conference this year and it took exactly one hour to drive from I-40 to Huntsville. I was trying to maintain 55 mph and being unfamiliar with the road, I did take some of the curves a bit too fast. However, even if we add 10 minutes to the trip to negotiate the curves, that still leaves one hour and thirty minutes missing.

I could not consciously recall what happened during that missing segment of time because to my mind, I never stopped driving. Whatever happened, I had no anxiety from it and had no repulsion upon re-traveling the route on the way home. I decided to have a hypnosis regression session to see if I could find out what happened. (Yes, I do use the process for my benefit also)

### A summary of what was learned in the Hypnosis Session About The Missing Time

On April 10, 1991, I had a hypnosis session to retrieve information about the missing time experience. Retrieving this information was extremely difficult. At this point, I am going to present a summary of the session.

An encounter with extra-terrestrials occurred. This encounter was conducted so that it would be noticed as a demonstration of how easy it is to overlook missing time experiences.

Within ten or fifteen minutes after leaving the interstate I encountered a police car. It was just sitting there with its blue lights on. There was nobody around it. It was rather difficult to see inside of it. I didn't see anybody. When I saw it there I thought that maybe they were having a license check or something although it was rather late to do so. Then I thought perhaps there had been an accident.

## UFOs and other unexplained stuff

I did enjoy interviewing for and writing a story last week about a couple's account of seeing unexplained lights outside their home.

You've heard stories about strange lights all your life, if you've not seen them yourself, then someone has told you about an experience, you've read about them or seen them on TV.

The genre rivals the Bigfoot legend of the Northwest, or in the Great Smokies the question of whether the mountain lion (panther, painter, catamount) still survives in the remotest areas.

Many, but not all, of the accounts of UFOs can be explained once all the aeronautical and meteorological possibilities have been investigated.

But then there are some that remain unexplained, not because there's not an answer, but because we haven't found the answer, or haven't been provided with an answer by those who have it. (See UFO conspiracy theories - some believe the government knows but isn't telling).

During my four years' active



Pete Lawson  
Senior Editor

duty with the U.S. Air Force, the issue of UFOs was probably the one thing we never debated among ourselves. It just never came up. Everything in the skies seemed to make sense. We were impressed with the shows of aurora borealis in the winter and the U.S. moon walk in the summer of 1969 at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

There is something about the unknown that fascinates a lot of people, which explains the popularity of UFO literature and the "history's mysteries" on TV. Like the proverbial cat, we're curious.

My own inclination is toward polite interest. I'm certain that there are phenomena we see but don't understand. So, some people may shout, "There are no UFOs!"

But you'd better do that quietly in case they're listening.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES, Bryson City, NC

June 15, 2006 CR: R. Reid

The road was a little bit higher than the shoulder. The police car was on the right side of the road, same side we were traveling down. Over on the right side at that spot, there were a few small trees and it looked rather flat behind it. It seems that in recall, somewhere in this area, there was a dirt road that we got off on.

I see the vehicle, a flying disk, sitting on relatively flat ground. It looks like the one I've seen in past regression sessions with a ramp coming down from it. Standing by the ramp are a man and a woman. The disk is fairly large; about 25 feet in diameter.

I drive down this dirt road a little bit. It doesn't appear to be an extremely long one. I'm not really sure where it was in relation to the police car. It just seemed to be somewhere in the vicinity.

So it seems I told my wife that, "You finally got your conscious experience."

It seems like she says, "Yeah, but I'll never remember it later because the perception thing has already shifted."

The duality of consciousness is beginning to manifest because there was no real emotion associated with the experience.

The man and the woman standing by the ramp are ones I've seen many times in the past.

So I park the car and shut it off, shut the lights off and everything.

Underneath the craft is a pulsating green glow.

We get out and walk towards the craft and are greeted by these people.

The woman seems to say that, "We have arranged the experience that you desired."

By this time the duality [of consciousness] is strongly setting in.

We all go into the saucer and they close the door, retract the ramp, whatever, I don't know how that works. Apparently the thing takes off, although it is just very smooth. And there are some other human people on board, people that I consciously know, in addition to the crew.

There seems to be two pilots, two men in silver suits. They are sitting at a console with a monitor, a large flat screen monitor. They are watching the monitor closely.

There is a round spot on the floor that you can see through, see the ground. The saucer is flying through the mountains.

The two pilots operate the console and observe the view on the flat screen monitor which appears to be like the forward view, in other words, like a windshield almost, except it's not a windshield, it is a view screen.

So what was the point of the meeting?

One point was the conscious cues that it had occurred.

It served as an indicator in time that contact had occurred in a manner that was difficult to deny even though my conscious self has tried to rationalize it all away. But it's pretty hard to rationalize away a sixteen and a half hour trip taking eighteen and a half hours.

It appears that measure for measure, the positive extra-terrestrials are countering the negative extra-terrestrials.

Each of us received information relevant to what we needed to do.

We flew a great distance. It seems like we went over to Egypt to the Great Pyramid complex. It was like the big pyramid was transparent. Two thirds down from the top, it was like a sun in there. Brilliant, pure, golden energy.

Then we went over to Britain and hovered at a point over the English channel where we could see both the British Isles and the continent. Through the floor viewer, we could see electromagnetic concentrations as being a blue color, medium bright blue.

Then we flew across the Atlantic and hovered over New England briefly. Then we went back to the landing site. It was impressed upon me that there was something for me to find there.

After returning, in the altered state that I was in, I drove pretty slow. After stopping in Huntsville, I was able to drive normally on to Eureka Springs.

### CONCLUSION

The thing I found most interesting about the Missing Time experience was the extensive rationalizations that my mind constructed to explain it away. After there

was no doubt that approximately two hours were missing, the feeling was WOW but the WOW faded quickly. Some strange things happened for several days after we returned home. As for the missing time, within a couple of days, it was just another experience that was never mentioned.

Two of the people that I recognized on the saucer, had similar memories to mine of the experience.

I learned from the experience that it is easy not to notice missing time. You can have multiple experiences and literally never notice.

The End



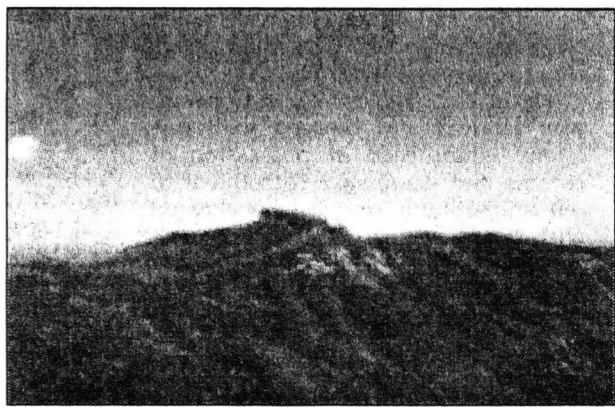


Photo courtesy of Dan Caton

Several people have reported seeing unexplained lights from areas near Wiseman's View in the Linville Gorge area.

## Webcam Watch

# LOOKING FOR THE BROWN MTN. LIGHTS

BY FRANK RUGGIERO

ruggiero@wataugademocrat.com

Native American spirits? Ball lightning? Sports utility vehicles?

Maybe a combination of the three.

Dr. Dan Caton doubts the Brown Mountain Lights are supernatural in nature, but believes nature plays a prevalent role in the legendary mystery. With use of a Web cam and governmental cooperation, he intends to find out how.

Caton, professor of astronomy at Appalachian State University and director of the Dark Sky Observatory, has been featured in television specials and numerous newspaper articles about the lights, and has gained the status of what he calls a "skeptical talking head."

He added that he will remain skeptical on the matter until he finds an answer. Caton has visited the viewing overlooks above the Linville Gorge, in which the lights are said to have been seen near Brown Mountain, and has yet to see anything he couldn't attribute to nature or man.

Those who claim to have seen the lights describe them as star-like, moving erratically through the woods. Legend says the lights are the ghosts of slain Cherokee and Catawba warriors.

Caton has seen lights in the woods and has heard countless reports of alleged sightings, and he attributes those to vehicles, manmade lights and other commonly mistakable light sources.

"We still haven't seen them," he said. "And that has to raise the question, 'Why do people say they see them out there, when we expert observers have not?' People see something, but not the Brown Mountain Lights. It could be campers on Table Rock, folks by the river and even, yes, the lights of Lenoir."

As a scientist, Caton says there is a natural explanation. A majority of time dedicated towards investigation, though, is spent in the car on the two-hour trip from Boone to Wiseman's View. Since so much time was spent on fruitless outings, Caton's interest began to dwindle, until he received informative feedback about a column he'd written for the Associated Press.

"People were seeing very interesting lights," he said. "These were close encounters only a few feet away — not something you'd see on the ridge."

The first thing that came to mind was ball lightning — a natural phenomenon said to be a basketball-sized, free-float-



From Dan Caton's Web site: "The Blue Ridge Parkway has a marked viewing site at the Lost Cove overlook, located at the 310 mileage marker. The view is of Brown Mountain itself, but vegetation has encroached upon the view."

[www.dancaton.physics.appstate.edu/BML/SeeTheLights/index.htm](http://www.dancaton.physics.appstate.edu/BML/SeeTheLights/index.htm)

ing spheroid of glowing gas or light. Caton's interest was again sparked.

The ball lightning theory could hold water, as Caton said, "There's some degree of anecdotal evidence in the same type of environment."

And that could lead to other questions, like how does ball lightning develop and why in the gorge? "We can't make that in the lab," Caton said. "There are people trying to, but they've not been successful."

He has visited Wiseman's View since, but to keep a steadier eye on the gorge, and without all the mileage, Caton has proposed to establish a Web cam in the area, most likely at the popular overlook. The camera would stream live footage to a Web site, letting anyone investigate from the comfort of their own swivel chairs.

A few years ago, the project garnered the support of Appalachian State, though Caton said the United States Forest Service was not originally keen on the idea. A matter of months ago, though, Caton received a call from a forest ranger, who said she was interested in the project.

"Since the land they're watching is monitored by the forest service, we'd certainly be interested in seeing if there's anything physically unique in the area that's resulted from the phenomenon," said Mary Noel, land staff officer for national forests in North Carolina with the U.S. Forest Service.

A few weeks ago, Caton met with forest service officials on site to consider locations for the Web cam. "It's challenging because it's on the edge of a wilderness area, and we don't want to disturb the view," he said. "We're sensitive to that, and so is the forest service."

The Web cam would require a 30 to 40 foot tower to protect it from vandals, and it would also need a power source. Caton said solar panels from the university are his number one choice, though he'd like to first determine whether or not the reflection of the panels would detract from the natural viewscape. Another idea is a small wind turbine, which he said could be furnished for less than \$1,000.

However, the camera would not only have to see the gorge, but also civilization, so it can stream the data to a computer. With a two-foot antenna, Caton said wireless Internet reception could stretch for 25 miles, and, "We have the equipment."

He's considering asking business acquaintances in Lenoir if they'd be willing to accommodate an antenna and dish on their building, and he's also hoping to speak with the cable or telephone company to help with a broadband connection.

