

UFO

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CALL, Beloit, KS - Sept. 15, 2006



A crop circle has appeared east of Beloit

Sharon Sahlfeld/Call

Do we have visitors amongst us, or is there a hoaxster in our midst. This crop circle has shown up in a field east of Beloit, on Highway #9, and has made the traffic a little busier, as they have been driving by to view the unexplained phenomenon.



Elaborate Crop Circles

These elaborate crop circles have appeared all over the world, dating back to 1988, which scientists have been researching for years.

EVENING NEWS, Monroe, MI - Oct. 30, 2006

Seeing can be believing

"Uh, Kerry?" I stammered.
"I know," he responded,
"I've been watching it too."

We had spent the previous night in Winnipeg watching the final game of the classic World Series between Boston and Cincinnati on TV; what a classic it was.

Most undoubtedly remember Carlton Fisk "waving" his home run fair. For me it was watching perhaps the best baseball lineup ever assembled in Cincy's Rose, Perez, Bench, Foster, Griffey, Concepcion and the rest.

Winnipeg was the last stop on the Canadian tour of our rock 'n' roll band. And, as fate would have it, our equipment truck twisted a rear axle and wasn't going anywhere until repaired.



Tom Treece

(continued on page 2)

Doug Moe
THE TALK



ONE OF the strangest stories I've encountered in a decade of writing columns is getting stranger.

When I last visited — in late August — the saga of a Truax Field jet airplane with two crew members that disappeared under mysterious circumstances in 1953, it appeared the jet, which had been temporarily assigned to the Kinross Air Base in northern Michigan, had been found and photographed 500 feet below the surface of Lake Superior.

That now appears less certain, though neither can it be discounted with any certainty. The Internet and the world of UFO theorists are buzzing with claims and counterclaims, and earlier this month Dirk Vander Ploeg, editor and publisher of UFO Digest, attempted to calm everyone down with a column titled, "The Kinross Controversy: Hoax, Fraud, Men-in-Black or Genuine Discovery."

For me this all started in early August. I came across an article in the Pembroke Observer out of Ontario, Canada, headlined, "Revisiting the Kinross Incident."

The article called it "one of the enduring

mysteries of the Great Lakes." What I hadn't realized, until I began looking into it, was that the F-89 Scorpion jet that disappeared on Nov. 23, 1953, was actually based at Truax. The two crew members — pilot **Felix Moncla** and radar observer **Robert Wilson** — had homes in Madison. A Capital Times story from 1953 explained that the plane and crew "were part of a Truax Field contingent stationed temporarily at Kinross Air Base to substitute for Kinross personnel engaged in gunnery maneuvers at Yuma, Ariz."

With this direct Madison connection to "one of the enduring mysteries of the Great Lakes," I wrote a column on Aug. 9 about the Kinross incident.

To briefly summarize, what happened that November night in 1953 began when the radar at Kinross, a base in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, spotted a large unidentified object in restricted air space near the U.S.-Canadian border.

Moncla and Wilson were dispatched in an F-89 to track the unidentified craft. Their jet appeared on the Kinross radar, following the UFO out over Lake Superior, and then something inexplicable happened. From a Nov. 25, 1953, Capital Times article: "The Truax jet was followed on the radar screen at Kinross until its image merged with that of the plane it was checking — then it was lost."

My original column noted that in the half century since, theories about what happened have abounded — the Truax jet was gobbled

up by the UFO; the craft was an off-course Canadian airliner and the two simply crashed into one another; one or the other exploded in the air.

But whatever happened, that F-89 jet and the two crew members had been missing for 53 years.

Some days after that column ran, I heard from **Gord Heath**, a Canadian UFO researcher who has spent considerable time studying the Kinross incident. Heath got in touch to tell me there had been what he called "a huge development" in the Kinross case.

It was huge, all right. Heath directed me to the Web site of the Great Lakes Dive Co., a group of diving enthusiasts with "a yearning to explain some of the enduring mysteries of the Great Lakes," according to the Web site.

On the Web site, the company had posted what it said were sonar photographs of the missing Truax jet. The Web site explained that the group had come across the jet more or less by accident while searching for two sunken French minesweepers.

UFO researchers like Heath and Vander Ploeg — the UFO Digest publisher — wrote pieces about the apparent find. They both talked and corresponded with a man named **Adam Jimenez**, a representative of Great Lakes. I did a second column, noting the apparent find.

This month, the story took another turn. Another UFO publication, MUFON UFO Journal, asked this question in its October issue:

"The answer to a 53-year-old mystery or a hoax?" Editor **Dwight Connelly** noted in a column, "While the comments and photo scans released by the Great Lakes Dive Company are intriguing, there is no evidence that they are legitimate."

At this point, there is no definitive answer to the legitimacy question. For every question — such as, "Why did the Great Lakes Dive Co. Web site recently go dark?" — there is more than one possible answer. Maybe they bailed because they were playing an elaborate hoax (and the original Web site was nothing if not elaborate). That's certainly possible.

But Dirk Vander Ploeg told me Wednesday that when he spoke recently with Jimenez, the erstwhile Great Lakes spokesman, Jimenez said the company was feeling besieged by journalists, opportunists and government regulators, and was opting to lay low for a time.

Informed opinion at this stage seems to be leaning in the direction of the Great Lakes "find" being a hoax. On Wednesday, Vander Ploeg, who is urging everyone to take a wait and see attitude until more facts are known, said rather wistfully, "I would like to think it's real." But he has his doubts.

"What's your gut feeling?" he was asked. "Is it real?"

"I doubt it," he said.

Heard something Moe should know? Call 252-6446, write PO Box 8960, Madison, WI 53708, or e-mail dmoe@madison.com.

Do you believe in UFO's?
Kerry Stewart and I do as
I'm sure we saw one visit
and take off that morning in
 Fargo, North Dakota.
But what do I know?

Readers may send an e-mail
to tomt@monroenews.com

(continued from page 1 - EVENING
NEWS, Monroe, MI - Oct. 30, 2006)

Our roadie

- Kerry

Stewart - and I were left behind to have the truck fixed and drive home while the rest of the band drove on in a separate vehicle.

The grueling tour started in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and took us west to Vancouver and then back to that final stop in Winnipeg.

We left the hotel around midnight and drove south to the border and spent the next few hours under the microscope of American customs agents who were sure these two hippies - with hair spilling over their shoulders and beards to match - were undoubtedly drug runners or subversive agents.

After they unloaded our truck and inspected every orifice we were finally cleared and we continued south across the desolate North Dakota prairie.

We talked awhile before fading into a tired tolerance of quietly watching the miles go by. Ours was the only vehicle on the road.

Around 4 a.m. I noticed the lights of Fargo ahead in the distance. I remember how strange it looked, there under the big sky with its concentration of lights in this small area and not another light in sight for as far as the eye could see.

Suddenly I noticed another light that caught my eye. It was brighter than any of the city lights and seemed to be fixed high in the air, stationary over the city. At first I thought it was on a huge flagpole or water tower but it was much too high.

It never moved for the longest time and as we got closer to it I wondered if Kerry saw it; finally I shared my intuition and he answered immediately.

"What do you suppose that is?" I continued.

"No idea but it sure is strange," was his response. We drove on, watching in silence until we neared the Fargo outskirts.

Suddenly the light began to move, upward and slowly gaining momentum before finally rocketing straight up and disappearing into the early morning sky. We were stunned!

I slammed the brakes and asked, "Did you see that?"

Kerry confirmed what we had both seen even though we had no idea what it was.

"Nobody will ever believe us," I lamented.

"Doesn't matter," was his reply of wisdom.

And, of course, he was right. I've always been an open-minded guy who can accept and deal with almost anything as long as it makes sense to me. And, even though this didn't particularly make sense, I know what I saw.

Creature sightings stir talk

Family reports odd occurrences on farm

By Dave Olson
dolson@forumcomm.com

Pig-grabbing space aliens are the talk of Tappen, N.D., and beyond.

But Torrey Briese, whose family counts three close encounters with the inexplicable, doesn't much worry what others think.

"Some people probably aren't going to believe it. I'm not even trying to convince anybody. We know what happened," said Briese, a member of the Tappen School Board whose family operates a ranch outside of town.

Briese and his wife, Myra, spoke Thursday of three strange occurrences experienced by family members in the past year, two of which were reported by their son Evan, 16.

According to Myra Briese, the latest incident went something like this:

Her son awoke early on the morning of Sept. 12 and got up to get a glass of water.

Looking out a window, the boy saw something moving in the corral that is home to several large hogs that are basically family pets.

Thinking it might be a coyote, he grabbed a gun and walked into the corral.

There, he encountered two creatures standing 8 to 9 feet tall that were doing something to one of the hogs. The boy fired his .22-caliber rifle at one creature and was pretty sure he hit it, judging by the unearthly scream it emitted.

Another creature then grabbed the boy and threw him to the ground, causing him to black out.

When Evan Briese awoke, he found that Ruthy, a 450-pound sow that had been ready to give birth, was gone.

The boy ran to the home of his older sister, Trista, a short distance from the house he shares with his parents.

Trista Briese made a frantic phone call to her parents and it wasn't long before they, and later the Kidder County sheriff, were on the scene.

Evan Briese, whose shirt was in tatters, told his story.

The sheriff, Doug Howard, then left but came back the next day. He ultimately came to no conclusions about what happened to the hog, Myra Briese said.

Several days later, with the help of a hypnotist, Evan Briese remembered more details.

Five entities had been in the corral. Two were in the process of dragging what appeared to be a dead hog when the boy interrupted them.

"It's unexplainable," Myra Briese said.

"This still bothers Evan to this day," she said, adding that her son feels guilty for not being able to save his younger sister's hog.

Space oddities?

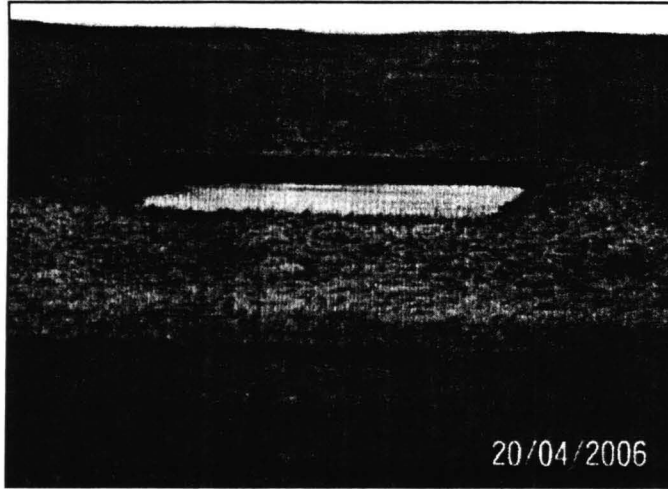
As for the other incidents, one was in April when Evan and his cattle dog, Buster, were checking on cows during calving season, his parents said.

Investigating a flashing glow, the pair walked over a hill and saw an object resting on the ground that appeared to be scanning a waterhole with an intense beam of light.

At first, boy and dog could do nothing but stare.

The spell was broken when Buster ran barking at the craft, which took off into the night, causing what amounted to a sonic boom.

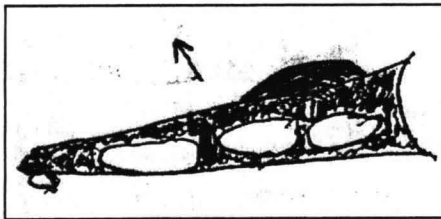
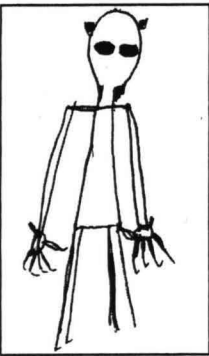
"It woke Myra up," Torrey Briese said of the sound, adding that he, too, witnessed something unusual this



20/04/2006

Images special to The Forum

This is the watering hole near the Briese ranch where Evan Briese and his dog observed an unusual object.



Above: A wedge-shaped UFO was reported near Tappen, N.D., in April. Witness Evan Briese drew this picture. Arrow indicates the direction the object departed. Left: Briese's depiction of a creature he saw on his family's farm in September.

past summer. It happened one night in July, when he was giving a neighbor a ride into town.

Briese said he and the neighbor noticed a bluish light in the sky, which stopped when they stopped and moved when they began driving.

"We spent about a half-hour watching it," Briese said, adding that at one point the object flew so fast it went several miles in a matter of seconds.

Based on the description of the object his son saw in April, Briese links the two events, adding that he's never been given to flights of fancy.

"Evan and I are very skeptical,"

Torrey Briese said. "We used to watch 'The UFO Files' on TV and laugh out loud."

Briese said he wouldn't be surprised if people feel the same about his story, but he said the family doesn't feel a need to prove anything and they've moved on.

"We're not out looking for aliens every night," he said.

Brice Barnick, the mayor of Tappen - located off Interstate 94 between Bismarck and Jamestown - said visits by UFOs are the talk of the town, though he himself is not quite on board.

"I'm not saying it can't happen. But I'd have to see it to believe it," Barnick said.

At the time of the April incident, the Brieses were put in touch with Richard Moss, a UFO investigator who happened to be in Tappen for a funeral.

Moss, of Long Prairie, Minn., is the Minnesota representative of the Mutual UFO Network, an organization based in Colorado dedicated to the study of UFO phenomena.

Total recall

Moss, a former high school science teacher, said that in many years of investigating UFO reports, only a handful have impressed him as having the potential to be genuine.

The Tappen incidents, he said, fall into the latter category.

"There are a lot of people out there who are telling false stories. The credibility of the witness is a big thing," Moss said.

In the case of Evan Briese, Moss said it was interesting to view the boy's demeanor before and after the hypnotic regression.

Prior to hypnosis, "He (Briese) had a sort of unsure look on his face. He was still really wondering what had happened. After the hypnotic regression, he knew. He was made to remember," Moss said.

Sheriff Howard was off duty Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

John Lemieux, a Kidder County deputy, said he did not believe the incident in September resulted in a written report.

Torrey Briese said strange things are still happening.

A relative who farms in the Tappen area recently had a sheep die, and a veterinarian who examined the animal found no obvious reason for its death, Briese said.

A cause of death wasn't the only thing missing.

Someone, Briese said, removed a single testicle from the animal.

It was done with surgical precision, he added.

Forum reporter Steven P. Wagner contributed to this report

Readers can reach Forum reporter Dave Olson at (701) 241-5555

DAILY TELEGRAM, Temple, TX - Oct. 31, 2006

Unusual lights get man's attention

He's seen V-shape cluster of lights in Temple morning sky twice

By CLAY COPPEDGE

While Halloween is often the day for scary stories about legendary creatures, at least one local man says his story is factual.

The man who saw the UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects — is not a drunk and he is not crazy. He is a retired science teacher who saw objects that were flying and unidentified. He doesn't claim to know what they were, but he knows what he saw.

And like the objects, the man who saw them is also unidentified, at his request.

and disappeared. No noise accompanied the sighting.