"So, if we could get all this going, we don't have to drive out there," Caton said. "We could sit back and remotely view."

Caton guessed he and his colleagues wouldn't even have to always view it, as there would be plenty of people throughout the nation and world watching and willing to report any sightings of any light out there. Though a lot of sightings could easily be dismissed as manmade light, Caton's eyes are peeled for any instance of ball lightning, which he finds equally mysterious. Any such data would be extensively analyzed, but the first step remains the same — see the lights.

Though the university is prepared to conduct scientific measurements, Caton must first determine when to look to define the "hunting hours," so to speak. He'll continue to visit the area this summer, mostly after thunderstorms, the time when ball lightning experts say the phenomenon is most prevalent.

This will help pass the time as the forest service reviews his application for a special use permit to place the Web cam on federal land. Noel said the forest service would study the environmental impact of the project and the Web cam's associated needs, such as energy. The process could take a few months, she said.

Caton and Noel share something in common — they've never seen the lights, and both look forward to seeing results.

"When I see them, I'll either immediately know what they are or say, 'I don't know,'" Caton said.

For more information, visit [www.brownmountainlights.org](http://www.brownmountainlights.org) on the Web.

## ❖ Viewpoint ❖

# Witness to an unusual event — a UFO sighting



**Pete Hartinger**  
RUFOS

A big part of the evidence of the UFO phenomenon existence is the eyewitness testimony. Many people have been sent to prison just because of eyewitness reports to crimes committed. Over the past 60 years, there have been thousands of eyewitness reports of strange looking craft operating in our world's skies. This would number in the millions if all the sightings were reported. Many people don't report UFO sightings because of the frustration of not knowing who to report it to. This is one of the reasons that the Roundtown UFO Society exists; to be an outlet for these sighting reports. We have monthly meetings at the Pickaway County District Library on North Court St. that is open to the public. The library also has UFO material. This includes the monthly MUFON Journal, videos and books.

Psychology plays a big part in UFO sightings. Some witnesses never forget their sighting and they realize that there is more to life

than they realize. Others want to forget their sighting, either because it scares them too much or they feel as long as it doesn't affect their life, it doesn't matter if UFOs exist or not. Who knows, the future may change that way of thinking.

I have been told personally or read on many occasions by several witnesses, "that I never would have believed UFOs existed, if I hadn't seen it myself." Some people feel that UFOs don't exist because they have never seen one. They change their mind when they observe close up. UFO existence is a reality whether you believe it or not. UFO knowledge is not a matter of believing, like faith, or desire, but a matter of evidence. There is plenty of evidence. How many sightings do you have to hear about until you realize that the phenomenon is real?

As UFO reality becomes more accepted, more and more witnesses are coming forward about their past UFO sightings. This is also occurring with present day sightings. One indicator that will show the acceptance of the UFO phenome-

non is when the witnesses say you can use their names in the sighting report. Fewer are remaining anonymous. This is occurring more and more. They are not afraid of ridicule or laughter anymore.

To the ones who feel this subject of UFOs isn't real, I say besides from doing some research on it, just try doing this simple test. I call it the one on one approach. I have done it on occasions for many years. When you are talking to someone and no one else is within earshot, just simply ask them what they think of the UFO phenomenon. You do not have to say what you think of it, unless asked. You will be surprised sometimes, as I have been to the answer. This is apparently because the person feels more comfortable in that he is not with a group of people. I have gotten some UFO sighting reports or very interesting stories from some very respectable people. There is a bigger story out there than many people realize. Your next door neighbor, friend, or a close relative may have had a sighting. You never know until you ask them privately. Many sightings are completely unknown, except in the region where it happened. The media doesn't carry many of these events.

It is hard to state your feelings after seeing a strange looking craft in the sky and realize that they are real after all. To anyone who is

afraid of this subject, because of unknown factors, I can only say that the UFO phenomenon has been around for decades, if not for hundreds of years.

Pickaway County has had its share of eyewitness reports of UFOs. Led by Bruce Stevenson's dramatic sighting of Feb. 1, 1948 there have been many others reported to me from over the years. Some leading citizens of the Circleville community have had past UFO sightings. I personally interviewed Mr. Stevenson in 1959 for a high school project dealing with the subject of flying saucers, a term used in that era. Like Mr. Stevenson, a person who has a sighting like his never forgets it for the rest of their life. It may happen only once in your lifetime, but not many forget it. I haven't.

Some witnesses have come forward about their personal sighting when they discover there were other witnesses to the event. Many military witnesses would discuss their UFO sighting, if they knew they wouldn't be violating their security oath.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to me about this subject, just phone me at 477-6252 or write me at P.O. Box 52, Circleville or e-mail me at [rufos@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rufos@columbus.rr.com). Our RUFOS web site is [www.roundtownufosociety.com](http://www.roundtownufosociety.com).

TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE, South Lake Tahoe, CA - June 16-18, 2006

# Visitors from another world?

## Tahoe man is a believer, and has video to prove it

**By Jeff Munson**  
Tribune city editor

The light in the sky that changed from red to orange to amber and popped side to side, up and down and disappeared and reappeared over Lake Tahoe early Wednesday morning wasn't a star, planet or airplane, swears Allan Brown.

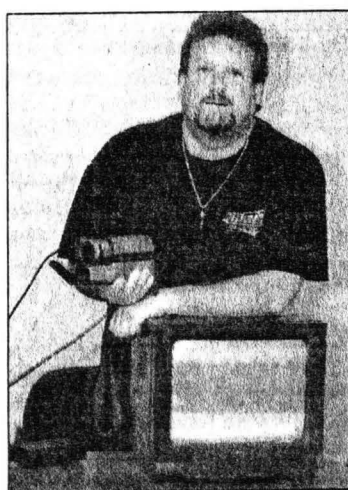
It was an unidentified flying object that "was so real, it had me scared," the 44-year-old South Lake Tahoe resident insists.

"It was not a glitch of light or a flash in the sky. It moved and changed colors," he said.

Whatever it was — alien space craft from Planet XYZ on a doomsday colonization planning mission to Lake Tahoe or, perhaps, the waning light of a star protruding through a canopy of high clouds — something was clearly visible through the lens of

## Tahoe UFO?

Judge Allan Brown's claims for yourself. Visit [www.TahoeDailyTribune.com](http://www.TahoeDailyTribune.com) to see an interview with Brown and an excerpt from his video.



Dan Thrift / Tahoe Daily Tribune

**Allan Brown shows equipment he used to capture images over Lake Tahoe.**

Brown's video camera, with which he taped the object dancing in the sky between 3:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Standing outside his Tallac Avenue home smoking a cigarette on the porch, Brown spotted the object in the sky to the northwest. The light stood out like no others that night, he said. It was colder than most nights but virtually cloudless with no wind.

In quick-thinking mode, he grabbed his video camera, walked to the lake and began taping. The more he taped, the surer he became that the object in the sky was anomalous.

"It was bigger than any of the stars out that night. It hovered really close to the lake and above the mountains. It wasn't like it was a star in the sky. This was in our atmosphere," said Brown, who swears his only vice is cigarettes and that he doesn't drink alcohol or take drugs.

Allen Kenitzer with the public affairs office of the Federal Aviation Administration in Seattle said there were no reports of objects from air personnel in the Reno and Sacramento regions. A spokesperson for Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert also had no reports. A spokesman for the Reno-Tahoe International Airport said an experimental aircraft manned by the Sierra Nevada Corporation has flown in and out of the Stead Airport and may be mistaken as a UFO. A call to Sierra Nevada Corporation was not returned Thursday.

The Seattle-based UFO Reporting Center was also unavailable for comment.

Whatever it was, Brown is convinced that what he saw was out of this world.

"Seeing it has made question who we are and how we fit into the galactic picture," he said. "We on Earth may be one of many worlds with life on it."



# Think aliens are coming? Actually, we're already here

One small move for Peter B. Davenport.

One giant leap for flying saucer research in the Inland Northwest.

Davenport, who directs the National UFO Reporting Center, is in the process of relocating his operation from Seattle to a rundown Cold War missile site he recently purchased in Lincoln County.

This is stellar news. It's like having a piece of the spaced program right in our own backyard.

*Spokane. Near Neptune. Near Pluto.*

Davenport won't set a target date for physically moving into the massive underground bunker, which is about five miles south of the city of Davenport. (How about that for a cosmic coincidence?)

The new digs are dirty and decrepit. The site is in dire need of a serious makeover before it is elevated to a West Sider's standard of habitation.

But Davenport says he is up to the task. Plus, running a UFO clearinghouse out of a defunct missile site has a lot of promotional sizzle. It certainly grabbed my attention.

As long as we're talking drawbacks, it must be mentioned that this is the same



DOUG CLARK

trucker's books. Benson died in prison in 2004.

Davenport, who says he bought the property from Benson's son for \$100,000, is not given to silly superstitions like bad karma or ghosts.

He is a well-educated, serious-minded guy who believes "our planet is visited by other intelligent creatures on a regular basis."

That was just one of the fascinating things I learned the other day during a lengthy telephone interview. Interview is a poor choice of words. It's more like receiving a lecture.

Davenport, who says he saw his first UFO as a 6-year-old in 1954, is loaded with facts, figures and theories that all point to a few dramatic conclusions:

1. UFOs are real.

and 18,000 square feet that is ensconced in 3 million tons of cement and steel.

A bunker like that could come in mighty handy if that runt of a North Korean dictator actually starts World War III.

Several times during our "interview," Davenport took the opportunity to kick my journalistic profession right square in the asteroid. He contends that we members of the press are a bunch of lazy no-goods who have turned an institutional blind eye to unidentified flying objects such as the huge mysterious lights that hovered over Phoenix back in 1997.

When I told him I didn't know anything about any hovering Phoenix lights, Davenport sounded pretty disgusted. I felt like a total boob who

place where a state tax auditor was

ambushed, shot and

dismembered in 2002.

Ralph H. Benson, a

creepy long-haul

trucker, was convicted

of murdering Roger

Erdman when he

showed up at the

missile site to audit the

2. The government is covering it up.

3. The press ain't doing diddly-do

about it.

I took a liking to Davenport despite his pontificating. He has one of those measured, mellifluous radio voices, which is understandable since he is a go-to UFO expert for chat shows.

His IQ is probably stratospheric, too. According to his bio, Davenport has an M.B.A. in finance and international business and an M.S. in the genetics and biochemistry of fish. He was once a Russian translator, too.

There's a lot more, but you get the idea.

Davenport took over the National UFO Reporting Center in 1994. The organization was founded 20 years earlier by Robert J. Gribble, a retired Seattle firefighter. Since its inception, the center's hot line and online report form has logged untold thousands of UFO sightings of all shapes and sizes.

Take this report filed out of Florida:

*"A woman awakens and walks to her screened bedroom window. She sees a self-luminous spherical object hovering above the ground. A cat notices objects, which suddenly streak away."*

Beam me up, Tabby.

didn't even know how old the country is.

"You guys reside in caves much more than owners of missile sites," he said.

Ouch! You know, I'm not going to get defensive. Davenport is right. We journalists have fumbled the UFO ball.