A few seconds later the lights reappeared and retraced the same route, from south to north.

"They weren't birds," he said. "Birds don't do that."

The sighting gave the former science teacher something to think about. Could it be a natural phenomenon? Could it be something the government was doing? Or was it actually something extraterrestrial?

"The Northern Lights are created by ions coming off the sun," he said. "It could be something like that, I suppose, but it's improbable."

The sighting gave him something to think about from time to time, but in time he tried to quit thinking

Temple area trick-or-treat events set for today, Page 1B

"I don't want people to think I'm a kook," he says. "I don't want to hear from all the crackpots."

He has seen the objects twice. The first time was about five years ago on a cold November morning when he was walking his dogs. It was still dark, and the sky was thick with stars. He could see Orion and remarked to himself how bright the constellation was that morning.

about it.

Then, this September he saw them again.

Again, he saw them early in the morning, before the sun was up, while he was walking his dogs. This time the night was not so clear and the lights appeared much nearer the horizon.

"It was a little misty, which gave them a more ghostly look," he said.

Both times he saw the lights he was close to a park in south Temple. He considered that there are power lines there and wonders if what he saw could have been some kind of reflection from the power lines.

"It could be something reoccurring, like a comet, but comets don't come like that," he said.

"Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move," he said.

What he saw was a group of between five and seven lights clustered together in a V shape.

"It would be like seeing the Big Dipper move," he said. "That's how startling it was."

The lights covered an arc of about 120 degrees in three or four seconds, he said. He couldn't tell how high in the sky the objects were. They made a straight line

The lights are similar to what became known as The Lubbock Lights in 1951. In August of that year, three Texas Tech professors saw a group of V-shaped lights race across the sky. There were more than five or seven — about 30. Hundreds of people saw the lights that evening, and for several nights afterward, in and around Lubbock. Those sightings are still discussed and investigated. One researcher has said he discovered the origins of the lights, but he can't say what they are — just that they are not extraterrestrial.

That provides little satisfaction for either the UFO believers or skeptics, and it doesn't help the Temple man figure out what he saw.

Natural phenomenon?
Government experiments?
Flying saucers?
The truth is out there.

Flying object spooks man

Ex-Navy tech does not know what he saw in Industry sky

BY MAGGIE GILL-AUSTERN
Staff Writer

INDUSTRY — Former naval intelligence crypto-tech Brad Luker is a down-to-earth kind of guy. At 40, he's a father and a husband, works as a power plant operator, and walks the straight and narrow. He doesn't believe in Bigfoot, aliens or the Loch Ness monster.

So when he saw strange bright lights in the sky above him Tuesday night, he assumed it was a helicopter, or maybe a small plane. Only when he opened the door to his truck, expecting to hear the whir of chopper blades above him, did he start to wonder what the craft could be.

"It was really bizarre," he said. "I've never seen anything like it." "I do a lot of camping, and I've seen all the basic stuff (in the sky)," he said. Most strange things in the sky are high up in the air, he said. "This was way, way down here."

It was so low to the ground, and so brightly lit, at first he thought there must be something going on at the Industry town hall. "I thought 'wow, that's kinda neat,'" Luker said.

As he got closer, though, Luker realized the lights were coming from something about 300 feet above him. That was when he pulled over, and opened his door. It sounded like a quiet jet engine. Luker was mystified, and a little nervous.

A woman driving in an SUV behind him saw it, too, Luker said. He never got her name, and wishes now that he had. She said she thought it looked like an aircraft trying to land on the road, Luker said.

"I know the Navy has some real funky special top-secret aircraft out there," he said. "That's the only thing I could think that it could be."

Then it stopped — right above his head, for a few seconds. "That's when it really freaked me out," he said. He'd have thought it was a spaceship, he said, except he doesn't believe in spaceships.

It could be a UFO, Leland Bechtel, former director of Maine's chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (or MUFON), said Thursday.

"There has been a lot of activity there in the past," Bechtel said. He did an investigation in Farmington a few years ago, he said. Three college students — all very respectable — saw

something somewhat similar to what Luker saw. "This thing came directly over them, and stopped, with a powerful floodlight right down on them."

Police said it might be a helicopter, Bechtel said. But most people can tell when they're seeing a helicopter, and when they're not.

Could what Luker saw be a UFO? "It certainly has earmarks of being an unidentified flying object," Bechtel said. "And we don't know what they are. We don't know where they come from."

Bechtel, like Luker, is a well-respected man. He taught psychology at Bates College in Lewiston for years and only became involved in the world of UFOs by accident, after he began hearing stories of sighting by people he considered sane, and credible.

"I've investigated scores of reported sightings in Maine," he said, "by some of the finest, most respectable people that I've met, and they're not kidding, and they're not deluded."

He's not sure what they are, nor convinced they're from outer space. "I'm open to all possibilities," he said. "I think it just stands to reason that some of the sightings have been experimental aircraft of our own government. But there are plenty of others that do not appear, to me, to be anything that we have developed."

"I started very skeptical. I'm not skeptical anymore," Bechtel said. "I just have questions, rather than answers. But I do feel certain there is reality there that needs to be investigated."

Luker, too, has no answers. "I talked to the police and (the dispatcher) said even if the military was flying some special mission, they wouldn't tell us anyway. I felt kinda foolish." Calls to Brunswick Naval Air Station were not returned Friday.

Dispatchers in Franklin, Androscoggin, Oxford, Somerset and Kennebec counties said they received no calls about strange objects in the sky Tuesday night.

"I assumed if I saw it, a couple other people might see it," Luker said. "As I drove away I was thinking hey, maybe they gave me some sort of special intelligence," he joked. "I told my wife I wished they gave me the Powerball numbers." He laughed.

In the end, Luker said, he thinks it was probably a military plane. "But I don't know why they would fly it that low, and I don't know why they would be out in Industry, Maine," he said. "It really doesn't make sense. But that's the only thing I can think of, because I really don't believe in spaceships, or anything like that."

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Objects in sky spark inquiry

DEANNA CHENEY
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An unidentified flying object observed in the night sky over the Ranches of Sonterra recently prompted an inquiry to the *Ruidoso News* and other agencies as to possible training missions of experimental aircraft.

Witnesses of the UFO did not necessarily claim that the objects observed were extraterrestrial, just that they were airborne and unidentifiable. On Aug. 6 one witness, who

requested anonymity, said she saw a strange object floating slowly over the Ranches of Sonterra, passing over the Spencer Theater before leaving sight.

"I awoke about 2:15 a.m. and happened to look out the door of my upper back deck and noticed something in the sky," the witness wrote. "At first I thought it was a satellite cruising above me but when I watched it closer it seemed to move erratically."

The woman said that as she watched the object, originating

from the northern sky, it moved toward a larger rectangular shaped object. She said a second flying object also flew toward the larger object from a southern approach.

The rectangular-shaped aircraft "seemed to be made up of web-shaped lights," she continued. "It had a dot at the corner then a hazy line that met yet another light dot. I watched this phenomenon for about 15 minutes."

Over the course of the next

several days the woman said she spotted fighter planes zooming at low speed around Ruidoso.

When she consulted her brother-in-law, a retired pilot, he theorized that what she had seen might have been an exercise by a fighter group stationed at Holloman, practicing refueling from a C-130.

"These giant planes' trails leave contrails that I may have seen as webbing," the woman said.

The woman lives in North Alto and said she has unobstructed views of the sky from all directions.

Another resident of Alto, a retired professional, also contacted the *Ruidoso News*.

In his report, the unnamed man said he observed in early August a bright light just above the horizon near the Alto Post office. Residents near Gavilan Canyon and Hull Street also reported strange lights.

When contacted by the *News*, Tom Fuller, public information officer for Holloman, said. "Neither Holloman Air Force Base nor White Sands Missile Range had anything flying over Ruidoso at 0200 on 6 Aug."

However, Fuller said, "we did have a lot of different aircraft (F-117, F-15, F-16 and T-38s) operating out of Holloman flying above 12,500 feet MSL or several thousand feet above the highest terrain in the general area on Aug. 7 from around 8

a.m. until 10 p.m. But these were nothing out of the norm."

Balloon tests out of White Sands also were not conducted in early August, he said. In seeking a response to the *News'* inquiry, Fuller's search for an explanation took more than four weeks.

To rule out a terrestrial explanation about aerial events, Fuller said the airbase, located 60 miles southwest of Ruidoso, is glad to respond to inquiries from the public and in recent years has received calls from as far away as Phoenix.

With regard to alleged "other worldly" sightings, Fuller said the Air Force's position is "no position."

"We've spoken on this and have nothing further to say," he said, while adding, that with the occasional "strange" inquiry coming into his office, "[Holloman] must be in the UFO phone book."

Fuller said the reporting procedure of strange objects and lights is to contact his office at 505-572-5406 with the date, time and GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) coordinates of the object sighted.

He said that while he can provide an answer to questions related to activity out of Holloman and White Sands, he cannot speak for military installations in nearby states that sometimes conduct trainings over Ruidoso airspace, such as recent testing "over" Holloman Air Force base by developers of the F-22. He

stressed, "Holloman does not test new, secret aircraft under development."

"We do have a test group out here performing 'new tests' but I cannot speak to those tests," he said.

Fuller said he wonders if with the 49th Fighter Wing stationed at Holloman AFB and with F-17 stealth missions having been conducted at Holloman in recent decades, if some training maneuvers "in the past haven't been what people have taken for UFOs operated by aliens."

Balloon testing

He also pointed to balloon testing and launches conducted by the National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA) in Fort Sumner and other similar testing out of Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque as other possible sources of "unidentified flying objects" in the area.

Persons who feel they have observed something that cannot be explained by the U.S. government, can contact area representatives of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

In Roswell, Dennis Balchaser can be reached at www.truthseekeratroswell.com and Donald Burleson, Ph.D. at 505-622-0855 or Burleson@dfn.com.

A MUFON hotline is operated out of El Paso at 915-588-5841. An alternate telephone number is 505-915-545-1509.

UFO sighting just one day ahead of Halloween

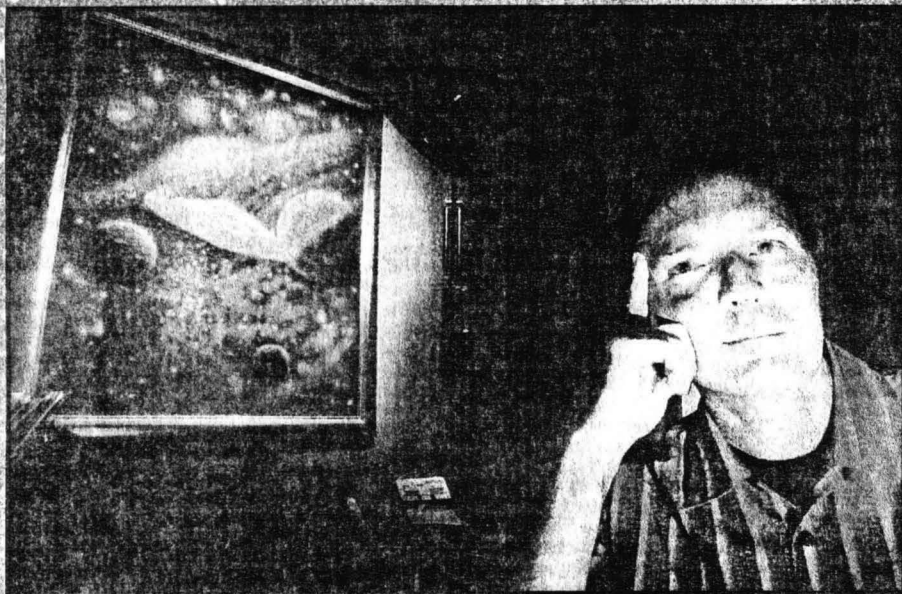
Some of this year's 'best dressed' trick-or-treaters in Barron County might not have been in costume — or even from this galaxy — if this week's reported UFO sighting is any indication.

A 26-year-old man called the sheriff's department at 3:53 Monday morning and reported seeing a UFO just east of Cumberland and north of Hwy. 48, according to county dispatch records. He further described the UFO as hovering 200 feet above the ground, having a bluish tint and

emitting a very bright light. The caller said he had observed the object for about five minutes.

Dispatchers immediately alerted a county officer in the area of the call. An officer with the Cumberland Police Department, who reported having just spoken to another witness of the UFO, also responded at that time.

Cumberland Police Chief Steve Linton said authorities were unable to locate the disturbance north of Hwy. 48 near Eighth Street and the search was called off at 4:30 a.m.



BRUCE HAZELTON/DAILY BREEZE

Robert Stanley realizes it's going to take a lot to convince people of his UFO theory. But he's willing to try.

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADERS

TORRANCE AUTHOR SETS OUT HIS CASE THAT NOT ONLY ARE UFOS HERE, BUT THAT THEY SEEM TO BE FLYING AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C.

BY MELISSA HECKSCHER
DAILY BREEZE

Sitting in front of his computer inside the cozy pastel-colored house he shares with his wife and 11-year-old son, Torrance resident Robert Stanley looks surefootedly straight-faced as he points to a photo of a blurry blue blip in the night sky above the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

"You might look at this and say, 'Well this is real grainy. That's just a little blue dot, what does that have to do with anything?'" Stanley said, looking at the little blue dot in question, a hazy orb hovering near the illuminated white rooftop. "But when you get close up on the blue thing, you actually see that it's a sphere, and it's in motion."

Call him crazy, he doesn't care. He believes the "sphere" in the photograph — the little blue dot most people would chalk up to some kind of camera error — is a UFO. He doesn't know where it came from (other than, maybe, a galaxy far, far away), but he believes it's real.

"Even if the president said, 'I saw a UFO landing



out in front of my White House, people are not going to accept it," he says. "They want to see it for themselves to believe it."

In lieu of seeing and believing, Stanley is hoping his book, *Close Encounters on Capitol Hill*, a hulking 416-page tome of unbroken text, will convince them that not only are there such things as UFOs, but that there has been a veritable swarm of them around the nation's capital for at least 50 years.

The book is available only on Stanley's Web site.

"I was skeptical about all of this," he said, adding that seeing *anything* in the skies above the Capitol is noteworthy given that it is restricted air-

space. "But the more I looked into it, into the credibility of the photographers, it proves quite conclusively that something is going on in D.C. that is being ignored by the media."

He knows people might question his credibility and, more importantly, his sanity.

But he's done his research — using accounts from

UFOs 12

more than 200 alleged eyewitnesses and an assortment of photographic evidence, including an image he said was taken by a former ABC news photographer who spent eight years assigned to the White House.

According to Stanley, Washington, D.C., has the highest rate of UFO sightings in the world. Beginning with the first crop of unidentifiable spheres seen above Capitol Hill in 1952, his book chronicles the experiences and opinions of numerous UFO investigators and retired military officials, among them Air Force Col. Wendelle Stevens, a fighter pilot who became a UFO investigator after retiring from the military.