I could use the excuse that we have been preoccupied by trivialities like suicide bombers and terrorist subway plots. But if you think you can handle the truth, Mr. Davenport, here it is.

We journalists ARE SPACE ALIENS. We've adopted human form and slithered into our jobs with one purpose: to keep the lid on our invasion.

Soon the world will be ours. There is nothing you poor Earthlings can do about it.

Klaatu barada nikto!

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - July 14, 2006 CR: G. Fawcett

## Fawcett to host UFO presentation at library Saturday

MARIBETH KISER  
Staff Writer

For many, flying saucers and UFOs make for great entertainment, but for George Fawcett, it's years of research and dedication.

"I started about 64 years ago when I was 10-years-old," Fawcett said. "As a Boy Scout, I kept World War II scrapbooks on pilot reports."

Fawcett, a native of Mount Airy and resident of Lincolnton, has written two books on UFOs and will present his findings Saturday at the Charles R. Jonas Library in Lincolnton during a talk entitled, "A 66-year Personal

Trip Through UFO Land."

"This will be a lot of different experiences along the way," he said.

While Fawcett said since this presentation is 64 years in the making, the past few weeks have been very hectic.

"I do this about every July, but this is the first year I'll be speaking," he said. "I've been jammed now for the last three months with the phone ringing and people coming in."

Over the Independence Day holiday, Fawcett said a friend from France visited him. The two compared notes on UFOs in both countries.

In addition to his personal ex-

periences, Fawcett is also a researcher, investigator, donor to UFO Museums, Advisor to the UFO Museum & Research Center in Roswell, N.M., and founder and former state director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs.

Through his trip of UFO-Land, Fawcett will give specific information on 5,000 landings, 4,000 pilot reports, and 2,000 abductions, in addition to reports from various towns and cities in the Carolinas.

While some may find the topic of UFOs and flying saucers a bit farfetched, Fawcett contends his research is all authentic.

"I've always considered myself a bona fide researcher and investigator - no more, no less," he said in an official publication of the Saucer & Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society. "But, I've learned over the years to allow room for genuine information and to try to avoid the other two extremes of misinformation and dis-information, which I personally dislike."

*Want to go? George Fawcett will present a free program at the Charles R. Jonas Library in Lincolnton on Saturday at 2 p.m. He will also sign autographs and offer new books for sale.*

# UFO enthusiasts touch down at Tech Center

By Julie Poppen  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Ted Phillips has devoted 38 years to the study of 3,162 reported UFO landing sites in 91 countries.

As such, the chatty 64-year-old retired engineer from Missouri is a hot speaker pick for the 37th Mutual UFO Network International Symposium, which kicked off Friday at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The symposium wraps up Sunday.

Even now, Phillips says to himself, "This can't be," when he approaches a UFO landing site. He doesn't believe aliens are behind crop circles (too Disney-esque), and he's on the fence about the role of aliens in animal mutilations. But he most certainly believes the world is being visited by alien beings in impressive spacecraft.

"I believe what we're dealing with is a device under intelligent control that generates physical effects," he said.

For UFOlogists who are "out of the closet," this is the place to be. More than 300 people registered to attend the symposium, which has become an annual fixture in

Denver.

The only conference attendee who might offend is Bob Girard, a conference vendor and owner of Arcturus Books, which specializes in unexplained phenomena. Girard described many of the people at the conference as "fanatics."

"There's no captured spacecraft, no alien, nothing to show for the last 50 years," Girard said, as he sought to sell books to these same people.

Still, it's clear Girard is enamored

with a leather-bound book dated 1557 that explores bizarre happenings.

He's trying to sell the book for \$10,000.

Those attending the conference are quite serious about their chosen passion.

John Greenwald is producing a show on physical traces allegedly left by UFOs for The History Channel scheduled to air this fall.

His Web site, The Black Vault, features 441,000 government docu-

ments he has attained by filing open-records requests. A good number of them deal with UFOs.

Greenwald started the site a decade ago, when he was 15.

"They publicly say (UFOs) don't exist, but the documents say something different," Greenwald said. "Obviously, there's a cover-up."

Still, Greenwald says he can't conclusively say there are extraterrestrials.

"I'm 99.9 percent sure there is life out there, and they're visiting

us," he said.

"But I'm never sure until something smacks me on the head."

Aurora police officer and UFO hunter Ken Storch planned to speak about the role police play in UFO reports. UFOs became his raison d'être in 1974 when he claims to have gleaned firsthand knowledge of five UFOs flying in formation that nearly triggered World War III.

Storch, now 55, was working in communications at the Offutt Air Force Base at the time. He

says he was required not to speak of the incident for 30 years. He and fellow UFO hunter L.J. Dalicandro, wearing the teeth of an alligator and great white shark around his neck, shared a disturbing array of mutilated cattle photos.

"I know we're not alone," Storch said.

Storch said he's comforted but also bothered by his belief in aliens.

"I don't have a clue what the agenda is," Storch said.

## Lights couple saw may relate to earthquake activity

By Pete Lawson,  
Times Staff

A Times reader probing the Internet for earthquake information last week reported finding many intriguing related publications.

Karen Jacobs of Bryson City said one link of the U.S. Geologic Survey discussed "earthquake lights."

In its Internet presentation, the USGS says that "observations of earthquake lights (EQL), mostly white to bluish flashes or glows lasting several seconds associated with moderate to

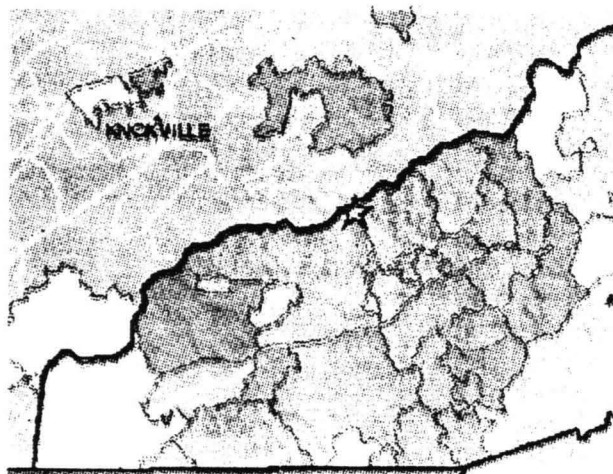
large earthquakes, have been reported infrequently by observers since ancient times."

But it wasn't until the lights were photographed during the Matsushiro earthquake activity in Japan between 1965-1967 that seismologists acknowledged their occurrence.

The most extensive observances took place in Quebec from 1988-89 with some 46 documented sightings of lights. The EQL were seen from three weeks before the quake activity until two months following the main shock. The Quebec lights were described as: seismic lightning; atmospheric luminous bands; globular incandescent masses; fire tongues; seismic flames; or coronal or point discharges.

"While EQL sightings are often given more exotic labels," the USGS says, "they are a recognized geophysical phenomenon that may one day contribute to the possibility of forecasting earthquakes in the few locations where they occur."

Seismologists have yet to agree on a theory to explain the EQL. Possible causes include "piezoelectricity, frictional heating, exoelectron emissions, sonoluminescence, phosphine gas emissions, fluid injection (electrokinetics) or the separation of positive hole charge carriers that turn rocks momentarily into p-type semiconductors," the Geologic Survey says.







EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England - May 17, 2006

UFO-hunters will hit Altrincham in their hundreds for a seminar on the unexplained next month. At a time when M.O.D. files suggest flying saucers are a trick of the light, organiser Stuart Miller tells **Simon Donohue** how he yearns for a close encounter

**H**E approaches from the sun, blinding us further with his luminous yellow jacket and commands our attention while taking a good look at our faces.

"I need to take a look at your cards," he demands inexplicably, before adding, "Sorry, wrong gentlemen!"

"Yeah right," I say to Stuart Miller, Cheshire's foremost commentator on the ongoing search for extra terrestrial life. "That guy may look like a city centre construction worker, but I've seen The X Files!"

Like Mulder and Scully before us, Miller and I sit at pavement café where we can watch for men in dark glasses and discuss plans for a major gathering of ufologists.

To those interested in the unexplained, the speakers who will address the conference on Ufology And The Paranormal at Altrincham Masonic Hall represent a stellar cast.

Nick Redfern's book, *Body Snatchers In The Desert*, was the "most realistic explanation of Roswell"; Neil Morris will provide the truth of *Ant and Dec's Alien Autopsy* film; while Paul Kimball will assess the career of Canadian ufological icon Wilbert Smith.

These are the type of men who wear the fact that they have suffered special branch surveillance as a badge of honour.

On the other hand, Miller, 53, a father of four daughters, who lives in Bowdon and publishes the extra terrestrial e-zine, *uforeview*, is disappointingly down to earth.

"I have been interested in UFOs since my mid-teens, but didn't take an active interest until 10 years ago," says the man so tall he'd terrify ET.

"There is no question that intelligent extra terrestrial life exists," he adds without fear of ridicule. "If you just look at it from a mathematical point of view, there has to be something out there."

**C**offee and tea arrive in pots so large they could easily conceal surveillance equipment.

Unfazed, Miller presses on, telling me that he came to publish his own UFO e-zine after providing book reviews for the now-defunct UFO Magazine.

Each edition of *uforeview* is "read" by 20,000 people, but Miller would still like to see it published on paper.

"Every couple of years there are reports that fewer people are interested in ufology," he says. "It really winds us up when people say there are fewer sightings of UFOs. That's complete and utter rubbish."

Even so, Miller just happens to be pushing tickets at a time when the men in white coats seem to have produced conclusive proof that flying saucers don't exist.

A request made via the Freedom Of Information act revealed that scientists working for the Ministry Of Defence on Project Condign had concluded that it was not alien saucers which have been buzzing the British countryside but "plasma of gas" illuminated by charges of atmospheric electricity.

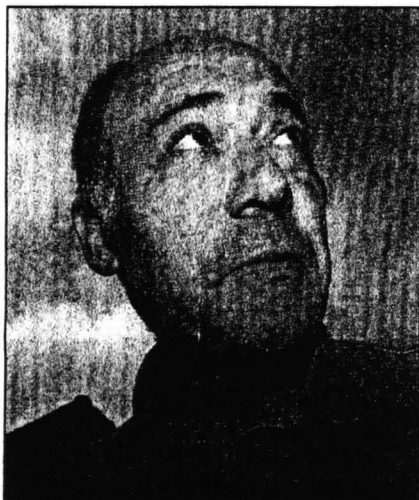
"I'd say that nothing has yet been



**Have you ever spotted a UFO?**

Send your pictures to [webnews@men-news.co.uk](mailto:webnews@men-news.co.uk) or tell us all about it on [www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk](http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk).

## Is there anybody out there?



■ **BELIEVER**... Stuart Miller is convinced of the existence of alien life **Picture: CHRIS GLEAVE**

fully explained," insists Miller between sips of latte. "The real issue is whether intelligent life extra terrestrial has been here. There is evidence that ET has visited us at some point. It is an old adage in UFO circles that the volume of evidence, if transferred to a criminal case, would be enough to secure a conviction."

Miller believes the British authorities have softened their attitude towards UFO hunters. But the Americans are different, he says, and particularly since September 11. What do they have to hide?

"I think Orson Welles did the world

an enormous disservice when War Of The Worlds was broadcast live on American radio, causing mass panic," adds Miller. "There is a fear that there might be panic if proof of extra terrestrial life was provided." Given that possibility, why are the people who read *uforeview* committed to proving the existence of other life forms?

"To just look inwards at ourselves, here on this planet, is to have a very restrictive point of view," Miller suggests.

"People these days treat ufology much more seriously and are less inclined to laugh.

### MYSTERIES SOLVED...AND UNSOLVED

**GLOBAL** interest was sparked by the discovery of film apparently showing an alien autopsy. It was later revealed to be a fake created by Ray Santilli.

**ROSWELL** remains the most famous case of apparent alien contact. There were stories that US forces had captured both a flying saucer and an extra terrestrial pilot. Investigators now believe that the Americans were

actually working on experimental craft of their own.

**THERE** is a school of thought which suggests that life previously existed on Mars. Ufologists with telescopes claim to have spotted structures on the red planet - including a face and walls - which have no other explanation.

**AN** investigator who formerly worked with the government's

secret UFO unit wrote last year about the time when three RAF Tornados were overtaken by a huge object with blue and white lights.

**THERE** is still no official explanation for a series of sightings involving bright lights at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk. Military policeman, fearing a plane had crashed, discovered a triangular object which lit up the entire forest, then disappeared.

## Search on for UFO spotters

A UFO researcher wants to trace *Mail* readers in his bid to pen a book.

John Hanson, a retired police officer, is putting together a book of reports of UFO sightings in and around the UK skies since

the 1940s.

He wants to speak to two Hartlepool people who may have seen a UFO in the 1960s and 1970s.

One is Sylvia Frost, who was a schoolgirl in 1968 when she and her friend

spotted a huge pyramidal object over High Throston. At the time she lived in Zetland Road.

Another is Michael Dickinson, a schoolboy from Commodale Drive in Seaton Carew.

He reported seeing a silver dome in a field at the top of Claxton Bank near Greatham quarry in July 1977.

John, from Alvechurch in Worcestershire, has been researching UFOs for 11 years after his police colleagues reported sightings

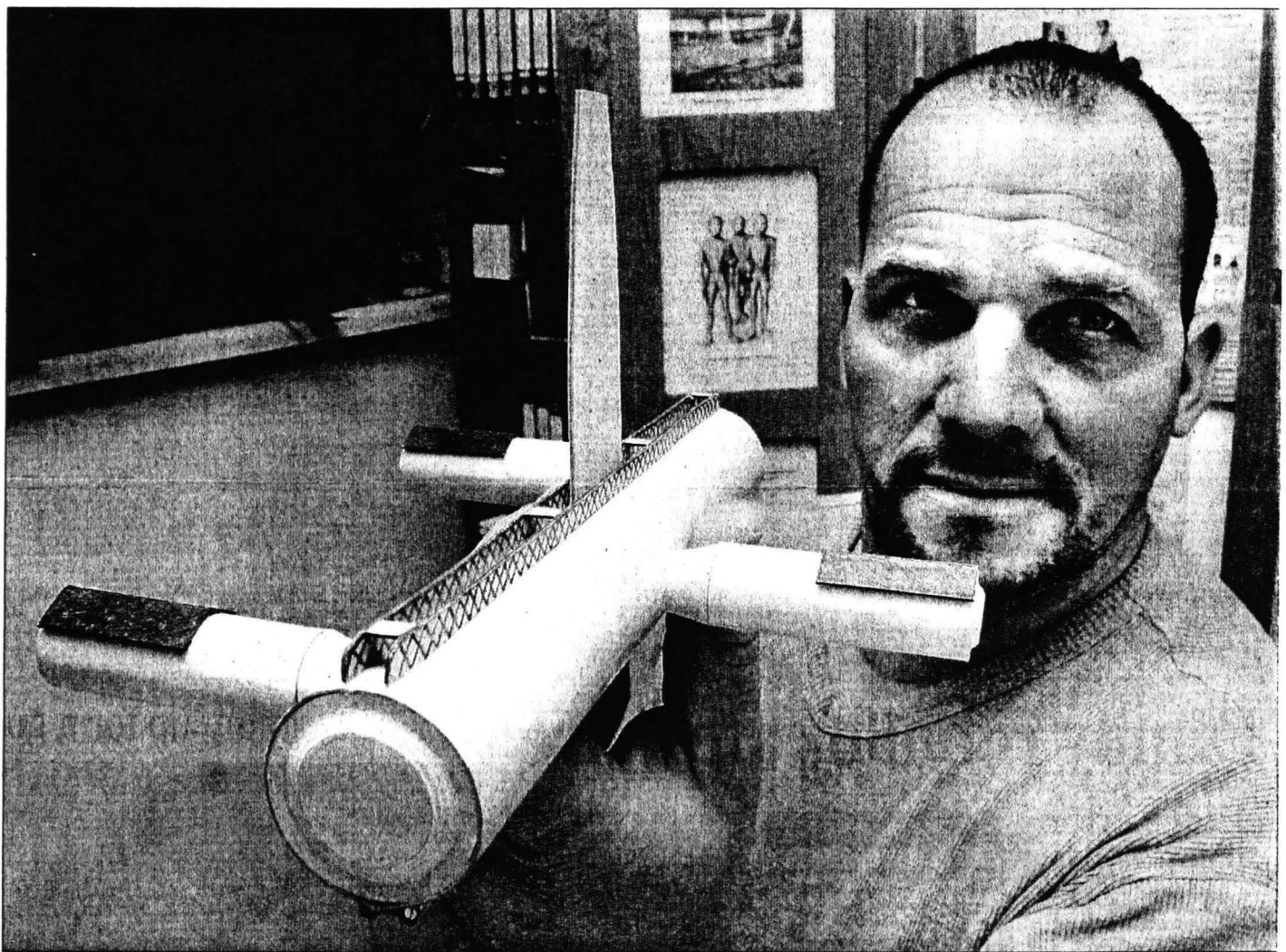
to him.

He said: "It's amazing just how many people have reported seeing a UFO."

"I'm not necessarily suggesting that there are aliens out there, but something strange is going on."

John's book will be called *Haunted Skies*. He has urged Sylvia, Michael, or anyone else who has seen a UFO, to contact him by either calling (0121) 4450340, e-mailing him at [johnhawson@hansonholloway.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:johnhawson@hansonholloway.fsnet.co.uk) or writing to him at 31 Red Lion Street, Alvechurch, B48 7LG.

**MAIL, Hartlepool, England**  
June 3, 2006



JOHN E. LIGHTFOOT JR./THE SUDBURY STAR

Michel Deschamps, a UFO researcher/historian, displays a scale model of an unidentified flying object that was sighted in January 1995 by a Sudbury auto mechanic near the former Falconbridge radar base. The UFO was about 18 metres from the highway and about 60 metres in the air. Using careful calculations, Deschamps said he and the mechanic estimated the object was about 150 metres long.

## Sudbury man keeps an eye on the sky

UFO researcher is writing a book about sightings in Northern Ontario

BY LAURA STRADIOTTO  
The Sudbury Star

Michel Deschamps, a UFO researcher/historian, has spent several years compiling data on UFO sightings in Sudbury and Northern Ontario.

He has investigated abductions, UFO crash sites and obtained "official" UFO documents.

Deschamps has witnessed 17 sightings since the age of nine.

He encourages people to contact him with their experiences and is currently writing a book on the history of flying objects, abductions, crop circles and other paranormal activities across Northern Ontario.

Deschamps shared his findings at a workshop during the weekend at Rayvin's Eclectic Enchantments. It was the first one he has presented in six years.

Only a handful of people attended, but one could tell by the binders of documents he hauled in with him that

Deschamps takes his work very seriously.

He stood behind a podium and said when it comes to the subject of UFOs, people are more "close-minded" than they were 15 years ago.

Today, people are reluctant to admit they've seen something unusual hovering in the skies overhead and are even more reluctant to leave their name with him.

Glancing at Sudbury Star newspaper clippings, it's surprising the amount of space that was dedicated to reports of flying objects.

Eye witnesses are clearly identified, including their exact address.

In 1948, for example, Joe Caruso of 294 Albinson St., spotted a "long oval-shaped black object with 20-foot orange-coloured sparks shooting out from the rear."

"To me, newspaper articles are our history — a history that is not spoken of often," Deschamps said.

Most people are skeptical of his work and tell Deschamps there's no physical evidence of close encounters of the first, second, third or fourth kind.

With encounters of the first kind, there is no interaction between the eyewitness and UFO, while encounters of the second kind involve actual landings — often involving

scorched ground.

Encounters of the third kind include sightings of aliens or human-like entities, while abductions are characteristic of encounters of the fourth kind.

The largest number of UFO sightings in Sudbury occurred during the summer of 1967, when there were eight incidents reported.

While it became known as the (psychedelic) summer of love, the 1967 sightings were so vivid eyewitnesses often called the Ontario Provincial Police and the Canadian Forces station at Falconbridge to report what they saw.

In one incident, police were called to investigate a report of an attempted UFO landing, but when they tried to contact headquarters there was "heavy radio interference," the Sudbury Star reported.

Often a UFO sighting was corroborated by other people who saw the object from different areas of the city.

It was 1974 when Deschamps, then nine years old, had his first UFO encounter.

He was playing with friends at the end of Pharand Street in Hanmer when something caught his eye.

"I remember seeing this metallic silver-looking ball above the tree line. It was probably no more than one-

metre wide. I thought it was an advertising balloon, so I looked to see if it was tied down. It wasn't."

Years later, Deschamps bought a book about UFOs and one chapter discussed sightings in the Sudbury area, particularly sightings during the first few weeks of July 1974 — the time he figures he saw the UFO.

"Up until then, I thought I had imagined it," he said.

That's when Deschamps started spending considerable time conducting research.

"I still get bugged at work," said Deschamps, who works at Wal-Mart.

Deschamps created posters of physical evidence to show skeptics, including: cow mutilations, sketches of eyewitness accounts and photographs of crop circles — one of which was discovered in Spring Bay on Manitoulin Island in the early 1990s.

Called a hoax by non-believers, to this day Deschamps says there's no way it was a joke. The imprints look like they were burned and they're located off a beaten path.

Surely if it was a hoax, the jokers would have placed the crop circles in an area frequented by passersby, he said.

Shortly after that experience, Deschamps joined the

### IN THE STAR

► Radar base, police see UFO here: "Unidentified flying objects were sighted over Sudbury and Haileybury early this morning. At least seven regional police officers, one Ontario Provincial Police officer and the staff at Canadian Forces Station Falconbridge saw the objects. The UFOs were also spotted on the Falconbridge radar screens. In Ottawa, National Defence Headquarters confirmed four people at the radar station, alerted by the police, saw three bright circles with two black dots about 6:15 a.m. The objects were photographed by base staff." — Sudbury Star, Nov. 11, 1975

UFO Network, an Internet-based initiative designed to unite researchers across the world. He is also a member of the Mutual UFO Network.

Many UFO sightings have occurred in mining areas — like Copper Cliff, Garson and Falconbridge, he said.