"I recall a fighter intercept where two jets were vectored in on a formation of five or six illuminated spheres that were zipping around the Capitol area," Stevens says in the book. "The UFOs evaded the jets every time."

Stanley has been interested in UFOs since he was a young child, when his uncle showed him a picture of a spherical silver disk appearing to sink vertically into a California desert.

Growing up in Malibu, the son of an ordained Self-Realization Fellowship minister, Stanley said he believes in God, but that such faith doesn't nullify the search for extraterrestrial life. "If God created this world with life," he said, "then why couldn't he create other worlds with life?"

After graduating from Santa Monica College, Stanley worked in the emerging technologies department at Honda Motor Co. After retiring from the job in 2003, he began working as editor of *Unicus*, a magazine published by his wife, Irene Chen, whom Stanley met at a UFO conference 14 years ago.

Unicus ("unique" in Latin) is billed as a "magazine for earth-bound extraterrestrials."

"I know that there's a ridicule factor; I've dealt with it a long time," he said. "You can dispute this all day long. Anybody's welcome to dispute whether these are all lens flares [in the photographs], but what about all the eyewitness accounts? Are all these people nuts?"

Clearly, crying "alien" isn't easy. But Stanley's not the only one doing it.

There have been numerous accounts from well-known and so-called "credible" figures throughout history. John Lennon, David Bowie, former President Ronald Reagan — even Christopher Columbus, who spotted a "light glimmering at a great distance" while sailing to the New World in 1492 — have all claimed to have seen UFOs.

These days, more than half (56 percent) of the American public believe in UFOs, according to a 2002 Roper poll. Not only that, but nearly as many (48 percent) believe that UFOs have visited Earth, the poll said. "I think a lot of people see these things," Stanley said, "but who are you going to report it to?"

There are a few organizations set up to field such reports. The National UFO Reporting Center in the state of Washington, for one, gets about 3,000 e-mails and phone calls a year.

In 1976, former President Jimmy Carter claimed to have seen something strange above the skies of Leary, Ga., (debunkers have called his sighting a misidentification of Venus).

"It was the darndest thing I've ever seen," Carter reportedly said during his presidential

(continued on page 6)

To learn more about Robert Stanley's *Close Encounters on Capitol Hill*, go to www.unicusmagazine.com.

For more about the Phoenix Lights, go to www.thephoenixlights.net.

Local UFO expert gets a shot on the Sci Fi Channel



Dolan

When his friends learned that Rich Dolan of Rochester would host a Sci Fi Channel show on mysteries, legends and the paranormal, they worried about his reputation as a scholar.

"I have no reputation," Dolan

cracks. "I write about UFOs."

The show, *Sci Fi Investigates*, airs at 10 p.m. Wednesdays on the Sci Fi Channel (cable channel 59). The first of six episodes, on voodoo, appeared Oct. 11.

Others in the series will investigate Bigfoot, Mothman (who allegedly appeared 40 years ago in West Virginia), paranormal hot-spots, the afterlife and the Roswell, N.M., site of an alleged crash of alien spacecraft.



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Dolan, who has done dozens of interviews and narrations on UFOs on other cable channels,

was approached last spring by the Sci Fi series' producers. He is one of four hosts. The others include an archaeologist, a crime scene investigator and "Boston Rob" Mariano, billed as "the skeptic," who began his celebrity career as a contestant on the CBS series, *Survivor*. He later married Amber Brkich, the winner of *Survivor All-Stars* and last year the

More on Rich Dolan

Visit his Internet page at <http://keyholepublishing.com>.

Dolan will give a continuing education lecture on UFOs at Rush Henrietta High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road, at 7 p.m. Nov. 15. Advance registration and payment (\$25) is required. For reservations, call the continuing education office at (585) 359-7805.

(continued from page 5 - DAILY BREEZE, Torrance, CA - Nov. 17, 2006)

campaign that year. "It was big, it was very bright, it changed colors, and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for 10 minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was."

"One thing's for sure," he continued. "I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky."

Perhaps one of the most compelling reported UFO sightings occurred in 1997 when thousands of Arizona residents watched a large V-shaped formation of lights gliding across the sky for almost two hours. News teams swooped down on the story, calling the formation "the Phoenix Lights" and broad-

casting eyewitness accounts, video footage and photographs.

"The data speaks for itself," said Dr. Lynn Kitei, who won the best director award at the 2005 New York International Independent Film & Video Festival for her documentary, "The Phoenix Lights," which explored the March 13, 1997, incident.

The Air Force later claimed the lights were flares dropped from an A-10 "Warhog."

"They've been seen everywhere on this planet," Stanley said of UFOs. "The Phoenix Lights definitely happened. I think it could happen again. Here's the bottom line. This is going to keep happening."

two of them were contestants on CBS' *The Amazing Race*.

Why Rich Dolan? "I have an interest in weird things," he says. If the ratings are decent, the show could be renewed. Already he's been approached by producers considering similar types of shows. "But in TV, nothing is for sure until it happens."

Dolan, 44, is a trained historian, who attended Oxford University and later studied American Cold War diplomacy at the University of Rochester, where he earned a master's degree. His book, *UFOs and the National Security State*, is the first of two volumes that provides a chronology of what he calls the national security dimensions of the UFO phenomenon from 1941 to 1973. A second volume, due out in early 2007, will describe events from 1973 to the present.

Dolan clearly believes we are not alone in the universe and that aliens may well have visited our planet. But his interest as a historian is in getting the facts. If there are hundreds of sightings of bright, perfectly triangular-shaped objects that can accelerate rapidly, "wouldn't you want to know what they are?" he asks. "If it's military technology, isn't that worth knowing?"

Dolan is a meticulous researcher, who also runs a successful resume writing service from his 19th Ward home, plays vintage baseball at the Genesee Country Museum, lectures on UFOs and can teach groups to play the harmonica in two hours. And he's married with two young children.

It strikes me that he is the polar opposite of Boston Rob, a brash jockish guy who has par-

layed *Survivor* into a nice career. "We have nothing in common," Dolan admits, "but we became friends. I was branded 'the believer'" so there are many exchanges with "the skeptic." "He's really pretty smart," Dolan says of Mariano. The relationships among the four hosts keep the show lively.

In the first episode on voodoo, Dolan "did a midnight dance with a funky, wild voodoo princess holding a boa constrictor over my head."

He can't give details of the shows yet to air, but he predicts viewers will find the ordinary people interviewed compelling — whether you believe them or not.

As for a career in television, Dolan's not counting on it, but if it would buy a bigger audience for his books, he'd welcome it. □

ALIEN COP

Dale Spaur was a respected deputy with the Portage County Sheriff's Department before a flying saucer named Floyd nearly ruined his life.

Spaur was patrolling the tiny hamlet of Edinburg, Ohio, on April 17, 1966, when the dispatcher requested all units to be on the lookout for an Unidentified Flying Object. As Spaur's cruiser approached an abandoned truck parked on the side of a desolate patch of road — a truck with military markings on its door — the deputy and his partner witnessed a saucer-shaped craft rise out of the forest and head east. For the next hour, Spaur pursued the UFO, at speeds exceeding 100 miles an hour, into western Pennsylvania. When his cruiser finally ran out of gas, the spaceship hovered for a moment, as if to taunt him, then shot straight up into the atmosphere and disappeared.

When Spaur returned to Portage County, he faced a skeptical public and shied away from the media attention. But he saw the UFO, which he nicknamed "Floyd," several more times while on patrol. It seemed to stalk him. He lost weight. He disappeared for days at a time. Eventually, he quit the department. Then, his wife divorced him. The last time he spoke to a reporter was in 1967. He was living out of a

cheap motel. UFO enthusiasts have been searching for him ever since.

A few months ago, Dale Spaur's son contacted the *Free Times* with the rest of the story.

Spaur returned to his home state of West Virginia shortly after his last interview, says his son, James. He drove a taxi, then worked at a local mine, where he tumbled into an open shaft, broke his back, and fell into coma. At the hospital, things got really weird.

According to James, a nurse was assigned to stay in his father's room to monitor his progress. She was with Spaur, alone, during the evenings, as he lay unconscious with his eyes open to the room. After a few nights of this, the nurse abruptly quit. "She said my father was possessed by an alien," says James.

Spaur miraculously recovered after his near-death experience, and later returned to Ohio and remarried. He bought a bar in Lakewood called the Avenue. The last years of his life were good ones. He spent his evenings regaling the regulars with stories of Floyd the Flying Saucer before his death in 1983. — James Renner

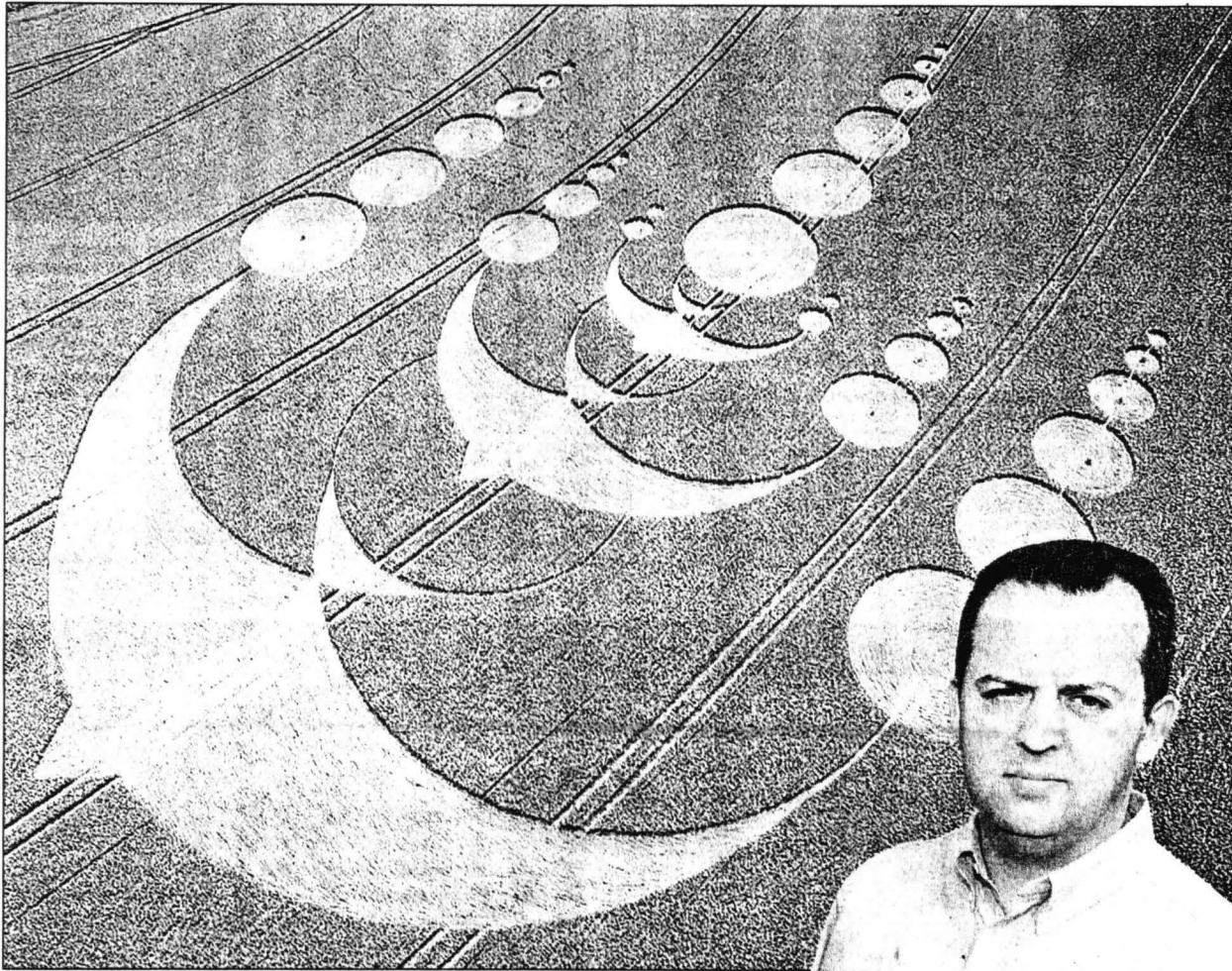
...OWNED A BAR IN LAKEWOOD!

"DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PARSECS PER HOUR YOU WERE DRIVING, SIR?"
ARTIST'S PORTRAIT OF LAKEWOOD BAR OWNER AND E.T. POLICEMAN



Wiltshire property is cream of the crop

Pictures: STEVE ALEXANDER/REX FEATURES, DEBORAH JOHNSON



ROUND AND ROUND IN CIRCLES: Author Jean-Paul Warner, pictured in Pewsey Vale

Debate will probably go on forever on puzzling and controversial crop circles. But do they shape an area to become a hot property? BRIGIT CUNNINGHAM discusses the phenomenon

A WILTSHIRE writer is claiming that the appearance of the county's world famous crop circles is directly linked to the testing of biological and chemical weapons on armed forces personnel at Porton Down.

Jean-Paul Warner believes his fictional fantasy *An Angel Came Down* will cause controversy amongst crop circle enthusiasts by claiming to reveal the real origins of Wiltshire's world-famous crop circles.

However, with the appearances of crop circles at their lowest ebb for many years following the sudden death of Paul Obee, the "croppie" believed to be at the forefront of their creation, his views may well raise eyebrows.

In the UK, simple circles have appeared on farmland for generations. By 1990, they exploded into the public imagination as they developed into huge and complex geometric formations, the majority appearing around ancient sites such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill (the largest man-made mound in Europe). Their huge size and complexity convinced many that they were the work of extra-terrestrials whose UFOs have supposedly been captured on video.

Whether crop circles have an effect on local property prices is open to debate.

Devises-based estate agent, Greg Pullen has lived in the area all his life and is a devout sceptic of their

alien origins. "When you grow up under the big skies of Salisbury Plain and Porton Down and come to think of Avebury and Stonehenge as part of the landscape, crop circles are just another feature on the fabulous open spaces of Wiltshire.

"In fact, after the initial novelty of crop circles, most locals feel nothing but sympathy for the farmers who lose valuable wheat, particularly since just about everybody has seen at least one crop circle being made, but not a single flying saucer."

The crop circles appear along the Pewsey Vale in the vast wheat fields between Devizes and Marlborough. It's not the most expensive part of this area of western England. Nearby hotspots like Bath and Salisbury in comparison have seen phenomenal growth in demand for property.

ALL CANNINGS is one of the most sought after villages in the very heart of crop circle country, situated between the magnificent pattern that appeared at Alton Barnes some years ago - and featured on the cover of a Led Zeppelin album - and this year's most spectacular offering which appeared at Etchilhampton.

Jean-Paul Warner is currently renting in All Cannings but is determined to buy in the area. He sold his three-bedroom semi in



Northfield, Birmingham, next to Longbridge and the Rover car factory, in 2003 for double his 1997 purchase price of £58,000. "All my neighbours worked at the factory, so my selling-up was perfect timing, as the company soon wobbled and collapsed taking house prices with it."