Deschamps said that's because a mining centre gives alien life an indication of our technology base.

"If NASA is interested in us, I'm sure others are curious, too."



# Did little green men visit us in Green Lane 40 years ago?

New book says a UFO landed and extraterrestrials abducted the whole town



Can you tell what it is yet? This photograph appears with the caption: 'The Alien Entity as it was identified by Clive Powers'.

By Journal editor  
Nick Woodhead

WERE you in Grantham on the evening of November 9, 1965?

Yes? Then you were abducted by aliens but inconveniently have had the memory wiped, according to a new book.

Indeed, only a cover-up by the Journal and all the usual Government suspects has prevented the story being told ... until now.

Asylum - The Definitive UFO and Alien Abduction Experience is written by Anthony R. Mallin and claims to be based on the story of a real person, Clive Powers, who as a boy in 1960 was groomed by the aliens when they touched down in Syston five years earlier.

When the Grantham landing happened in Green Lane, Powers suffered the torment of abduction while 'drawn' out to the site with his mate.

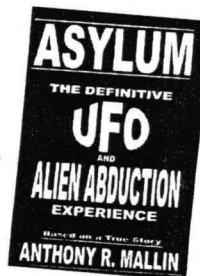
He was sent to Rauceby and thence to an asylum in Croydon where his memory was agonisingly unravelled by a mysterious psychiatrist.

It can be difficult to follow what's going on and it's difficult to check as the author claims names have been changed, oddly, to avoid "possible contraventions" of the Official Secrets Act. Perhaps there might have been greater concerns about making enemies from further afield.

Get yourself  
a copy signed  
by the author

ASYLUM, the first book by Anthony R. Mallin, is published by Semmens in hardback at £14.99.

The author will sign copies at Buy the Book in The George shopping centre, Grantham, on Saturday, June 17, from 10am.



But there are plenty of place names and so on to tickle the fancy of the Grantham reader, even if you were lucky enough not to get whisked away on that evening 40 years ago.

Powers, who seemed to live in both Hamilton Road and Melbourne Road, went to Belton Lane Primary School and St Wulfram's (where some pretty amazing things happened). He worked at Parnell's TV shop and there is, inevitably, a big Ministry of Defence cover-up surrounding RAF Spitalgate and possibly the goings-on at Barkston Heath.

But the real villains of the piece are at the Journal. When our intrepid hero is attempting to research what really happened he is met by sinister questions.

"They wanted to know who we were and where we were from and how to make contact with us. Without thinking twice we

agreed to supplying our contact details to them.

"Looking back that was stupid. Even now we don't actually know who these people were and we immediately realised my quest for the truth was no longer a private matter."

Hmmm. Actually that quote has been adjusted, because the author has difficulty knowing when to use full stops and when to start new sentences which adds to the rambling nature of the narrative and the suspicion that he might just be completely barking.

But the camera never lies, surely? If you find yourself having a sceptical moment, or if you're struggling to work out just what's going on, you can flick to the end of the book to see the pictures of the aliens.

Let me nail my colours to the mast. I say it didn't happen ... but then in my position I would, wouldn't I?

Report  
debunking  
UFOs 'a  
load of  
rubbish'

A GOVERNMENT report which says UFOs do not exist has been described as "a load of rubbish" by one expert who studied them for 50 years.

But Roy Lake, founder and chairman of London UFO Studies - who has heard hundreds of accounts of UFO sightings and even seen one ship flying over the rooftops of Barking - is unconvinced by the Ministry of Defence report which states that meteors, physical, electrical and magnetic phenomena in the atmosphere are responsible for sightings.

He said: "What a load of rubbish they are coming out with. I know Nick Pope, the former MOD official who lectures about UFOs.

"He is supposed to talk at a conference next week, so I don't know what he's going to talk about."

The report was published last week following a Freedom of Information Act request by Dr David Clarke, of Sheffield Hallam University.

But Roy, whose interest in UFOs began after he read a friend's book, believes there is more to the publication than meets the eye.

He said: "I've dealt with hundreds of people who say they've seen them, even policemen who have said they saw something they could not explain.

"I'm pretty sure the government knows what's going on, but they just don't want anyone to know."

BARKING & DAGENHAM RECORDER, England - May 11, 2006

JOURNAL, Grantham, England - June 23, 2006

## Was this a UFO fly-past?

Ray took a picture of carnival Dakota - and got the shock of his life!

AMATEUR photographer Ray Gilbert reckons he caught more than one flying object on camera when a Dakota aeroplane completed a fly-past over Grantham Carnival on Saturday.

Ray, of Montrose Close, Grantham, discovered a mysterious dot on one of the digital pictures he took of the fly-past.

He said the dot has a flat top and a red rim around it which is visible only when he zooms in on it on his computer.

Ray, who claims to have seen a UFO last year when he was travelling to Lincoln, said: "I took more photos of the fly-past but this is the only one with a dot on it.

"When I saw it a chill went down my back and everyone I've told says I should inform the Ministry of Defence.

"I know it's a UFO and I'm wondering if anyone else saw the same thing."



The Dakota and (above) the 'UFO'. Amazingly, this is the second time Grantham man Ray Gilbert has spotted an alien spacecraft.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES, Horsham, England - June 2, 2006

## Startling find as UFO article is discovered



by Tim Raw

A HORSHAM woman has unearthed reports of strange UFO sightings in the town found in a 30-year-old issue of the County Times, with 'startling' similarities to testimonies of recent sightings from Horsham residents.

Heather Grabham, who works at Horsham Museum, in the Causeway, spotted the 'Mystery Object Over Town' article in an issue of the paper dated back to Friday March 12, 1976 - almost exactly 30 years before the County Times was contacted by a string of residents in April who had seen bright lights in the sky.

The 1976 article asks 'Just what was it hovering over Horsham just after midnight on Monday (March 8)?'

The report explains local police were called out three

### What do you think?

Did you see those mysterious lights 30 years ago and were there any answers as to what created them?

Email [gary.shipton@sussexnewspapers.co.uk](mailto:gary.shipton@sussexnewspapers.co.uk), write to the editor at 14-16 Market Square, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HD, or comment immediately on the horshamtoday message board at [www.horshamtoday.co.uk](http://www.horshamtoday.co.uk)

times within half an hour after four different people saw 'a bright orange oblong ball in the sky over the east end of Collyer's School playing field'.

More reports came into the paper from people who had seen a 'bright orange oblong light' on April 28, 2006.

Mrs Grabham said: "It is amazing how similar these reports are almost exactly 30 years apart."

● Pictured right: how we reported the 'sighting' 30 years ago.

Mystery  
object  
over  
town

JUST WHAT WAS  
It hovered over Ho

# Oxford's UFO expert criticises secret MoD report that explains sightings

HE CLAIMS to have seen spaceships soaring across the city's skies and crop circles 300ft-wide, so it will take more than an official report to convince this Oxford UFO expert aliens don't exist.

A confidential four-year study by the Ministry of Defence, made public following a request under the Freedom of Information Act, concluded there was no proof of alien life forms.

But Michael Soper, a member of the Contact International UFO research group, has spent decades studying unidentified flying objects and said the MoD's report did not throw any doubt on his findings.

Mr Soper, of Ouseley Close, New Marston, who claims to have first seen a UFO in 1959 over the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, said: "Obviously, the MoD can't admit aliens exist.

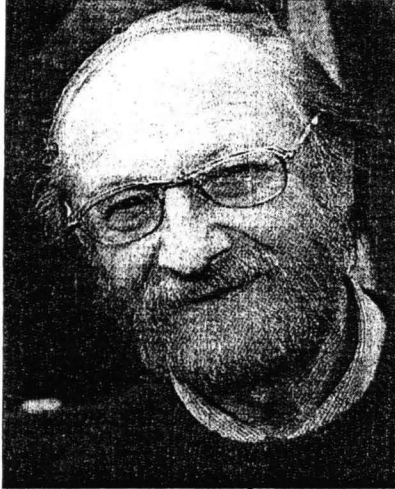
"Even if they knew they did, they could not admit to it. This is the only kind of report they could produce. I don't agree with most of it."

The report, undertaken by the Defence Intelligence Staff, part of the MoD, concluded that sightings of UFOs could be rationally explained and that

meteors and their "well-known effects" were responsible for "some unidentified aerial phenomena".

But Mr Soper disagreed and said this could only explain about five per cent of the cases he had encountered.

He said: "You would need to have a



strange mentality to believe the conclusions of this report. I have read thousands of witness reports and seen all kinds of evidence and the MoD's conclusions do not come anywhere near to explaining them."

Mr Soper, a researcher and mathematician, said he had pictures of an object he believed to be an alien spacecraft, which he spotted on a photo taken of a cloud near Banbury.

In 1995, he took a picture of a spherical object above the Co-op store in Marston and has also investigated crop circles in fields near Garsington.

He said: "The MoD's report shows there is a case to answer if they feel the need to produce a 400-page report. We were told there was no study being undertaken, but in actual fact a four-year study was being carried out.

"It is a bittersweet victory for us. They have admitted there is something to explain."

The report, entitled *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK*, was completed in 2000.

The identity of the man who wrote it has been protected.

TIMES, Selby, England - May 25, 2006

## UFO photo 'proof'

THIS X-Files image shows what is believed to be a UFO hovering over a well-known Selby beauty spot.

The photo - taken by Selby resident Jody Holden - has been described by friend and fellow UFO enthusiast Russell Kellett as "one of the most powerful UFO images ever captured".

The duo are both members of the British UFO Hunters but insist they don't have to do much hunting to find extra terrestrial activity in the town.

Russell said the image of an alien spacecraft looking down on Brayton Barff was captured a month ago.

He added: "At first Jody looked and thought it was an aeroplane, but on closer inspection he saw it was a saucer with a two-tier effect."

The 42-year-old Filey resident explained he was ready to give up his research after he believed his work wasn't being taken seriously enough.

"People around the world have been sending us messages and e-mails

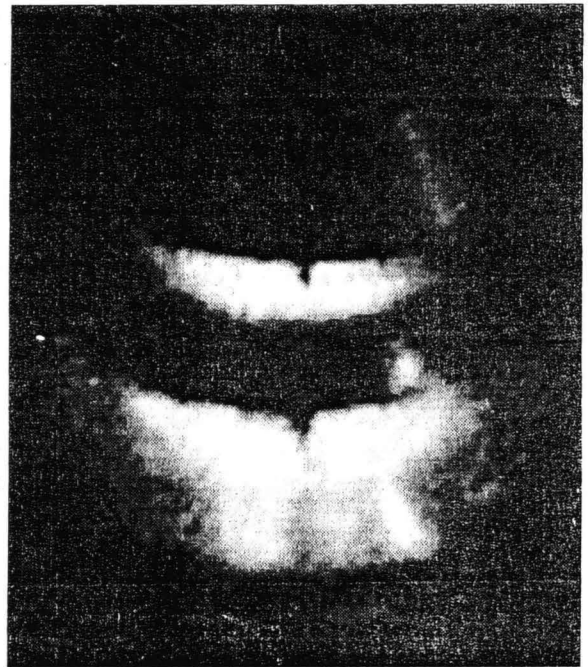
telling us not to give up. This is a very powerful image, one of the best I've ever seen. We know it's not simply plasma making this happen; we've heard this all before.

"People need to be aware just what's going on, or at least that there's something a little bit mysterious occurring."

A report released by the MOD recently revealed 15 per cent of UFO sightings in 2005 occurred in North Yorkshire.

As exclusively revealed in the Selby Times last year, the town recorded an unprecedented 33 cases of X-File phenomena in 2004, shooting the district to third spot in the British UFO Hunters' activity top ten.

Any budding extra terrestrial seekers out there are urged to contact Russell's hotline on 01723 514700 with reports of sightings, or visit the [www.UFO-paranormal.co.uk](http://www.UFO-paranormal.co.uk) website. **Picture copyright: Russ Kellett**



## 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.]

June 20, 2006 — [www.analuisacid.com.mx](http://www.analuisacid.com.mx) — ARGENTINA: UFOs over Mt. Uritorco — An interesting image taken by Ana Wolfenson and David Magram from Capilia del Monte, Argentina, shows an object resembling a "tube of light" as described by the witnesses themselves.

"This was something that took place some 5 years ago, I remember it well ... we took the photo from the backyard with a little plastic camera, one of those Creative for PC ones. We were taking some cloud photos, as we are tireless skywatchers. When we downloaded the images to the computer, we saw that tube of light with the shape of an M or a W. I think that there are many things around us and interacting with us at all times, even when we can't see it..."

Ana is the mother of young David, 19, and both have engaged in fine research activity through their



website, where the majestic Argentinean summit can be seen (through a webcam), where other interesting images of chance UFOs have been picked up.

Mount Uritorco is acknowledged as a site of unexplained phenomena ranging from lights seen at its summit to possible UFO landings, as well as metaphysical theories involving dimensional doorways and hidden underground cities, with a similarity to the stories woven around Cerro Tepozteco in Mexico. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid & Ana Wolfenson and David Magram [[www.webcamuritorco.com.ar](http://www.webcamuritorco.com.ar)]

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July 3, 2006 — *La Opinion de Malaga.com* and *Miami UFO Center* — SPAIN: LA JOYA - A UFO ENCLAVE. SEVERAL RESIDENTS DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES — ANTEQUERA - Ufologists study the proliferation of sightings in southern Torcal; theories aimed at explaining sightings in the region range from aircraft and weather balloons to aliens and temporal doorways.

"I was returning from seeing my girlfriend and decided to stop aside from the road and take a shortcut through the fields. That's when it showed up. It was like a car with four powerful headlights, but it flew only a few meters over the ground." This is the eyewitness account given by Juan Arrabal, an electrician from the region of La Joya, Antequera, and is at least one of a dozen gathered by this newspaper in a rural district located on the slopes of Torcal.

There, ufologists are looking into the recent proliferation of so-called UFO sightings in the area. His friend Antonio Vazquez ratifies the story. "I was with him. It's true, it was like the front part of a car, and I can tell you that a vehicle cannot transit through that area," he says. "It traveled at some 30 or 40 meters over the ground."

Pedro Martin Gomez's experience begins on Cerro de las Cabanas, near Acebuche, and also in La Joya. This resident of La Joya saw two lights that remained motionless for at least two hours. It happened one summer night while he walked. Something similar happened to Jose Maria Martin, another resident. This construction worker, married with children, was able to see a ceaseless coming and going of lights, crisscrossing their paths for hours, while hunting ferrets.

Luis Mariano Fernandez has researched phenomena in La Joya for many years. "I was traveling through the vicinity of Los Navazos around 3 a.m. when three lights forming a triangle suddenly appeared. We didn't see a structure, nor any iron or metalwork, and they moved slowly," he adds. "It was a UFO, for sure," remark witnesses. — CREDIT: Virgilio Sanchez Ocejó

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July 7, 2006 — *Planeta UFO* and *Peru.com Noticias* — PERU: UFO APPEARS OVER AREQUIPA — A startling UFO was reportedly seen in the skies over the city of Arequipa last Sunday around 5 o'clock in the afternoon; it was recorded by an amateur cameraman.

The video displayed by Television Nacional del Peru (TNP) presents the alleged UFO in broad daylight as a brilliant white light that moves in the sky: Following a few moments of undulatory motion, the strange object lost itself in the sky, leaving witnesses surprised.

Readers will recall that only a few weeks ago, a local newspaper published a photo of the Ubinas Volcano in Moquegua, taken on June 8 by Marco Antonio Zevallos, a member of the Civil Defense Regional Committee, allegedly showing a UFO. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

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July 11, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — Cattle Mutilation in La Pampa — A report from Raul Oscar Chaves — In late June 2006, on the edge of Provincial Route No. 7 (km 158) in the jurisdiction of Colonia Ines y Carlota, some 50 km NE of Santa Rosa, La Pampa, 5 bovines were found dead, presenting clear signs of mutilation.

The time of death had been estimated at some 15 days and the carcasses showed signs of missing udders, ears and tongues; incisions in the genital region were also reported.

The animals were predominantly black Aberdeen Angus and Shorton cattle with an approximate weight of 300 kg. The discovery of elements with these characteristics, albeit sporadically, is proof of the phenomenon's continuity. At the same time, the lack of elements of discernment have kept a formal complaint from being brought to the authorities.

The need to "distance oneself" from these animals arises from the possible impact on the cattle rancher's livelihood, since potential livestock buyers are reluctant to make purchases from estates on which mutilation episodes have occurred. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

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July 23, 2006 — *Ana Luisa Cid* — MEXICO: UFO Photograph Under Investigation — Ana Luisa Cid reports: July 2006 - [An apparent UFO] photograph was provided to me on June 10, 2006 by a young man from Tepoztlan (Morelos) who does not wish to disclose his identity.

According to his account the image was taken last year. He added that the person who took the photo was American and was very excited when the image was captured, believing that it could be a real UFO.

Endeavoring to learn something more about the sighting, I shared the material with some Mexican researchers who informed me that they had no information on this alleged sighting.

According to Tomas Amador and Damian Minaya, there is a man named Rolf Bertschin living in Tepoztlan, who makes artistic composites of this sort.

I have visited Tepoztlan repeatedly trying to find Mr. Bertschin and some additional information, but have not able to obtain any results so far. Therefore, I cannot say with certainty that the photo is authentic, but I also lack the elements to dismiss it altogether.

We know that editing software allows us to make digital montages, not mentioning the use of maquettes and models. However we should bear in mind that Tepoztlan is a site where UFOs are frequently reported, and its residents speak of the phenomenon as an everyday occurrence.

If the reader has any further information about the case in question, please contact me so that we may clarify the authenticity of the Mexican photograph once and for all.

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July 23, 2006 — *Ana Luisa Cid* — Mexico: UFO Evidence from Mexicali (2004) — \*\* Videos taken by Prof. Stalin Valle Osuna\*\* — Professor Stalin Valle is a dedicated skywatcher who has managed to capture a wide array of unknown flying objects in the skies of Mexicali, Baja California (Mexico) with his camera.

These vidcaps correspond to the video dated August 21, 2004, where it is possible to see how some strange spheres divide into several parts and then reintegrate, presenting a behavior that we have recorded in other occasions and is hard to explain.

The video was received on July 10, 2006.

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July 25, 2006 — *www.correoperu.com.pe* — PERU: FIREBALL CROSSES SKIES OVER TACNA — A strange fireball similar to a comet crossed the skies over Tacna on Monday afternoon before the startled eyes of dozens of onlookers.

According to the National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (SENAMHI), it could be an unidentified

flying object (UFO).

Astonished spectators noted that the "object" crossed the sky slowly until it vanished in the horizon.

The event took place at approximately 17:00 hrs. on Monday over the Monte Verde sector of the Heroic City. In this regard, Guadalupe Miranda, director of SENAMHI in Tacna, dismissed the possibility that it could be a comet or meteorite. "Given its flashing characteristics, brilliance and slow movement, it could be a UFO."

Readers should recall that this is not the first report on possible UFOs in the south of the country. On June 8, a Civil Defense official took a photo of a strange object that flew over the Libinas Volcano in Moquegua. On that occasion it could not be ascertained if the object was or was not a UFO.

Anthony Choy, a researcher of anomalous aerial phenomena, maintains that a relationship exists between UFO manifestations and natural or man-made catastrophes. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

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July 29, 2006 — *Nuevo Dia* (Mexico) and *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: UFOs EXPLODE OVER MASCARENAS — In the early hours of July 13, two unidentified flying objects exploded, lighting up the sky with powerful lights.

Terror spread among the population upon seeing that the UFOs, understood in the strictest meaning of the acronym and not as spacecraft from another planet, fell to earth leaving a wake of fire and multiple colors in the sky.

The event was recorded northwest of the city (Nogales, Sonora), in the vicinity of the Mascarenas communal farm. The first explosion was reported to this newspaper at 04:00 hours and around 20 minutes later, some of this newspaper's employees were able to see the second explosion, believed to correspond to something similar to a space rocket. Witnesses to the first explosion remarked that the second object, before exploding into thousands of pieces, was static [stationary], in a parallel position to the first object.

They likewise indicated that the initial explosion was much more intense than the second one and that a fireball could be seen around the object, but at no time was any sound heard.

"The objects, or whoever was manning them, were making an effort to avoid a powerful impact," remarked an eyewitness.

These people could not believe the spectacle they were seeing, and their eyes reflected bewilderment and terror.

At the close of this edition, neither local authorities nor those of the neighboring country were able to account for these objects, nor where their remains may have fallen.

[Note from Prof. Cid: The Mascarenas communal farm belongs to Nogales, Sonora, located in the north of the Mexican Republic, bordering the United States. A person has agreed to provide me with the photos published in the newspaper. As soon as I have them I will share them with you.] — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

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July 30, 2006 — *NOTIMEX; El Universal*, Bogota, Colombia — COLOMBIA: Family Builds UFO "Runway" — A Colombian family attached to the "Raelian" faith explained that its purpose is to offer hospitality to any extraterrestrials willing to visit them.

A Colombian family built a runway for Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in a ranch they own in the northwestern department of Antioquia, according to local media.

The family, made up by Oscar Orozco, his wife Beatriz and his four children, all of them members of the "Raelian" faith, explained that its purpose is to offer hospitality to any extraterrestrials willing to visit them.

The runway is a white, circular structure built near the house occupied by these adepts of the Raelian Movement, founded by Claude Vorilhon, who claims to have been contacted by a UFO in 1973 and later assumed the name "Rael."

In statements to the *El Tiempo* newspaper, Orozco said that he designed the runway himself, directed the pouring of cement and raised the circular adobe structure, which measures 40 meters in diameter. He admitted having some problems with his neighbors, not only on account of his beliefs, but because the family is wont to wander naked around their property. "They said they were going to lynch us and on two occasions called the authorities on me for scandal, but in the end, the scandal was taking place within our own property," notes Orozco.

He adds that the landing center is still provisional, because the real UFO landing strip should be 150 meters in diameter, according to the measurements of the so called "temple of Ezekiel."