Initially he moved to Headington, on the eastern edge of Oxford, but later decided to move to the cleaner environment of Wiltshire where he had family. He says: "The stones and crop circles had always fascinated me, so moving to the Pewsey Vale was a dream come true."

£243,000) and half the garden, when it was not offered to me in this way".

Jean-Paul argues that demand for property in this area is big due to the influx of tourists attracted by the ancient stones and crop circles. "The knock-on effect has created a lot of short-term rented and second homes - and consequently very high prices"

Greg Pullen disagrees: "There has been phenomenal growth in places around Bath and Salisbury, but the Pewsey Vale has lagged behind, mainly because of the lack of good communications. This area is not great for a commute to London."

Both he and fellow agent, Peter MacLaine, have experienced a quieter market this year compared to last, with less properties coming up for sale. "It has been the longest period of stability I have known," says Pewsey-based MacLaine.

One disappointing aspect of the dwindling number of crop circles is the fewer visitors that come to view them. In past years, sightseers have undoubtedly put a lot of money into the local economy. Five to ten years ago it was not unusual to see tourists from all over the world parked in the fields by crop circles.

● INFORMATION: Estate agents Peter MacLaine, tel: 01672 564555/ www.petermacaine.co.uk Agents Greg Pullen, tel: 01380 724040/ www.gregpullen.co.uk *An Angel Came Down* is available from the All Cannings Community Store with 20 per cent of the cover price going to village shop funds



POINTS OF VIEW: Avebury in Wiltshire attracts hordes of visitors to its Henge Shop, left, and is famous for its stone circles, above

Just a load of hot air!

By Tom Kelly

THEY glow, move across the sky at incredible speed and are invisible to radar.

The mysterious shapes have for decades been cited by UFO enthusiasts as proof that we have attracted visitors from another world.

Defence chiefs, however, have a rather more prosaic explanation for the glowing objects in the sky.

After four years of study they have concluded that they are not flying saucers, but 'plasmas' of gas caused by charges of electricity in the atmosphere.

The study by the Defence Intelligence Staff examined 30 years of apparent flying saucer sightings, which average about 100 a year.

Their 400-page report found that most of those who reported seeing UFOs - usually as glowing round or cigar-shaped objects - were not fantasists or hoaxers, but were describing unusual but entirely natural events in the atmosphere.

The bright plasmas are created by charges of electricity. When air flows into them they are transformed into aerodynamic shapes which appear to fly at incredible speeds.

The electromagnetic fields can also cause responses in the lobes of brain, tricking observers into thinking they are seeing even more vivid impressions, the study found.

Because they are electrically charged, plasmas can change shape or colour when struck by another energy source - such as radio signals by UFO spotters.

'This has led to "ufologists" to imagine that an "alien response" is being given to their signals,' said the report.

The scientists concluded they now have 'a reasonably justified explanation' for the sightings that had previously 'defied credible description'.

Last night UFO watchers insisted the theory still failed to explain many sightings and the study of the gas plasmas was at

UFO sightings are no more than glowing balls of gas, say MoD researchers

any rate 'poorly understood'. Codenamed Project Condign, the secret study began in 1996 apparently without the knowledge of then defence secretary Michael Portillo.

It was completed in 2000 under Geoff Hoon, who is now minister for Europe.

It aimed to assess any military threat from sightings of unexplained flying objects, many of which appeared to 'hover, land, take off, accelerate to exceptional velocities and vanish' and could 'alter their direction of flight suddenly and clearly exhibit aerodynamic characteristics well beyond those of any known aircraft or missile'.

The study was released under the Freedom of Information Act following an application by Dr David Clarke, a lecturer at

Sheffield Hallam University, and Gary Anthony, a fellow researcher.

Files previously released under freedom of information laws showed that the Ministry of Defence maintained a special unit to log sightings of UFOs by the public and the military.

They included a report by Flight Lieutenant A M Wood and two non-commissioned officers at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland in July 1977 of 'bright objects hanging over the sea' around three miles from the coast, at a height of around 5,000ft. In July 1976, the captain

of a British Airways Tri-Star on a return flight from Portugal told air traffic controllers of 'four objects - two round brilliant white, two cigar-shaped' 18 miles north of Faro.

Fighters were scrambled from Lisbon and shortly afterwards the crew on two other commercial flights in the same area reported similar sightings.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: 'We have to check any report of an unidentified flying object to ensure it's not a threat. That's what this report was about.'

'Once we are satisfied there is no threat, as this report concluded, we take no further action. We are not a UFO club.'

Judy Jaafar, secretary of the British

UFO Research Association, said: 'Even physicists studying plasma clouds do not fully understand them, so it is ridiculous for the Government to use a little known and poorly understood phenomenon as the main explanation for most UFO sightings.'

She added: 'It may account for some, but by no means all.'

'It does not explain incidents where ground trace evidence of UFOs has been left behind or where there is film footage of flying objects.'

'The MoD will never release any documents that suggest there may be some mystery surrounding UFO sightings, but the simple fact is that some are mysterious.'

t.kelly@daily mail.co.uk

Do you think you may have spotted a UFO? Tell us at: www.dailymail.co.uk

CHRONICLE, Congleton, England - Jan. 6, 2006

Society is Congleton's latest phenomenon

If you are interested in anything from giant cats to poltergeists, or crop circles to conspiracy theories, then look no further than Congleton's latest "spook-tacular" society.

The Unknown Phenomena Investigation Group (U.P.I.A.) is a non-profit making organisation that was set up in 1998 to examine and try and find explanations for reports of all things weird and wonderful.

Former Wirral resident and founder member, Dave Sadler, (31), moved to Moor Street in Congleton in March last year and he is currently looking for new members, a meeting place, and local legends and unusual goings-on to investigate.

An aircraft engineer by trade, Mr. Sadler treats each investigation confidentially and explores all the reports that his organisation receives with an open mind and a scientific approach using state-of-the-art technology.

He said that Congleton is rife with tales of unusual phenomenon and reports of ghostly sightings and explained that the more he learns

about the town and surrounding villages the more interesting he has found the area.

Mr. Sadler's passion for the unusual began at an early age when he started to read about ghost sightings on the Wirral as a young boy and this interest in the paranormal led to a fascination with all things 'unexplainable'.

After training with the Manchester Association of Paranormal Training and Investigation (M.A.P.T.I.), Mr. Sadler set up the organisation and soon formed a network of contacts across the U.K. on which he calls for help with his own investigations.

Through his work with the U.P.I.A. Mr. Sadler has visited hundreds of "haunted" buildings and many people who claim to have seen U.F.O.'s. He has also investigated other phenomena such as crop circles, big cat sightings, Government conspiracies, spontaneous human combustion, animal mutilations and near death experiences.

With several years experience and a passion to uncover the truth, the opinions of the U.P.I.A. have been called upon on several T.V. shows and publications and up until last year the organisation had a weekly phone-in programme on B.B.C. Radio Merseyside.

When asked about some of the conclusions he has come to regarding U.F.O.'s and the paranormal world, Mr. Sadler said: "With U.F.O.'s my personal opinion is that most of the sightings that people report are mis-conceptions - people often misidentify things that they have seen and think they have witnessed a U.F.O. when in fact it may have just been a shooting

star, for example. There are occasions when photos or video evidence can be produced and this can make sightings much harder to explain - but I have only come across this kind of thing twice in around 100 cases I have looked into.

"With hauntings I have personally never experienced any paranormal event despite the fact that I have visited more than 100 so-called haunted buildings. However, the amount of people who claim to have witnessed events is phenomenal and therefore the existence of ghosts is not something that I would like to rule out completely."

He said that sometimes it can be disappointing to find that there is a rational explanation for mysterious goings-on in peoples' homes but explained that it can also be rewarding to put a householder's mind at rest, as was the case in two tales he went on to recount.

He said: "There was a lady on the Wirral who was convinced that her house was haunted, she said that after dark she would be extremely disturbed by the ghostly noises that could be heard on a nightly basis and, while it sounded very interesting at first, we were soon able to discover that the sound was coming from a group of foxes that had set up a den in her cellar."

"On another occasion there was a lady in Wigan who was convinced that she had a poltergeist in her home because things would go missing on a regular basis. After an investigation we found out that her property wasn't secure and people were getting in to

steal her belongings and after we told her this she was able to call in the authorities."

In recent years public interest in the paranormal and unexplainable has increased dramatically and organisations like the U.P.I.A. have sprung up all over the country. However, Mr. Sadler has warned anyone who wants to take on the services of such a group to be very wary about who they are dealing with.

He said: "Thanks to the 'Most Haunted' type of T.V. programmes, too many so-called paranormal experts have now turned the subject into a mockery. These groups are without basic scientific or rational knowledge and they regularly fill our media with unprofessional and ludicrous tales of these scientific 'experts'."

"Many such groups exist within the North West and it has been our displeasure that we have had to pick up the pieces of psychologically scarred witnesses after visits by certain groups."

"Nearly all current groups in the U.K. claim to approach the subject scientifically - we are afraid that this is not the case and most of them do not even understand basic physics, mathematics, or even English. We at the U.P.I.A. call for a governing body to monitor their claims and their conduct."

Mr. Sadler said that anyone who requires an investigation in their property should not offer any money for any services as there are many fraudsters looking to make a quick buck.

The U.P.I.A. is totally free to join and Mr. Sadler wants to hear from anyone who is interested in joining up. He said: "We currently have openings for full members and supporters



This picture was taken from Mr Sadler's 2003 appearance on the B.B.C. Television programme "Inside Out: U.F.O.'s over Merseyside." (Submitted photograph).

- full members will receive training packages and the opportunity to join the team in future investigations and suitable candidates must have an open mind and be willing to learn. Supporters will receive up to date information and invitations to meetings and events."

The team is also currently looking for a venue to stage its monthly meetings in the Congleton area, they will be open to the public, and if you can offer a suitable place then contact Mr. Sadler on 07729 285987.

Local farmer George Ball contacted the U.P.I.A. after he claimed to have witnessed a U.F.O. in the sky above

his Astbury farm and recommended that anyone who has witnessed something that they cannot explain should think about speaking out about what they have seen rather than keeping it quiet for fear of ridicule.

He said: "I spoke to Mr. Sadler and he was very professional and interested to hear what I had to say. He was friendly and took me seriously and I would definitely recommend his organisation."

For more information about the U.P.I.A. and its current investigations in the Congleton area, visit www.upia.co.uk. jamesliggett@chronicleseries.com



Mr. Sadler is waiting for your call about local phenomena. (Submitted photograph).

Author returns to investigate area's unexplained mysteries

Report by ELIZABETH JOYCE

A WALSALL author who emigrated to America has returned to his Pelsall home to investigate the mysteries of Cannock Chase.

Nick Redfern, aged 41, will spend the next six months researching his book.

Cannock Chase is known as one of the world's prime UFO hot-spots. There have been countless sightings of triangular-shaped objects in the sky, as well as sightings of a black panther and yeti-type creature.

Nick will also investigate sightings of ghostly figures at the German Cemetery.

"There has been reports of strange lights in the skies for centuries on Cannock Chase and people are regularly seeing UFOs there," he said.

"There have also been reports of a Big Foot creature being spotted on the Chase and the first reports of this creature date back to the late 19th century.

"Obviously I don't believe there is a physical Big Foot on Cannock Chase but I believe the animal could be supernatural. Some people have seen the creature and then saw it disappear before their eyes.

"There is an ancient fort on

Cannock Chase called Castle Ring which experiences a lot of unexplained activity. I think people who built the fort 2,000 years ago knew of its special paranormal qualities.

"I am looking forward to researching this book because it is fantastic to think there are all these mysteries on my doorstep waiting to be investigated."

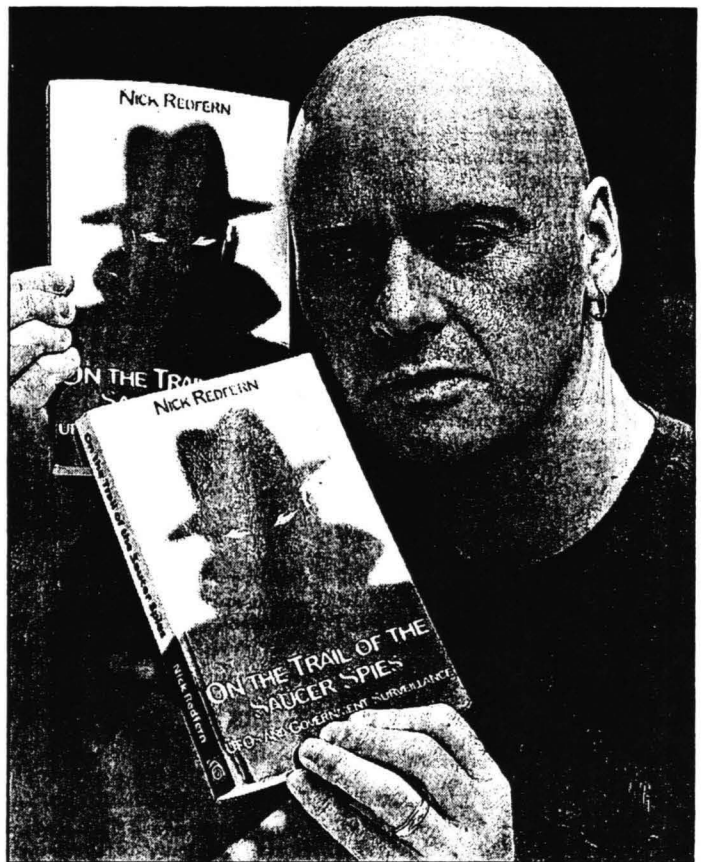
Mr Redfern, who started off as a freelance music journalist, has had six books, all concentrating on the unexplained, published. His works have gone on sale in America, Australia, Canada, Portugal and Poland.

Move back

Nick currently lives in Dallas with his wife, Dana, but is planning to move back to England for good. His latest book should be out by early next year.

The writer also has plans to publish a book entitled *Celebrity Secrets* which uncovers secrets about celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and John Lennon.

Anyone with information on Cannock Chase can call Nick on 01922 691490 or log onto his website at nickredfern.com



Pelsall author Nick Redfern with his book, *On the Trail of the Saucer Spies*.

OBSERVER, Walsall, England - Aug. 18, 2006

Observer MYSTERY

Father reports UFO's over England!

This week's Walsall Mystery comes from the area's most famous UFO investigator, Nick Redfern.

Now, now based in the US, he has devoted a life-time, studying those things that cannot be explained. Here he recalls a Close To Home Encounter of the Third Kind.

As someone who writes books on UFOs, cryptozoology, and conspiracy theories, and as *Phenomena* co-editor as well as a contributor to a variety of other publications, I am often asked: How did you become interested and involved in the worlds of the unexplained and the paranormal?

I figured that with the question posed on what is a fairly regular basis, it might be a good opportunity to provide the answer.

It was 10.30pm on a dark Wednesday evening in late 1978 as I walked with my father, Frank Redfern, through the deserted streets of the town of Walsall, England. A biting wind sliced through the air and I buried my hands in my coat pockets in a vain attempt to keep warm. We headed for a nearby car park.