This Raelian family hopes that the Colombian government will grant it the extra-territorial nature held by foreign embassies and that it will be relocated to the Jose Maria Cordova airport, which serves the city of Medellin, in order to avoid accidents.

According to Raelian belief, humanity was created by aliens 25 million years ago when they visited earth and set off evolution by means of DNA. The followers of "Rael" are atheists and science is their only religion. They believe in accepting responsibility for their own actions, believe in non-violence, profess absolute respect for human life and sexual tolerance. — CREDIT: Virgilio Sanchez Ocejó, *Miami UFO Center*

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July 31, 2006 — [The following message was received this morning from Argentinean journalist and UFO researcher Quique Mario, director of the Centro de Estudios UFO (CEUFO) group and one of his country's foremost experts in cattle mutilations and the enigmatic disappearance of large quantities of water from pools, water towers and other locations during "saucer flaps." We hope you'll find this of interest. -- SC]

Greetings - I'm bringing to your attention two episodes that took place in La Pampa this weekend.

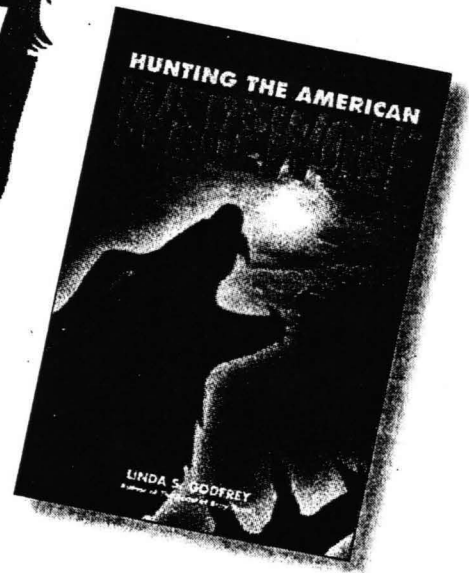
The first one was recorded at 19:10 hrs. and was witnessed by a resident from the locality of Macachin who was traveling toward Carhue, Province of Buenos Aires. He was driving his vehicle in a west to east direction when he saw a "strange flash" through the rear view mirror. At first, he thought it was another vehicle, but when he lost it from sight, he pulled over and got out of the car. On doing so, he saw an astonishing sight: heading in a N-S direction at 30° was a white-colored object having the relative size of "a tennis ball." Seconds later, the strange light divided into three spheres--two of them reddish--which continued along the same trajectory until they vanished together.

The second episode: Yesterday, Sunday, July 30, 2006 at 20:05, after putting my car in the garage, I was walking in a S-N direction toward my house when I saw a strange sphere that suddenly "blazed" in the sky at 45 degrees to my left. The sky was clear in advance of the tremendous ice storm that fell in early hours of the morning (temperatures recorded at -10 Centigrade). The sighting lasted only a few seconds: I had barely recovered from the surprise when it repeated once more for another few seconds. I asked a neighbor walking along the path if he'd seen anything, but he replied no. Evidently, my penchant for looking skyward rewarded me in this case. — CREDIT: Quique Mario, *CEUFO*





# Opening the Wisconsin X-files



The truth is out there — though as presenters at a conference for the paranormal will tell you, no one knows what the truth might be

By KEITH UHLIG  
WAUSAU DAILY HERALD  
KUHIG@WDHPRINT.COM

If you believe the stories, Bigfoot could be stomping around the woods of north central Wisconsin right now, and a werewolf could be following in its tracks.

But you probably don't believe the stories.

There are, however, so many tales of the large hairy beast and the four-legged wolf-bear, and they come from such a variety of sources, that it's likely you've at least wondered about the creatures.

If you're really intrigued, you might want to drive to Stevens Point on Saturday, where the "Strange Stevens Point/Wausau Unexplained Conference" will be held. There, you'll learn about Bigfoot, werewolves, ghosts, haunted places in the area and the adventures of paranormal investigators.

Linda Godfrey, author of the newly released book "Hunting the American Werewolf" will be among the presenters. She also penned an earlier book, "The Beast of Bray Road."

In her books, she describes stories about a large wolf-like creature that's as big as a bear. Or maybe it's a mixture of man and beast. She first got intrigued with the creature when she worked on a story about it as a reporter for The Week, a biweekly newspaper based in

## If You Go

**What:** Strange Stevens Point/Wausau — Unexplained Conference

**When:** 7 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Country Springs Hotel, 1501 Northpoint Drive, Stevens Point.

**Cost:** \$8; tickets are available at the door

**Contact:** 341-1340

Delavan.

"I think what keeps fueling this phenomenon is that people keep seeing it (the creature)," Godfrey said. "There have been 70 sightings in Wisconsin alone."

If you think you're safe in Marathon County, think again. (There have been stories about people completely disappearing, Godfrey said. But there never have been reports of the creature hurting anyone, she pointed out.)

Wausau's Todd Roll, 41, is a reference librarian at the University of Wisconsin Marathon County. He's been interested in the paranormal and has collected stories about abnormal creatures for years. The wolf/bear creature first intrigued him when a Mosinee middle schooler approached him with a story.

Roll was talking about ghosts in Mosinee. After he finished, the kid told him that the kid's brother was playing paintball

near Hatley when he and other friends saw an animal on the edge of a field. "(He said) it looked like a cross between a wolf and a bear. It looked mostly like a wolf, but the size of a bear. It had shaggy fur, and pointy ears," Roll said. "I said, 'Wow, that's interesting.' Then I started hearing these other stories from people."

A woman Roll worked with said her brother had seen a similar creature while hunting in the woods near Antigo. Others also came forward.

Bigfoot hasn't gone unnoticed in Marathon County, either. In the early 1990s, a town of Frankfurt couple reported a Bigfoot sighting to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. When the Wausau Daily Herald tried calling the couple, their daughter answered. Her father had passed away, she said, and her mother didn't want to talk about it. Nor did they want their names associated with the story. "People are mean," the woman said.

That's a pretty common reaction, Roll said. A lot of people won't talk about their sightings when confronted about them.

"I've heard a lot of second- and third-hand stories from people, a cousin or a brother who saw this weird thing. I'll track them down, and the witnesses clam up on it," Roll said.

He neither believes or disbelieves. There isn't any real physical evidence to prove the

creatures exist. But what if, Roll asks, "what we're seeing is something paranormal, perhaps a spirit? ... If you believe in the spirit world, maybe people are seeing spirits, something that really exists on a different plane."

Native American stories include witches and shape-shifters that take on the shape of a wolf, he said.

He needs something physical before he truly believes. But he doesn't think people are making up the stories. "They don't want to talk about it; they're ashamed of it," he said. "I can't imagine what they would gain from that."

Chad Lewis, 31, of Eau Claire is one of the organizers and will be a presenter at the Unexplained Conference. He has a master's degree in psychology and works as a grant writer for a nonprofit antipoverty organization.

People who are intrigued by all the creatures and ghosts and the unexplained will have a safe haven at the conference, he said, whether they believe or not. Lewis has investigated plenty of paranormal circumstances. "Some we've debunked," he said. "And (in) some, we haven't found a suitable explanation."

It's all a big adventure, Lewis said, and who doesn't want answers to the unexplained?

"I think people just love getting scared and frightened," Lewis said.



OU biology professor Scott Moody mimics the infamous Bigfoot film shot in 1967 by Roger Patterson. The film, like others, was proved a hoax.

MICHAEL P. KING, DIANA HOLBROOK | DISPATCH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

# BIOLOGY meets BIGFOOT

Ohio University scientist uses forensics to track nature's mysteries, including Sasquatch sightings

(continued on page 19)



By Mike Lafferty  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Scott Moody is willing to give just about anyone the benefit of the doubt.

Until the facts are in, that is. The evidence doesn't lie.

That's why Moody, a 57-year-old forensic biologist at Ohio University, didn't automatically dismiss numerous Bigfoot sightings in Ohio through the years until he investigated one particular event.

Now, Moody says he thinks that Bigfoot sightings in Ohio are nothing more than myth.

He says so in a paper he presented recently to the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science.

Most scientists stay away from Bigfoot research, but Moody uses it to entice students to consider forensics as a career. In addition, scientific advances enable a few interested researchers to attack the Bigfoot legend with new techniques, especially genetics analysis.

Moody investigated a May 2002 sighting north of Rt. 50 on Haga Ridge Road, property that borders the Wayne National Forest in eastern Athens County.

"That's where I butted heads with some of the Bigfoot people who want to believe everything they see out there," Moody said. "This case has no evidence whatsoever."

The residents reported finding footprints, seeing "red eyes" and hearing screams in the night. In this case, Moody said, Bigfoot also supposedly left hair and tracks on a rural gravelled lane.

The family's teenage son said he encountered a 7-foot-tall, white furry creature standing behind a tree. He ran to the family's trailer, according to the report filed on the Ohio Bigfoot Research Organization's Web site.

But using forensic techniques, Moody determined reality to be a lot more boring.

The owners of the property where the sighting occurred had just had a load of gravel spread. Afterward, it rained and water flowed down the lane, picking up pieces of gravel, stirring eddies and digging little trenches.

"These were being interpreted as toe impressions," Moody said.

No doubt an easy mistake to make after you've seen a 7-foot-tall creature peering at you from behind a tree.

The hair turned out to be from a white-tailed deer.

"People think forensics is only DNA from a

dead human body," Moody said.

Think *CSI* meets *Nature*.

Bigfoot is perhaps the ultimate fugitive, so it makes sense to explain forensics to prospective students attending the science meeting.

Moody said most students enter the Ohio University program with hopes of getting jobs like those they see on TV programs. But they are stunned by the amount of biology, chemistry and physics they have to study.

By graduation, 75 percent of students who started in forensics have changed majors, Moody said.

Demand for forensic investigations is being driven by the \$10 billion market in illegal wildlife skins and pelts, bear gallbladders, ground rhinoceros horn, alligators and rare birds.

Authorities want proof when they prosecute offenders. That means investigators must be skilled in DNA sampling and using an electron microscope to identify different types of buckshot or elephant ivory.

While law-enforcement forensics deals only with humans, wildlife forensic scientists must identify evidence from any species in the world that is illegally killed, smuggled, poached or sold.

That entails identifying fur in a coat and determining whether sea-turtle oil has been used in suntan lotion.

Then there's the more mundane. In 2004, Moody's forensics skills helped an Ohio food-products company when a customer found frog parts in a frozen pizza.

The company blamed its suppliers, he said.

Moody traced the vegetables to growers in Mexico and Ohio, but because he confirmed the frog was a chorus frog, the Mexican growers were off the hook. The frogs simply don't live there.

They do, however, live in central and northwestern Ohio, where some of the vegetables were grown.

Although he dismisses most reports of Bigfoot in the eastern United States, Moody said he thinks that 8-foot-tall, 500-pound beasts with 8-inch-wide feet could be living deep in the mountains out West.

Forensic evidence has been found: primate hair and footprints with dermal ridges, which are similar to the ridges on fingerprints.

Footprints with those dermal ridges would be difficult to fake, he said.

Don Keating, a longtime Bigfoot searcher from Newcomerstown, said there is no reason why Bigfoot should not live in Ohio. Bears do, he figures.