"Well, what did you think?" asked my father.

"I thought it was great," I replied, continuing: "Do you think it could really happen?"

My father looked at me out of the corner of his eye and a knowing smile crossed his face. "Maybe it already has," he replied.

The subject of this cryptic conversation? Steven Spielberg's classic

film, 'Close Encounters Of The Third Kind', which told the story of humankind's first face-to-face meeting with an alien species. We had just seen it at the now-long-demolished Walsall ABC Cinema.

We climbed the stairs of the car park and headed for my father's Ford Capri car, and my 13-year-old mind mused upon his comment.

As we drove home on that late autumn evening, the startling facts surrounding my father's involvement in the UFO subject came tumbling out.

Like the majority of young men in Britain in the 1950s, my father was required to serve a three-year-term in the military under British National Service regulations. Because of his keen interest in aviation, he chose the Royal Air Force.

During his service with the RAF, he served at various RAF stations, but by far the most memorable experience of his career occurred near the East Coast of England at a place called RAF Neatishead, Norfolk.

It was September 1952 and my father was working as a radar mechanic.

"So what happened?" I asked as we drove home.

"Well," he began, "I remember that we were taking part in an exercise - Mainbrace, it was called - and I was on duty. It was early in the morning - four or five o'clock - maybe a bit later. Things were pretty normal until the radar picked up something on the scopes."

"At first," he explained, "we thought it might have been an air-

craft, but we knew soon enough that it was something else. We had this object, this UFO, whatever you want to call it, on the scopes at 50,000 feet and flying over the North Sea and parallel to the English coast. The speed of it meant there was no way this was a plane.

"The report went up the chain, and aircraft were scrambled from Coltishall - which was a base nearby. Coltishall sent up Venom and Meteor aircraft to try and get a look at the object.

"We were watching all this on the screens thinking that it would turn out to be something ordinary. But when the planes closed in, the UFO suddenly streaked away and headed towards Norway. The pilots didn't have a chance.

"The next day something strange happened. A bunch of people came - a photographic team from Coltishall - and they had some really good gear which they set up to record the radar's Plan Position Indicator tube in case the UFO came back.

"Well, the day following this, it did come back. We tracked it. The planes went up, but this time we had it all on film."

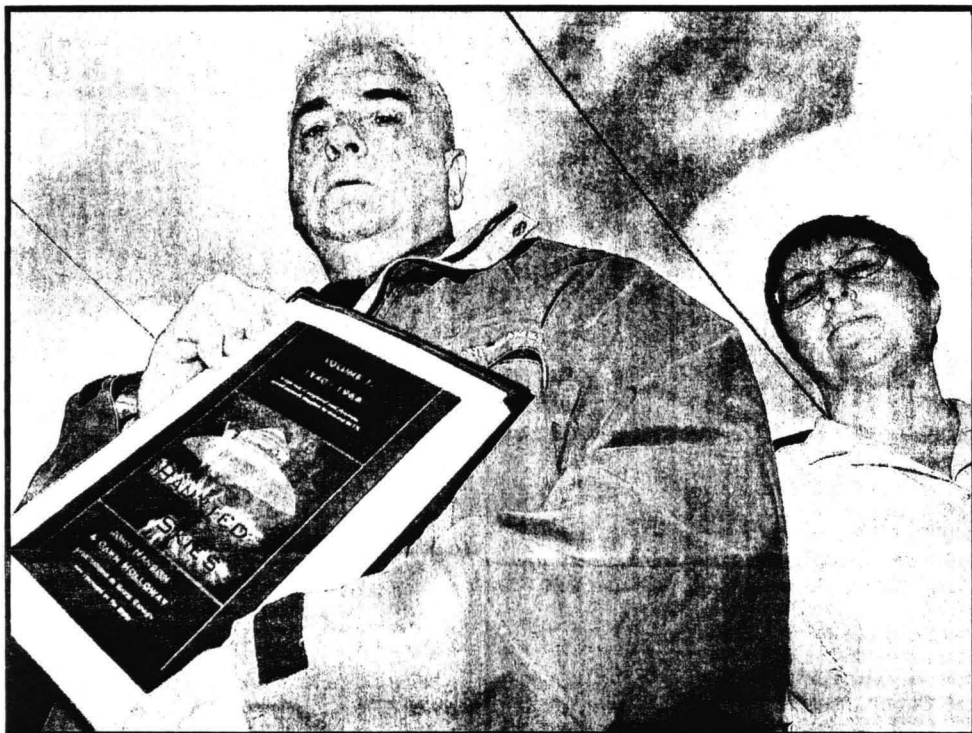
"What happened then?" I wondered.

My father replied: "We never knew. The guys from Coltishall removed everything - the radar tapes, the records, all of it. Everyone was told not to discuss it outside of the base.

"They never told us what the result was, and the UFO never came back, but I won't forget it."

PARANORMAL: The truth is out there, says author John

Sky's the limit for UFOs book



■ VENTURE... John Hanson and Dawn Holloway are seeking a publisher for a book about paranormal phenomena. Picture: Neil Pugh

By Emma Cullwick

IT WAS a quiet summer evening in 1996 and retired policeman John Hanson was enjoying a drink in the beer garden of his local.

But it was a night which would change his life forever when, out of the clear night sky, he spotted a huge, globular aircraft like no other he had ever seen.

With a flash of light it vanished, leaving John convinced he had witnessed something paranormal – an unidentified flying object.

His sighting from the garden of the Crown Inn, at Alvechurch, sparked a ten-year research project, which has seen John unearth extra-terrestrial stories dating back to the 1940s.

Now he is about to complete a series of

five books, called Haunted Skies, revealing a host of anecdotes about UFOs and spooky goings-on.

"Over the years I have come across stories of many strange incidents," said John, who has been carrying out the research with his 52-year-old partner, Dawn Holloway, a service station worker.

"It's absolutely fascinating and I feel very privileged to have had so many people share their sightings with me."

Haunted Skies reveals many tales, such as an incident over Sturichley on January 19, 1995, which left John's former colleagues at West Midlands Police baffled.

"They had many reports of a saucer shaped aircraft spotted over trees in the area," explained John.

A UFO was also spotted over Harborne

in 1975, and one couple claimed they recovered the fragment of a flying saucer in Ullenhall in 1974.

John, who has a 25-year-old daughter, Vicky, admitted he was once sceptical of paranormal activities, but now believes he has enough evidence.

"Any mention of UFOs are generally treated with disdain, and I'm not convinced these sightings represent some sort of alien life form," he said.

"But what these regularly spotted aircraft are and where they are coming from seems to be the 21st century's best kept secret."

■ John said several publishers were interested in his books, which he hopes will go on sale later this year. He appealed for anyone with UFO stories to call him on 0121 445 0340.

Book set to probe mystery of Chase

By ANDY RICHARDSON

A WALSALL author who writes books investigating the unexplained has returned from America to concentrate on his next book which is set to investigate the mysteries of Cannock Chase.

Nick Redfern, aged 41, has returned from Dallas with his wife Dana and is back living in Pelsall.

He will spend the next six months researching his next book which investigates the mysteries of Cannock Chase. He then plans to uproot from his home in Dallas and return back to England for good.

Nick has received phenomenal success since his first book Cosmic Crashes hit the bookshelves.

Since then he has published a further six books concentrating on all things unexplained from alien spacecraft crashes, to government UFO cover-ups and hunting werewolves.

Nick first became interested in the unexplained as a youngster after hearing his father regale stories about his time in the RAF in the radar unit. There were a number of sightings of UFOs over the North Sea which the government attempted to cover up.

Nick started a career as a freelance music journalist before he decided to go for the plunge and fulfill his ambition to write books about the unexplained.

His books have brought him widespread success with sales in America, Australia, Canada, Portugal and even Poland.

His latest book, which will focus on the mysteries of Cannock Chase should be out by early next year.

Author Nick Redfern with his wife, Dana. Cannock Chase has a reputation as being one of the world's prime UFO hot spots with countless sightings of triangular shaped UFOs and strange lights dancing in the night skies over the beauty spot.

There have also been numerous sightings of a black panther labelled the beast of Cannock Chase and Nick wants to speak to witnesses who claim to have seen it.

The book will also focus on paranormal activity on Cannock Chase with ghostly figures of soldiers being seen at the German Cemetery.

Supernatural

The strangest is the sighting of a Big Foot-type creature on Cannock Chase.

"There has been reports of strange lights in the skies for centuries on Cannock Chase and people are regularly seeing UFOs there," Nick said.

"There has also been reports of a Big Foot creature being spotted on Cannock Chase and the first reports of this creature date back to the late 19th century. Obviously I don't believe there is a physical Big Foot on Cannock Chase but I believe the animal could be supernatural."

"Some people have seen the creature and then saw it disappear before their eyes."

"There is an ancient fort on Cannock Chase called Castle Ring which experiences a lot of unexplained activity. I think people who built the fort 2000 years ago knew of its special paranormal qualities."

"I am looking forward to researching this book because it is fantastic to think there are all these mysteries on my doorstep waiting to be investigated."

Nick met his wife Dana while he was lecturing on the subject of aliens at a convention in America five years ago and they married shortly after.

His love for researching the mysteries of the world has seen him travel all over the globe. While one trip will see him investigate alien abductions another will see him travel to Puerto Rico hunting vampires.

He also has plans to publish a book, entitled Celebrity Secrets which uncovers secrets about such celebrities as Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and John Lennon.

If you have information for Nick's new book on Cannock Chase ring him on 01922 691490 or log onto his website at nickredfern.com



UFO festival is in the pipeline

FILEY & HUNMANBY MERCURY, England - July 8, 2006

PLANS are afoot to stage a UFO festival in Filey next year – and it's no hoax!

Local investigator Russ Kellett threatened to burn his entire archive in response to a cinema spoof starring Ant and Dec, but changed his mind when he was inundated with calls from supporters.

He is now planning to organise a weekend-long convention that will promote Filey as the UFO capital of Britain and attract enthusiasts from throughout the UK and beyond. The event would include talks by experts on UFOs and the paranormal, video-screenings, sky-watches, competitions and other events.

Mr Kellett said: "I did burn a lot of books and magazines that I was going to get rid of anyway, but I didn't burn the Flying Saucer Bureau archive because

by **Stephanie Pride**
stephanie.pride@ymtld.co.uk

it's the oldest archive in the UK and a lot of people have put a lot of man hours into those reports over the last 50 years.

"I'd prefer to be known for making history, not burning it."

After the story appeared in the papers, Mr Kellett said he had a lot of calls and letters from people sharing their own UFO experiences, which had inspired him to carry forward the project.

He said: "I had one letter from a milkman who said he couldn't say anything because his customers might have ridiculed him. I also heard from a businessman, a scientist and a bank manager who gave similar accounts – some of them going back to the '60s."

Mr Kellett said Roswell, the

site of an alleged UFO crash in the 1940s, attracted up to 60,000 enthusiasts every year, and there were would be obvious tourism benefits for Filey in staging a festival.

A recent report by the Ministry of Defence showed the Yorkshire coast to be a hotspot for reports of unidentified flying objects, and Mr Kellett gets regular reports of local sightings.

Deputy mayor Cllr Eddie Holden – who says he has an "open mind" – is one of those giving his backing, along with an ex-fighter pilot and entrepreneur from Whitby.

Recent sightings in the Filey area have included a "giant orange ball of fire" that witnesses have described "flying around them", and two triangle-shaped craft that take off from the sea and fly in formation.

Pie in the sky



DISTANT IMAGE: The object is just a tiny blob from Mr Crawford's garden over his rooftop



ZOOMING IN: A close up of the UFO shot by Mr Crawford on his camcorder

...or is this really a UFO?

by Ben Knowles

A PLEASANT evening barbecue turned into a sci-fi drama when a teenager spotted a UFO and captured it on film.

For 19-year-old Jamie Crawford it was a dream come true when he was able to reach for his camcorder and record his sighting.

An expert has confirmed the images are genuine.

"I've always wanted to see a UFO and to catch one on tape is a real bonus," said Mr Crawford of Marjoram Walk, Banbury. "I was very excited and shaking like mad while I filmed."

"We were just serving food in our back garden and I saw something peculiar out the corner of my eye. I got the camcorder and a soon as I zoomed in I thought 'I've caught a UFO'."

Mr Crawford said to the naked eye the object was about the size of a thumb nail and glinted in the sun. It was visible for about seven minutes and seemed to float slowly upwards at an angle before disappearing.

From his Hanwell Fields home the object was southeast, the same direction of the now disused RAF Upper Heyford airbase. The inci-



RATIONAL EXPLANATION? A Stealth bomber and an Apache Longbow

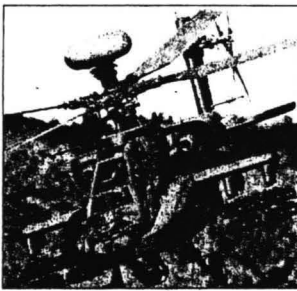
dent took place at about 7pm on Thursday June 8.

Mr Crawford said: "One of my friends was a bit sarcastic at first when I pointed it out in the sky, but then he admitted it was a bit weird."

"I've always believed in aliens and this has confirmed my theories. I'm not sure what they'd be doing here, maybe monitoring how we live, but I'm going to keep checking the skies."

Mr Crawford's video footage was converted to stills by a technician at Oxford and Cherwell Valley College's Banbury campus media department.

Kevin Robinson, programme manager for media and performing

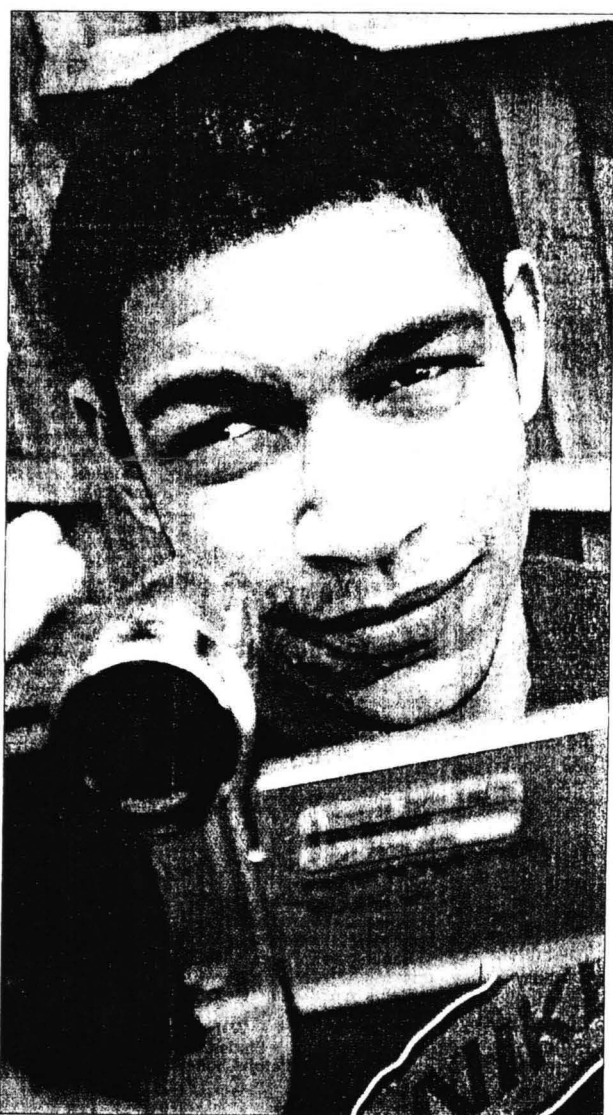


arts, witnessed the transfer and said the images on the camera looked genuine and reflected real structure, not digital distortion or ghosting.

Suggestions in the editing suite included a Harrier jump-jet, Chinook helicopter and squashed fly, though Mr Robinson's personal preference was a Stealth bomber.

"At that distance and zoom if it was heading towards the camera before banking and heading away it might give the false impression that it was hardly moving," he said.

"It seems an awful long way for aliens to come just to watch someone's barbecue, but whatever it was it was definitely there."



THEORIES: Jamie Crawford says he has always believed in aliens and the experience has confirmed his views that we 'are not alone'

Rational explanation in 'most cases'

THE Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency was set up in 1998 and works throughout the Thames Valley area looking at UFO sightings and other unusual happenings.

Research co-ordinator Brian James said Mr Crawford's pictures were reminiscent of footage taken over Abingdon in the mid-1990s when an 'amorphous blob with appendages appearing to come and go frame by frame' was recorded.

He said: "For an object to be visible for the duration reported suggests this was wind-borne. Based on the path and upwards movement, I have to say that instinct suggests this was some sort of balloon."

During the 1960 and early '70s there was a huge growth in UFO sightings, many of them near to RAF bases, with Banbury

INSTINCT: Brian James of the Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency

a hotbed. The BBC current affairs programme Man Alive investigated sightings over the town and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) worked hard to quash the rumours.

The MoD was unable to comment on Mr Crawford's sighting but spokesman Matthew Willey said a recent study found most UFOs, or UAPs (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena) as they prefer, were natural phenomena or visual distortions.

"In most cases we found there was a rational explanation and based on the evidence we collected there is nothing to substantiate the existence of extra terrestrials," he said.

He added through history the number of sightings have gone up and down, often in relation to new technologies or psychological stimulus like films.

A particular peak followed the invention of the modern helicopter in 1939.

The MoD has a special hotline for UAP sightings. It is 020 7218 2140.

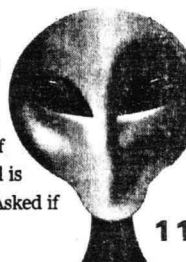
Do UFOs exist? Vote at www.banburytoday.co.uk Got a UFO story? E-mail editorial@banburyguardian.co.uk

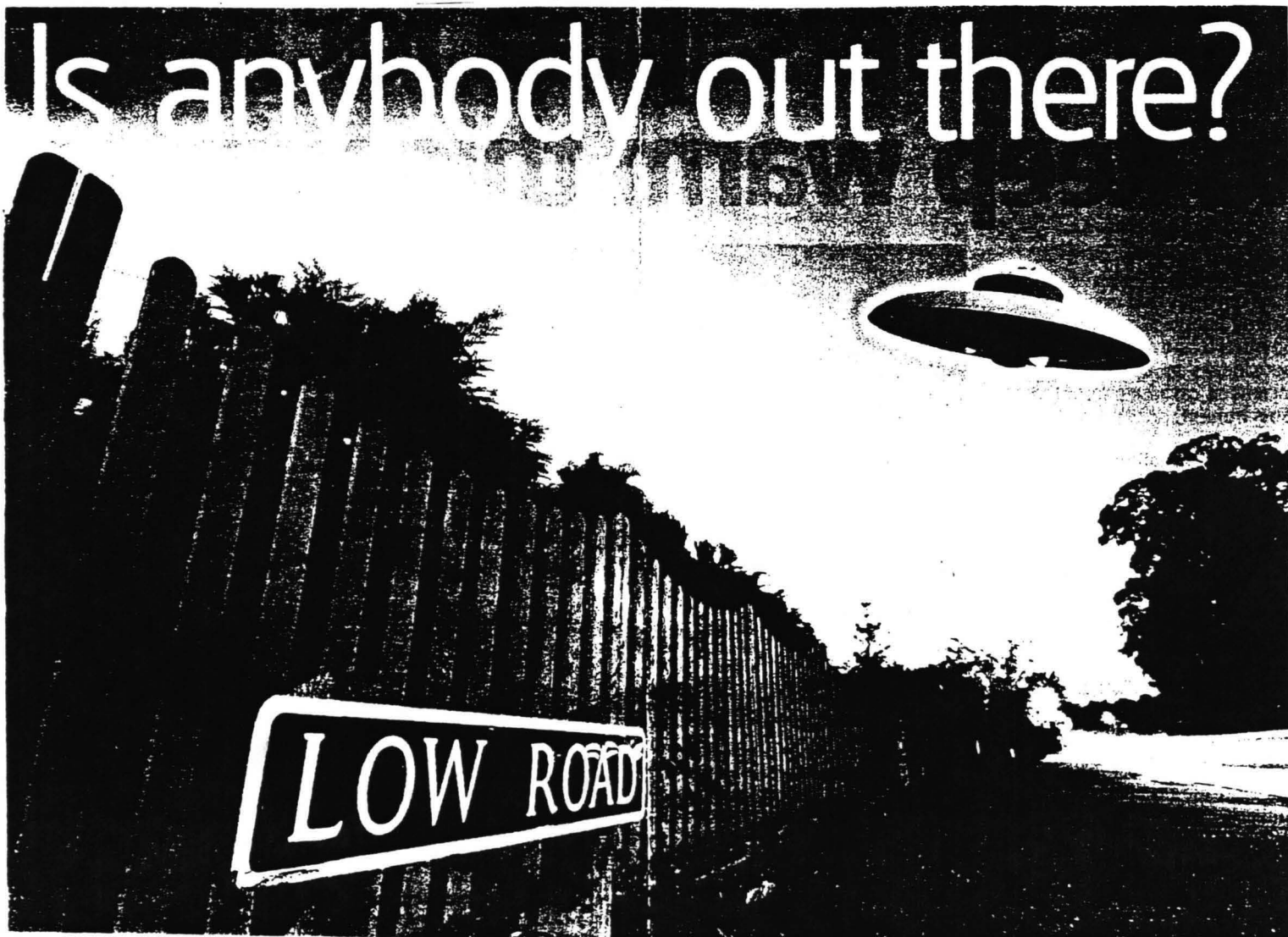
NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 6, 2006 CR: G. Duplantier

SPACE SUITS

German lawyer seeks state compensation for people abducted by aliens

A German lawyer is hoping to drum up more business by pursuing state compensation claims for people who believe they were abducted by aliens. "There's quite obviously demand for legal advice here," said Jens Lorek. "The trouble is, people are afraid of making fools of themselves in court." The Dresden-based lawyer, who specializes in social and labour law, has yet to win any abduction claims, but says there are plenty of potential clients, noting extraterrestrial watchdogs report scores of alien assaults every year. The 41-year-old is pinning his hopes for success on a German law that grants kidnap victims the right to state compensation. Asked if he was worried he might look ridiculous, he replied, "Nobody has laughed about it up until now." Reuters





Witnesses to a reported sighting of an unidentified flying object over Hellesdon are being asked to come forward.

So far two people saw a black triangular craft appear in the sky above Low Road, but the Norfolk UFO Society (NUFOS) feels more people must have seen the mystery in the sky.

The Evening News was contacted by one of the witnesses to the anomaly, which happened at 12.20am on August 23. A second man, a civil aviation worker at Norwich Airport, also reported seeing the lights in the sky.

The aviation specialist, who did not want to be identified and said it was definitely not a stealth aircraft, was walking home from the cinema when he saw the craft about 50ft in the air, and judged it to be nine feet by five feet by comparing it with nearby trees.

He said: "A bright red ball just appeared. It glowed then turned blue and a triangular black glass type solid craft appeared. It pulsed various lights but there was no sound. It fired off a light beam that jumped rapidly from house to house along Low Road. It then increased the light at the flat edge, I presume the back, and it just shot off in total silence towards the north. No sound at any time except a static fizz in the air."

Witness Austin Paxman, of Norwich, contacted the Evening

Is it just pie in the sky or do UFOs really exist? A strange series of lights seen in the sky last week have prompted one group to ask for witnesses to come forward to help fuel the debate on whether we are being watched by beings from outer space. **KIM BRISCOE** asks "Do you believe?"

UFO sightings

An official Ministry of Defence UFO report lists the following UFO sightings in the area between 2002 and 2005:

April 21, 2005 - Three objects were seen hovering in the sky at an undisclosed location in Norfolk at 6.31am.

May 5, 2004 - At 11.10pm a bright, pulsing spider looking object was seen above Kings Lynn.

September 13, 2003 - A shape as bright as Mars, a sort of white light with a dim brightness moved in a south east direction at 8.15pm above Great Yarmouth.

July 15, 2003 - A disc like object, moving in the sky slowly above Gorleston-on-Sea, poised once and then headed in a north east direction.

May 28, 2003 - At

7.50am a saucer object was seen in the sky above Great Yarmouth.

August 22, 2002 - At 9.30pm at Shropham, near Attleborough, aerial lights were seen in the sky.

January 24, 2002 - At 4.12pm in Cromer, eight to nine lights were spotted which looked like they were close and then they separated. Not too bright. Were like large fireworks.

News and said he was taking a short cut across the Royal Norwich Golf Club when he saw the same craft, but from a different angle. He said: "There seems to be more

and more UFO reports for Norwich and I am curious as to what is being done about it."

John Sayer, of NUFOS, said he would be interested to speak to

people who have reported UFO incidents. He said: "This does appear to be a very detailed report and the fact they are in aviation lends it credibility - if they are telling the truth."

"In a book by Timothy Good called Beyond Top Secret he says the hotspot for UFO activity in the UK in terms of reports to official bodies is the Norwich area."

"We approach reports in as rigorously a scientific way as possible. We don't just accept anything and always investigate things thoroughly."

"I don't think people are that stupid that they can mistake planes for UFOs, especially in an area like this where people are used to seeing helicopters and planes going over all the time."

According to the UFO evidence website, multiple surveys over the last few decades and from different countries show about seven per cent of people have seen a UFO. At least several hundred thousand estimated UFO sightings have been documented in the last 50 years, and the total number of UFO sightings is estimated to be in the millions, although only a small percentage report the sightings.

More information is available from www.ufoevidence.org. Mr Sayer, of NUFOS, can be contacted on 01603 755331.

→ Can you explain the UFO mystery? Email kim.briscoe@archant.co.uk with your theories.

TRANSLATIONS

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

October 13, 2006 — www.correoperu.com.pe — Peru: UFO Flies Over Ica and Huaytara — Engineers in Antapite Captured Image Showing Silvery Object — In the Huaytara Highlands on the border between Ica and Huancavelica, a group of engineers performing work for mining company Antapite, managed to take a photo of an Unidentified Flying Object, commonly known as a UFO. As can be seen in the image, it was a silvery object that stands out against a clear blue sky and contrasts with the area's topography.

According to Luis Alberto Villar Perez, identified with DNI 3057454, the photo was taken on September 22 from the Jetun Orcco mining project in the localities of Palmacancha, Huarpo and San Miguel in the peasant district of Santiago de Chocorvos. The area is located at 4,300 meters above sea level in the province of Huaytara, Huancavelica. Said photos were taken by Wilber Manrique, a geologist with BISA Ingenieros.

"At the moment I took the photo, I didn't see anything strange at all. Rather, I was focusing on capturing the area of the demolition," recalls Matirique, adding that his digital camera's screen is small. "A load of material came out and I took several photos, a total of 12 images in a period of 4 to 5 minutes, with 20-30 second intervals."

From the place where the images were taken to the place where the demolition blasts were taking place, there is a distance of 1300 meters, between the Leila Seam Trench 1 and the Luisa Seam Trench 2. "At that time I neither felt nor saw anything strange. Inspecting the images on 9/23 at 7 a.m., I was started to find a UFO upon downloading the photos," he added, Wilber Manrique was in the company of Ing. Nestor Ccasa, Anthony Gomez and others. — CREDIT: Alex Sender

October 28, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — URUGUAY: EXPLOSIONS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN AND TRIANGULAR UFO — Julio Degeneve and Daniel Padilla, coordinators of the *COLOVNI* group [Entre Rios, Argentina], inform you that we are making inquiries with regard to an event that occurred last night, that is, Thursday, October 26, around 23:05 hours. Two explosions rocked the cities of Colon and Paysandu in the neighboring shores of the Republic of Uruguay.

According to many eyewitness accounts, the apparent epicenter of this explosion was between both cities, with a more southerly location closer to the city of Paysandu. The event drew media attention, and in their questioning of government officials, such as the military detachment in Concepcion, Uruguay, the response was that "they were not engaged in maneuvers," although the media had already discussed this possibility. Some witnesses in Colon claimed that a powerful light could be seen toward the southeast of the city. The detonation was so powerful that it allegedly shattered windows in the city of Paysandu, as well as in Colon, but with fewer cases.

On the evening of that day, we were finishing up the "Enigma Virtual" radio show in which were discussing the considerable number of reports claiming that several witnesses had been able to see a gigantic triangular craft flying over the city without making a sound and at low altitude. Witnesses who contacted the radio show claimed having seen it between 03:00 and 04:00 in the morning, flying in a South-North direction and at very slow speed, such that they were able to observe the lights beneath it, which were blue, white and yellow.

We can now say that we have begun requesting reports from people in both cities in order to cross-check stories and specifically locate the site of the explosion. Furthermore, we knew that on Thursday morning, several people had contacted Radio LT11 in the city of Concepcion, Uruguay, on the Mary Charrier radio show, to report having seen several anomalous lights flying over the outskirts of the city and the city itself; they were inquiring if there were several airplanes flying over the area. We will continue our inquiries and keep you informed. — CREDIT: Daniel Padilla

October 30, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina and *Noticias Mercedinas* (www.noteiasmercedinas.com) — ARGENTINA: POLICE ENCOUNTER UFO IN THE TOWN OF MERCEDES — The *Grupo Investigador de Fenomenos Aeroespaciales* reported a case that involved a police cruiser near the railroad tracks on Calle 10. A vehicle with strange lights passed over the car at an altitude of less than 200 meters.

The *Grupo Investigador de Fenomenos Aeroespaciales Desconocidos* (GIFAD) of this city, a member of the *Red Argentina de Ovnilogia*, reported a sighting of the phenomenon by occupants of a police cruiser. The event occurred during the first week of October and left the protagonists perplexed due to its strangeness. While they were willing to speak about the event to members of GIFAD, they did not wish to disclose their identities. GIFAD went on to provide ample details about the phenomenon: during the first week of October 2006, around 23:00 hours, a police cruiser was engaged in its customary rounds along the extension of Calle 10, heading toward the cemetery. Upon reaching the railroad crossing, the squad car's two occupants saw "an intense light" on their left, hovering at low altitude over the fields.