He counts more than 250 sightings in Ohio. But Bigfoot searcher Tom Biscardi, of Menlo Park, Calif., thinks there are as many as 3,500 such creatures roaming the United States, including Eastern states. One of his most memorable experiences occurred near Portsmouth a few years ago, when he was leading a small night expedition.

He said the quiet night air suddenly split with the bloodcurdling scream of a Bigfoot.

"Those poor people were scared to death," he said. "One even peed his pants."

mlafferty@dispatch.com

BOISE WEEKLY, Boise, ID - July 5-11, 2006

BY DEAN A. FERGUSON

## BRING BACK BIGFOOT

True believers—and others—rub elbows in Pocatello

**P**OCATELLO—A hulking 6-foot 3-inch believer cornered John Mionczynski as he left the lecture. "I know you're a skeptic, right? But look here." The man jabbed a photo with his thick finger. "See. See. That's Bigfoot."

I peeked over the man's meaty shoulder to see a grainy black and white of trees and shadows. I felt like I was flunking an ink blot test.

He prodded Mionczynski. "Obviously you see that's Bigfoot there. What do you think of that?"

The man then presented a shot of an oval smudge on a gray background, captioned: "Bigfoot in UFO."

Mionczynski didn't see a bear paw settling on top of his tent.

"I saw the silhouette of a hand with an opposable thumb," a hand twice the size of a man's, Mionczynski said.

The rendezvous crowd leaned forward in their chairs.

Around campfires, where shadows grab for you, darting in and out of darkness, few can resist at least partly believing a Bigfoot story. But in an Idaho State University conference room?

This was the first time the university hosted one of the nation's two or three Bigfoot conventions held each year. An April conference in San Antonio, Texas, drew about 400 Bigfoot believers.

Part of the Pocatello draw had to do with Dr. Jeff Meldrum, an ISU associate professor of anatomy and anthropology who analyzes tracks to develop theories about the creature's anatomy.

"People are too ready to dismiss Bigfoot evidence as just simple hoax," said Meldrum, 48, who was "set back on [his] heels" when he encountered a convincing Bigfoot track in eastern Washington's Blue Mountains in 1996.

This year, Meldrum's book, *Sasquatch: The Legend Meets Science*, will enter the Bigfoot literary pantheon.

Neither Mionczynski nor Meldrum have let scientific skepticism convince them not to believe their eyes.

Mionczynski had no time for thinking when his tent was coming down around his ears. He grabbed his revolver, scuttled outside and stoked the fire. The beast had retreated to the same patch of pines where its breaths issued loud and steady. Firelight shone on its eyes.

"I sat by the fire and stared in the direction where the breathing was coming from," Mionczynski recalled. "I was totally confused because it wasn't breathing like a bear and it had hands instead of paws."

A good storyteller, sincere and confident, Mionczynski makes his tale tough to doubt.

You start to believe.

And it's not like singing along with the Rev. Sum Yung Yahoo as he bends his guitar strings, jamming for Jesus Jones until you're convinced the Messiah really did show up

in Year of the Dog driving a VW Beetle, sweeping teenage girls off their feet. It's not just believing because everyone else does. Not that at all.

If anything, proximity to true believers makes it harder to believe.

At the conference, one sasquatch-sized man demonstrated Bigfoot's heavy, arm-swinging stride. A woman described several encounters where she didn't see Bigfoot, but found puddles of Bigfoot urine. Another time she heard what could only have been Bigfoot flatulence. Another man with a California surfer accent talked about a woman who, after being abducted by Bigfoot, was returned to civilization years later, wild and crazy.

"They had to keep her in a cage," he said.

Mionczynski brought the legend to life.

The fire popped sparks as Mionczynski stared into trees. Forty-five minutes. An hour. Against his will, he nodded off. That kind of vicious adrenalin rush just exhausts you, he explained.

"I woke up to the sound of something hitting the ground." Over the next 40 minutes Mionczynski was pelted with about 20 pine cones sailing out of the darkness.

"And that's when I knew for sure this was not a bear."

It finally left him alone with what has become a life-long mission.

Bigfoot may be an endangered species, Mionczynski said. So Mionczynski still beats the brush and scales mountains, hunting for a specimen. And even though the rendezvous' low turnout disappointed organizers, Mionczynski helped about 100 folks rid themselves of any good reason to stop believing. In a way, that's too bad for them. Apparently, belief dampens your chances of spotting one.

As one Utah Bigfoot hunter put it: "It's only the non-believers that see them. If you're a believer, you can go out in the woods and look for 20 years and never see one." **DA**



As a wildlife biologist, Mionczynski has spent years tracking bears through Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. He's the sort of man Marlboro puts on billboards and the gray at his temples is the only suggestion that he is nearly 60 years old.

Mionczynski grinned at the big zealot and said, "I think you have a great imagination."

The man arched an eyebrow and, with Gandhi-like dignity, lumbered off.

"You have to listen to what they have to say and just try to be courteous to people like that," Mionczynski said.

But he is no skeptic.

On June 18, he spent an hour telling 60 people about his 34-year search for Bigfoot. The occasion was the Bigfoot Rendezvous in Pocatello, where 100 people from Texas all the way to British Columbia shelled out \$55 each to hear Bigfoot experts.

Mionczynski isn't wild-eyed, soft-bellied, and he can't tell you which *X-Files* episode featured Agent Scully getting whisked into Heaven by E.T. He's a lean mountain man who had his first Bigfoot encounter as a U.S. Forest Service bear researcher. He's been hunting for hard evidence—a Bigfoot carcass—ever since.

It was 1972.

On a bright moonlit night, Mionczynski was sleeping alone in a 6-foot tall nylon tent deep in the southern end of the Wind River range. He jumped awake when a bear poked its nose into the tent's side.

"I whacked it in the nose with my hand," Mionczynski recalled, as though nothing is extraordinary about bear-whacking.

The bear retreated to a "dog-haired" pine thicket behind the tent, close enough for Mionczynski to hear breathing. Six breaths a minute. Much slower than an active bear.

The bear poked its nose against the tent again. Mionczynski whacked it again. The third assault came from above when the thing pushed the tent's top, collapsing it. In the moonlight,

## PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - [Date Unknown], 2006 CR: G. Conway Ogopogo 'mockumentary' will pay tribute to writer killed in bike accident

BY MATT CARTER  
STAFF REPORTER

Ogopogo has been the topic of newspaper stories, books and songs for some 80 years.

Now the beast of Okanagan Lake is the basis for a "mockumentary."

"It's definitely a comedy," said 39-year-old filmmaker Craig March. "It's got a human quality, but it's also got slapstick."

Shooting for the movie, *The Beast of Bottomless Lake*, begins this summer in Kelowna and Vancouver. The plot revolves around Paul, an academic who spots the beast but can't get anyone to believe him.

"This man thinks he's Jacques Cousteau," said March. "He wants to display his own knowledge and daring. What ends up happening is he displays his own ineptitude."

The idea for the movie came from Keith Provost, who co-wrote the script with March and Kennedy Goodkey.

Provost died in a bicycle accident in 2001, in the middle of writing the second draft.

"Keith grew up in Kelowna. He had a vast knowledge of Ogopogo," March said. "We decided to make the movie in honour of his presence. He continues to be a creative influence."

Sightings of Ogopogo go back hundreds of years.

mcarter@png.canwest.com



INSIDE STORY



GOVERNO DE AMAPA, GILMAR NASCIMENTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A group of granite blocks** crowns a hill in Amapa, Brazil. The stones may be remnants of a centuries-old astronomical observatory,

suggesting that pre-Columbian cultures in the Amazon region were more sophisticated than previously thought.

# Monumental discovery in Amazon

**'Tropical Stonehenge'**  
offers new insight into  
ancient Indian societies

By Stan Lehman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAO PAULO, Brazil — A grouping of granite blocks along a grassy Amazon hilltop may be the vestiges of a centuries-old astronomical observatory, archaeologists said.

The South American media have dubbed it the "tropical Stonehenge."

The 127 blocks, some as high as 9 feet tall, are spaced at regular intervals around the hill, like a crown 100 feet in diameter.

On the shortest day of the year — Dec. 21 — the shadow of one of the blocks disappears when the sun is directly above it.

"It is this block's alignment with the winter solstice that leads us to believe the site was once an astronomical observatory," said Mariana Petry Cabral, an archaeologist at the Amapa State Scientific and Technical Research Institute. "We may be also looking at the remnants of a sophisticated culture."

Anthropologists have long known that local indigenous populations were acute observers of the stars and sun. But the discovery of a physical structure that appears to incorporate this knowledge suggests that pre-Columbian Indians in the Amazon rainforest may have been more sophisticated than previously thought.

"Transforming this kind of knowledge into a monument; the transformation of something ephemeral into something concrete, could indicate the existence of a larger population and of a more complex social organization," Cabral said.

Cabral has been studying the site, near the village of Calcoene, just north of the equator in Amapa state in far northern Brazil, since



GOVERNO DE AMAPA, GILMAR NASCIMENTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Some of the granite blocks** at the Brazilian site are as high as 9 feet tall. The stones are spaced at regular intervals and form a ring 100 feet in diameter.

last year. She thinks it was once inhabited by the ancestors of the Palikur Indians.

While the blocks have not yet been submitted to carbon dating, she said pottery shards near the site indicate they are pre-Columbian and maybe older — as much as 2,000 years old.

Last month, archaeologists working on a hillside north of Lima, Peru, announced the discovery of the oldest astronomical observatory in the Western Hemisphere. The giant stone carvings, apparently 4,200 years old, align with sunrise and sunset on Dec. 21.

While the Incas, Mayans and Aztecs built

large cities and huge rock structures, pre-Columbian Amazon societies built smaller settlements of wood and clay that quickly deteriorated in the hot, humid Amazon climate, disappearing centuries ago, archaeologists said.

Farmers and fishermen in the region around the Amazon site have long known about the stone blocks.

Archeologists got involved last year after geographers and geologists did a socioeconomic survey of the area, by foot and helicopter, and noticed "the unique circular structure on top of the hill," Cabral said.

Scientists not involved in the discovery said it could prove valuable in understanding pre-Columbian societies in the Amazon.

"No one has ever described something like this before. This is an extremely novel find — a one-of-a-kind type of thing," said Michael Heckenberger of the University of Florida's Department of Anthropology.

He said that while carbon dating and further excavation must be carried out, the discovery adds to a growing body of thought among archaeologists that prehistory in the Amazon region was more varied than had been believed.

"Given that astronomical objects, stars, constellations, etc., have a major importance in much of Amazonian mythology and cosmology, it does not in any way surprise me that such an observatory exists," said Richard Callaghan, a professor of geography, anthropology and archaeology at the University of Calgary.

Brazilian archaeologists will return in August, when the rainy season ends, to carry out carbon dating and further excavations.

"The traditional image is that some time thousands of years ago small groups of tropical forest horticulturists arrived in the area and they never changed — (that) what we see today is just like it was 3,000 years ago," Heckenberger said.

"This is one more thing that suggests that through the past thousands of years, societies have changed quite a lot."