"They stopped their vehicle to get a better look and noticed that it was an object that was moving slowly toward them. When it passed over the car, they ascertained that it was no more than 200 meters overhead. It was at that point that they noticed a dark circular structure with a red light at its core and not very far from it, a circle of continuous lights of a whitish-yellow hue. The sky was completely clear, which allowed them to determine that the dark mass's diameter was between 4 and 5 meters. Movement took place in absolute silence. The object continued its trajectory slowly until it vanished toward San Jacinto," said Alberto Brunetti, a member of GIFAD, regarding the information provided by the anonymous policemen.

Furthermore, the local ufologist mentioned a curious item of information which is similar to other "encounters" with alleged intelligent entities plowing the skies aboard unidentified vehicles. "As soon as the object was over their heads, one of the witnesses (an officer with several years of experience), contacted headquarters on the emergency channel and to his surprise, communication was established with the police station at Suipacha, when logically, he should have contacted the one in our city due to its proximity."

The police officer in question (who wishes to remain anonymous), in a conversation with Alberto Brunetti, also recalled seeing an anomalous light over the former Instituto Capitan Sarmiento seven or eight years ago. — CREDIT: Guillermo D. Gimenez

November 2, 2006 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — LUMINOUS SPHERE OVER MEXICO CITY — **A report from Ana Luisa Cid** — On October 31, 2006, I had the opportunity to videotape a luminous sphere

that was close to the Moon, from my perspective.

I commenced the recording from a window in my house, but when I noticed that it was moving far too quickly, I decided to go out to the back yard for a better angle of observation.

The sphere was initially silver-colored, and then shifted to an intense red, increasing its brightness.

The observation took place as from 6:11 p.m. for 15 minutes. This evidence was recorded using a JVC model GR-D25 camera.

I lost the probable UFO from sight when it moved quickly to the right in 1/30th of a second to cover a large distance and vanish suddenly, leaving something resembling a small cloud in its place. I only became aware of this action until a frame-by-frame inspection of the video was performed.

It should be noted that this is not the first time that I have witnessed a phenomenon of this nature. On January 28, 2002, I recorded a similar object, initially golden and then reddish, which also vanished into a sort of vapor.

For the time being, I cannot find a logical explanation, and while I dismiss the likelihood that it was a balloon or artificial satellite, I remain open to all possibilities. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 2, 2006 — *Fundacion Cosmos, A.C.*, Mexico and *www.mural.com* — MEXICO: ALLEGED UFO CAUSES A STIR IN AGUAS CALIENTES — **Excitement in the Aguas Calientes town square prompted a radio station to send a reporter to cover the event live** — Aguas Calientes, Mexico (2 November 2006) - Not even Jaime Maussan has that kind of pull. Manuel Palacios, a professional videographer, managed to summon - without publicity and in a spontaneous manner - nearly 70 people for 15 minutes so that they would watch a UFO while he recorded it on his camcorder.

"I saw it (in the sky), thought it was odd and started to record it. When I saw people gathering, I started taping them instead," he said.

The object captured by Palacios' camera floated like a balloon and flew slowly at a distance that was hard to calculate. It could only be seen through his camera's powerful zoom lens. The object resembled a white-colored plantain, convulsing like a lazy worm.

The spontaneous assembly in the Aguascalientes town square even prompted a radio station to send a reporter to do a live broadcast from the site.

"I swear by these eyes that you can't see anything at all," said the reporter.

But people wanted to see something. "Look it's right there, watch it move. it looks like a UFO, an unidentified flying object," said others.

Dissatisfied with the reporter's own eyes, the newscast's crew wanted to corroborate that what people were seeing wasn't a UFO, and then called the airport for an answer.

"We have no reports at all," declared the airport's administrator cuttingly. But people wanted to see "something" and called the radio show claiming to have seen something over various districts in Aguas Calientes.

"We're getting calls from the Ojo Caliente district and Morelos telling us that the object can also be seen over there," said the newscaster. "We've received several calls reporting the same thing."

"I saw at first that they were three objects that separated and joined again. Later there was only the one that could be seen up there," said Carlos Mata, one of the viewers at the crowded scene.

At the end, the elongated object that squirmed like a worm vanished from the videographer's sight. With some amusement, he later made comments on the event. — CREDIT: Ing. Marco Reynoso

November 7, 2006 — *Mercurio*, Antofagasta, Chile and *Fundacion Cosmos, A.C.*, Mexico — CHILE: Antofagasta - Petroglyph Associated With UFOs? — Excitement over startling image of being with oval-shaped head and long hands. Impressive prehistoric evidence of the UFO presence in the region; it is possible to find various manifestations of it [in] stone-age art at Talabre and Maria Elena — A strange petroglyph from the Talabre ravine, dating back to Atacaman prehistory, has stirred curiosity due to the presence of a strange being with an oval head, large eyes and long hands, which many have associated with a divinity or alien.

The petroglyphs are carved on surfaces oxidized by the passage of time and are associated with settlements near cemeteries or "gentilares," aside from places of worship in specific geographic sectors found in the vicinity of prehistory trails, a typical trait of inter-regional traffic.

Sotero Armeza, president of the village of Talabre, stated that this mysterious petroglyph has caught the attention of tourists and locals alike. He explained that this item is original "although we have no idea what it belongs to. The only problem is that its structure is being affected by problems related to the climate and geography.

Dagoberto Pena, professor of Eco-Tourism at Andres Bello University and a mountaineer who has climbed Mt. Everest, said that the image was discovered two years ago, photographed as evidence, and that it is accompanied by camelid designs. In his opinion it shows no signs of being an alteration or a prank, furthermore considering that it is located in a hard-to-reach area and that his students, who [are] well-versed in the subject, are clearly aware of the patrimonial value of these prehistoric expressions.

On this subject, Claudio Castellon Gatica, the special representative of the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales, said that the Taira designs are linked to Atacaman shepherds with a knowledge of astronomy, and who in turn are related to myths of the ancient Andean world. His chronology shows that these artistic expressions took place as of 2300 B.C. until the arrival of the Incas, when Taira shows a stylistic diversity associated with a long existence throughout time.

However, he acknowledges that "the [design] is an anthropomorphic figure superimposed over the Taira-styled models," thus believing that it could be an imitation, due to the fact that the "anthropomorphic design clearly shows a different style and technique from the ones behind it...the humanoid design is adapted to the space in the camelid's belly and the lines with which it was drawn are much thicker than those of the other designs. Finally, the drawing's edges show a much lesser antiquity than those of the camilids."

This site is located in the Upper Loa River Valley, in a sector known as Santa Barbara, which contains a series of petroglyphs that show an abundance of camelid shapes. — CREDIT: David Lara Cervantes

November 9, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: UFO Sighting on the Guadalajara-Morelia Highway — [A] photograph [was] taken by Gustavo Gilberto Pacheco, at Km. 275 of the Guadalajara-Morelia Highway at 13:15 hours on November 13, 2003 (according to the camera date).

The witness, a resident of Mexico City, took a total of 3 photographs and submitted them to researcher Oscar Franco, who shared them with Ana Luisa Cid.

Upon noticing that the object was in exactly the same position in all of the images, Prof. Cid asked Franco if it could perhaps be some structure reflecting the rays of the sun, to which he responded that the possibility did exist, but that it was a remote one, as it was possible to see a shadow under the alleged UFO. He added

that he has not had contact with Mr. Pacheco again, and securing further details on these interesting pictures is unlikely.

More photos at: <http://www.analuisacid.com/carretera-guadalajara.htm> — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 13, 2006 — www.frontenet.com — MEXICO: FLYING SAUCER REPORTED OVER CHIHUAHUA — ***Observation lasted nearly half an hour*** — SAUCILLO - Residents of Las Varas had the surprise of their lives when, almost at the stroke of midnight on Thursday, they looked into the clear skies to see an enormous flying saucer moving from one point to another with great ease - an exhibition that lasted nearly half an hour.

Among the fortunate few who were able to videotape the event was Jesus Jose Melendez Hermosilo, a correspondent for Televisa in Chihuahua, who lives in the aforementioned district.

The video shows an enormous flying saucer traveling with certain ease through the sky, something that can even an airplane from our own planet can hardly do.

Among the discoverers of this find are officers of the municipal police, who saw a light darting around the sky when they looked up. Finally, the UFO vanished into the clear skies over Saucillo, leaving behind a video where its entire path can be seen. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Alex Astua

November 15, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO OVER NECOCHEA — **A Report From Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*** — On a clear starry night, several families from Necochea were witnesses to the transit of a large circular object that irradiated a considerable number of whitish-blue lights at 21:30 hours on Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

The object, flying at a low altitude, passed over the city of Necochea in southeastern Buenos Aires province, coming in from the west in a completely silent manner with a powerful beam of light, losing itself toward the south, heading toward the sea. People in the beach area were astonished by the object's transit on a cloud-free night.

Surely other people in other parts of the city of Necochea were also treated to the sight of this low-flying UFO.

When local airport sources were contacted, they confirmed that no conventional artifact had flown over the city at night. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

November 18, 2006 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — MEXICO: UFO REPORTED DURING GRAND PRIX — Mexican researcher Alfonso Salazar reports that on Sunday, November 12, 2006 at 13:30 hours, several people located on the ninth row of the grandstand of the Hermanos Rodriguez Speedway reported the transit of an amorphous, red-colored flying object traveling in a west-to-east direction over Mexico City at some 3000 meters, separated by half a kilometer, approximately, from the Bell 206 helicopter that was engaging in aerial photography at the time, according to witness reports.

The sighting took place during the pace lap performed by the racecar drivers shortly before the race began.

This is the second time that a UFO report has taken place during the Mexico Grand Prix. The first was in 2003, when several people reported the manifestation of a metallic sphere suspended at a height over the city, also at the start of the race. At the time, it was a Brazilian news crew who noticed the event and their report appeared on a news website in that country, with information supplied by journalist Sandro Borges.

The current report concerning the alleged UFO over the Hermanos Rodriguez Speedway will be discussed by researcher Alfonso Salazar during the "Alta Velocidad" racing program hosted by senior race-car commentator Rodolfo Sanchez Noya on ABC Radio. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

November 22, 2006 — www.canarias24horas.com — UFOs Over the Canary Islands? — TENERIFE - A number of phone calls have been received by this newsroom from the Tacoronte sector in northern Tenerife, reporting - not without a degree of nervousness - sightings of strange lights on Tuesday evening. Some of the witnesses have spoken openly of UFOs. Those who claim having witnessed this phenomenon report that even household appliances have died for a few seconds and others report seeing static white lights diving into the Tacorontan coast.

This is hardly the first time that various witnesses report seeing "strange" things in the sky, moving at high speed among the stars or emerging from the bottom of the sea.

According to experts consulted by [canarias24horas.com](http://www.canarias24horas.com), the lights are nothing more than satellites, which give the impression of being stars despite their rapid movement. The lights entering and exiting the ocean are interpreted by some as large shooting stars that never reach the Earth's surface and vanish into the horizon; some reports mentioned green, blue and red lights - colors proper to a shooting star as it enters our atmosphere. As far as what was seen on Tuesday, the evidence points to a series of helicopters which were flying over the area. Two of these late model aircraft were surveying the coastline between northern Tenerife and the island of La Palma.

But what caused the household appliances to fail? The explanation is a simple one, and appears to be connected to the impending visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain to the Canaries.

This isn't the first [time] that the passing of a royal motorcade on a highway causes all appliances liable to perceive or emit radio signals to stop working for a few seconds. Refrigerators also shut down. This effect is produced by devices known as signal inhibitors, which mask anything that could represent a safety hazard to a head of state. Iceboxes shut down because the signal inhibitors cannot distinguish between one appliance and another. Even the Internet is disconnected.

Could this be the answer to the experiences of Tacoronte's residents on Tuesday? We can only say that for the Royal Family's security detail, shutting off devices at a distance is mere child's play.

November 24, 2006 — *Archivos Forteanos Latinoamericanos* — VENEZUELA: TRIANGULAR UFO OVER CARACAS — ***A report from Hector Escalante*** — CARACAS - November 2006. Three people witnessed the transit of a triangular UFO on November 16 as it passed over a state banking institution located on Av. Urdaneta, bordering the central district of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital.

According to information provided by Israel Urbaneja, the appearance of this strange object lasted from 9:30 to 10:00 PM approximately, allowing two of his relatives to join the observation from their home on Av. Baralt.

Likewise, he said that the object "was white in color, but presented luminous variations of blue, red and green" and moved with a "zigzagging" motion from south to north over the capital area's airspace until it became lost in the clouds, which was present at all times, although with various degrees of clearing, accompanied by heavy rains earlier during the day.

"This is the first time that I've seen anything like it and I'm certain it wasn't an airplane or satellite by the

way it moved. Furthermore, the object left a glowing, cone-shaped white wake as it flew, which caused a sensation akin to nausea," said the witness.

It should be noticed that this is not the first time that an unknown object with intelligent behavior has been seen over the central district of the Venezuelan capital, where major government offices are located.

Other witnesses have reported the presence of similar objects near the presidential palace and Fort Tiuna (army garrison) on Paseo de los Proceres, as well as in the vicinity of the majestic El Avila National Park to the north of Caracas.

[Translator's note - the health effects produced by flybys of these triangular objects have been reported in other cases, both in the US and abroad.] — CREDIT: Jose Martinez (*ARGUS-PR*) and Liliana Nunez (*AFLA*).

November 27, 2006 — *NOTIVER* [www.notiver.com.mx] — MEXICO: UFO OVER PEROTE, VERACRUZ — A UFO was photographed by an amateur shutterbug near Cofre de Perote shortly before it snowed. This occurred in the stretch between Los Pecados and Conejos.

This is not the first time that UFOs have been reported in this region. According to experts, the area is a magical one and things considered strange to some - and extraterrestrial to others - have always been seen.

The woman, who submitted the photograph to NOTIVER via e-mail - Olga Lidia - said that she took the picture using a 3.2 megapixel Powershot and that the time was 17:27 hours on November 21.

She says that she saw the photo and was startled to see cigar-shaped, staggered UFOs, known as "motherships" to experts in ufology.

Frequent sightings have been reported in the vicinity of Cofre de Perote, such as the one that took place on April 16, 2001 at 2:00 a.m., involving three witnesses who were hunting in the surrounding woods. Another UFO sighting occurred on September 22, 2003 at 12:25 a.m.

Even Fidel Herrera Beltran, governor of Veracruz, saw a formation of UFOs in 2005 and was moved to say "the Martians are already here." The video of this sighting, which occurred in broad daylight, can be found on the Internet.

It should also be mentioned that orbs were seen at a church near Cordoba in 1998 and that Ms. Edith Terrazas photographed a red sphere in 2006. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and A. Calcanéo

CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

November 9, 2006 — www.30noticias.com.ar/, Argentina and *La Capital*, Rosario, Santa Fe province, Argentina — Strange flying object captured with a cell phone in Santa Isabel — An intense light appeared in the early hours of the morning and for a few moments moved from one place to another over the city Santa Isabel. - Juan Ramon Rodriguez is still in awe by the experience he had last weekend when he saw a UFO moving from side to side in the sky. He recorded the phenomenon with the camera of his cell phone just when the strange light stopped for a few instants.

Juan Ramon, who works at the Police Cooperative of Venado Tuerto had traveled to Santa Isabel to visit his girlfriend. After watching a boxing show on TV, he went out to the patio to smoke a cigarette. "Suddenly a light appeared that called my attention. At first I thought it was a plane, but then I dismissed it because it made sudden movements from side to side," he said.

"At one time the object stopped suddenly and that's when I snapped the photo. Although it was very high up, it could be seen quite clearly because of the intense light it emitted. I never imagined that I could take such a good photo with a cell phone," he said.

The youngster claims he never paid any attention to the UFO phenomena, although that experience made him change his mind. "When you see something like that, you can't help but be surprised," he added.

His girlfriend's house is located in the outskirts of Santa Isabel in a scarcely populated area, so visibility there is perfect. That morning at 2.21 am when he captured the image the sky was overcast and almost no stars could be seen. After that the object disappeared without leaving a trace.

Other records in the region:

Victor Vera is a draftsman in Arias, located a few kilometers from Venado, and studies the UFO phenomenon which "is common in the area," he claimed.

Among others, he investigated a strange case that happened in the mid 90's in the urban area of Arias. "At midnight, someone claims having seen a little green man, some 35 cm tall, mounted on a cylinder with which he moved from one plant to another," he commented.

Vera also investigated a case a few years ago where three round lights arranged in a triangle flew at low altitude over Arias. Several people claim having seen the unexplainable episode.

According to the investigator, many cases similar to those described above occurred in Maggiolo and Villa Canas, where in the rural areas strange tracks appeared in the sown lands.

Another phenomenon that the investigator covered in mid '02 was the discovery of mutilated cattle in a field in the town of Alejo Ledesma (Cordoba province). "The animals had precise cuts and the head was separated from the body. There's no explanation for these cases," said Vera.



Idaho professor becomes a campus outcast with his Bigfoot research

By JESSE HARLAN ALDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

POCATELLO, Idaho—Jeffrey Meldrum holds a Ph.D. in anatomical sciences and is a tenured professor of anatomy at Idaho State University.

He is also one of the world's foremost authorities on Bigfoot, the mythical smelly ape-man of the Northwest woods. And Meldrum firmly believes the lumbering, shaggy brute exists.

That makes him an outcast — a solitary, Sasquatch-like figure himself — on the 12,700-student campus, where many scientists are embarrassed by what they call Meldrum's "pseudo-academic" pursuits and have called on the university to review his work with an eye toward revoking his tenure. One physics professor, D.P. Wells, wonders whether Meldrum plans to research Santa Claus, too.

Meldrum, 48, spends most of his days in his laboratory in the Life Sciences Building, analyzing more than 200 jumbo plaster casts of what he contends are Bigfoot footprints.

For the past 10 years, he has added his scholarly sounding research to a field full of sham videos and supermarket tabloid exposes. And he is convinced he has produced a body of evidence that proves there is a Bigfoot.

"It used to be you went to a bookstore and asked for a book on Bigfoot and you'd be directed to the occult section, right between the Bermuda Triangle and UFOs," Meldrum said. "Now you can find some in the natural science section."

Martin Hackworth, a senior lecturer in the physics department, called Meldrum's research a "joke."

"Do I cringe when I see the Discovery Channel and I see Idaho State University, Jeff Meldrum? Yes, I do," Hackworth said. "He believes

he's taken up the cause of people who have been shut out by the scientific community. He's lionized there. He's worshiped. He walks on water. It's embarrassing."

John Kijinski, dean of arts and sciences, said there have been "grumblings" about Meldrum's tenure, but no formal request for a review.

"He's a bona fide scientist," Kijinski said. "I think he helps this university. He provides a form of open discussion and dissenting viewpoints that may not be popular with the scientific community, but that's what academics all about."

On campus, Meldrum — himself a hulking figure, with a mop of brown hair, a bristly silver mustache, and a black T-shirt with a silhouette of a hunchbacked, lurking Bigfoot — gets funny looks and the silent treatment from other scientists, and is not invited to share coffee with the other science professors.

Over the summer, more than 30 professors signed a petition criticizing the university for hosting a Bigfoot symposium where Meldrum was the keynote speaker.

He pays for his research with a \$30,000 donation from a Bigfoot believer.

Still, Meldrum has a distinguished supporter in Jane Goodall, the world-famous authority on African chimpanzees. Her blurb on the jacket of Meldrum's new book, "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science," lauds him for bringing "a much-needed level of scientific analysis" to the Bigfoot debate.

"As a scientist, she's very curious and she keeps an open mind," said Goodall spokeswoman Nona Gandelman. "She's fascinated by it."

Bigfoot is sort of the Loch Ness Monster of the Pacific Northwest. The legend dates back centuries. Indian folklore includes murmurs of a man-ape that roams the hidden hollows. Sasquatch is a Salish Indian word meaning woodland



Professor Jeffrey Meldrum examines some "Bigfoot" evidence.

wildman.

Newspapers began recording sightings of Bigfoot in the backwoods during the 1920s. But skeptics have challenged the accounts, and practical jokers have staged elaborate hoaxes, including grainy film footage of someone in a monkey suit and phony footprints stamped into the ground with giant molded feet.

Meldrum said it was a decade ago in Walla Walla, Wash., that he first discovered flat 15-inch footprints in the woods. He said he thought initially that they

were a hoax, but noticed locked joints and a narrow arch — traits he came to believe could only belong to Bigfoot.

"That's what set the hook," Meldrum said. "I resolved at this point, this was a question I'd get to the bottom of."

When not in the lab, he loads his Chevy Suburban with tents and forensic gear and heads for the woods of Washington state and Northern California, where he has collected what he says are footprints, hair and feces from the ape-man. He tests

hair samples and uses physics to produce charts that purport to show how Bigfoot would walk.

Meldrum wonders aloud how much longer he will be on the faculty. But he said he also dreams of one day bringing back a bone or a tooth or some skin, and silencing the "stuffy academics."

"Is the theory of exploration dead?" he asked. "I'm not out to proselytize that Bigfoot exists. I place legend under scrutiny and my conclusion is, absolutely, Bigfoot exists."

CLAYTON TODAY, Clayton, OK - Aug. 31, 2006

More On Bigfoot

By Eddie A. Owens

Jess Johnson, owner of the Indian Mounds Camp off Nine Pines Road near Clayton, has never seen a Bigfoot, but is pretty sure some large bipedal creature inhabits the woods near his home.

A few months ago one of Mr. Johnson's customers, who was camping at Indian Mounds, had a late night encounter with a creature that left him shaken and unwilling to stay in the campground without adequate protection.

On that occasion, Mr. Johnson slept through the experience and could find no tracks near the customer's campground.

Several days later, however, Mr. Johnson noticed several large footprints in a shale

pit some 50 or so yards from where his customer indicated that he saw the creature.

"I took my camera out and took a lot of pictures of the foot prints," states Mr. Johnson. "There were about 30 prints that I could see in the pit. I laid a measuring tape beside one footprint and took pictures."

Mr. Johnson said he measured the footprint as about 20 inches long and 8 inches across the heel. He also measured the stride at about seven feet.

"I called the Sheriff's Office at Wister and they came out and took a plaster cast of some of the prints."

Jess Johnson takes a lot of visitors on trail rides in the area. There are several miles

of passable trails and roads in the mountains behind his camp and some beautiful country to ride through.

"I've got a whiff of that smell they describe on several occasions," stated Mr. Johnson, "and my horses sometimes act spooked when they smell something unusual in the air."

Mr. Johnson further stated that, "I've never seen whatever it is, but I believe that it watches me quite a bit."

Is Bigfoot real or not? There are a lot of believers and a lot of skeptics. Some think that it's all a big hoax; others believe that there really is a man-like animal out there, elusive, mysterious and fascinating.

STATE, Columbia, SC - Oct. 22, 2006

Couple say ice chunk fell through their roof

The Associated Press

CHINO, Calif. — An elderly couple think a chunk of blue ice from the holding tank of an aircraft toilet ripped a hole in their roof and destroyed a bed.

William McElroy was watching a movie with his wife, Evelyn, when the ice crashed into the house Wednesday night.

"It was a huge crash. It shook the whole building, but we thought it was a car," McElroy said. The couple went outside to investigate

but found nothing, so they finished watching the movie.

They did not discover the chunk of ice on the bed and the 2-foot-wide hole in the ceiling until the next morning.

"I think we had somebody extra looking over us," Evelyn McElroy said.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said if the offending chunk of ice was from an airplane, then it likely came from a leak in a holding tank of an aircraft's bathroom.

Electronic ESP: Science or sloppy research?



A message from the outer limits? Johnathan Holdcraft has never experienced telephone telepathy, but always seems to know who's ringing his doorbell.
Photo by Teddy Snell

■ A British biologist claims telephone telepathy exists. Area residents weigh in on the ability to predict who's on the line without the benefit of caller ID.

By TEDDY SNELL
Press Staff Writer

Before the no-call list, most people would say if the phone rang during dinner, it was someone trying to sell them something.

Some people seem to have an innate sense of who's on the other end of the line when the phone rings. When they answer, the common greeting they use is "I was just thinking about you!"

According to recent research

conducted by Rupert Sheldrake, an English biologist, telephone - and even e-mail - telepathy exists.

Sheldrake's research was funded by Trinity College, Cambridge, and he conducted experiments he claims prove precognition exists for telephone calls and e-mails.

Heather Winn, local resident and educator for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, believes guilt may play a part in the proposed paranormal activity.

"I have experienced the phenomenon with the phone," she said. "I feel like it happens more often when you 'know' you should have already called that person and haven't. It's not just coincidence."

The British Association for the Advancement of Science decided earlier this month to allow presentations promoting paranormal

views, and Sheldrake was asked to participate.

Sheldrake's trials included 63 volunteers who were asked to give researchers names and phone numbers of four relatives or friends. Those selected were then called at random and told to ring the subject who had to identify the caller before answering the phone.

By pure chance, people should get the right friend 25 percent of the time, but Sheldrake found they actually did much better, with a success rate of 40 percent in 571 tries. Callers were often several miles away, sometimes thousands of miles away, and distance did not affect outcome.

In a follow-up trial, the participants were videotaped to ensure they were not getting messages from their callers. The four sub-

jects tested did even better than the previous trial.

"The hit rate was 45 percent, well above the 25 percent you would have expected," Sheldrake told the British Association for the Advancement of Science. "The odds of this being a chance effect are 1,000 billion to one."

The study was presented to the BAAS without challenge from the mainstream. The decision created a divide among members of the science forum, and two past presidents of the organization, including Lord Robert Winston, a fertility expert, and Sir Walter Bodmer, a geneticist and cancer researcher, have decried the decision to allow paranormal research to be presented.

In an interview with the Times online Bodmer said ideas, including those considered on the fringe, shouldn't be suppressed, but it was in appropriate to have a session such as Sheldrake's without having a more convincing view.

Other scientists said that, while discussion of the paranormal was acceptable, the panel's lack of balance was "like inviting creationists to address the prestigious meeting without an opposing view from evolutionary biologists." Several members said they would raise the matter with the body's ruling

council.

Dr. Sharon Winn, English professor at Northeastern State University, believes small sampling has become the norm.

"Minute samples seem to be acceptable today," she said. "Many conclusions are reached with samples even smaller than this one [Sheldrake's]."

The problem, according to Winn, is that the general public trusts anything that uses numbers.

"People will believe anything if one provides statistics, even though the statistics are spurious," she said. "I think it was Mark Twain who said there are lies, damned lies and statistics."

Winn has her own scientific measurement for gauging statistical information.

"I don't believe any statistical report until I pass it through my BS meter," she said. "Though I'm very interested in the psychic, I suspect these statistics are really a product of the design of the experiment, though, who knows? Maybe we all really do have telepathy."

Sheldrake's other research work includes studies that claim to show blindfolded people can tell when they are being stared at, and that pets can communicate telepathically with their owners.

Bigfoot lives? Festival in Honobia set in Oct.

By TREVOR DUNBAR
STAFF WRITER

Sasquatch, Yeti, Skunk Ape — the bipedal, ape-like creature is called many names.

In Oklahoma, it's known as Bigfoot.

But residents of small Southeast Oklahoma town feel the monster is cause for celebration, not fear. The Honobia Bigfoot Organization will host the Second Annual Bigfoot Fall Festival on Oct. 6, 7 and 8.

The event is held at the Honobia Community Center, one mile west of the Honobia Store on the Honobia loop, north of Oklahoma Highway 144.

Last year more than 3,500 people attended the event. Event organizer Katie Cogburn said the community is expecting twice as many people this year.

But what's the draw?

"I think it's the unique atmosphere," Cogburn said. "People are intrigued and fascinated with the mystery of Bigfoot. I think they are interested because they are curious and they really want

to know if they exist. A lot of people feel they have evidence corroborating the existence of Bigfoot."

This evidence includes photographs, hair samples and plaster casts of oversized footprints.

Famed Native American storyteller Tim Harjo will be on hand to share stories and Native American lore about the creature. The festival will feature first hand accounts of Bigfoot sightings. Cogburn said the festival wanted to provide a place where the stories could be told without the fear of being laughed at.

"We had a Bigfoot sighting down by my house a while back," Cogburn said. "Lots of people are hesitant to tell their stories because they're laughed at or jeered at."

Cogburn said the man who reported the sighting has since left Honobia.

"The man who reported it moved because of ridicule," Cogburn said. "His wife was scared to stay."

Three years later, the mysterious beast that was once cause for ridicule is now

cause for celebration.

The festival will also include food vendors, inflatable toys, pony rides, games and all kinds of Bigfoot souvenirs. Cogburn said the festival is also a great way to showcase the beauty of Honobia and the Kiamichi Mountains.

"We decided this would be a great theme for the area," Cogburn said. "We have lots of beautiful areas here that are relatively unknown. We thought it would be a great way to promote Honobia and the Kiamichi Mountains."

Cogburn hopes the festival will help open some minds to the possible existence of the beast.

"People who've had an encounter really believe it, so I say anything is possible," Cogburn said. "There's no arguing with people who've had a Bigfoot experience. There's no talking them out of it."

For more information, contact Cogburn at (580) 244-3292.

Contact Trevor Dunbar at tdunbar@mcalesternews.com.

Has the Awful returned to Berkshire & Richford?

By H.P. Albarelli Jr.

In 1925, renowned horror writer H.P. Lovecraft secretly traveled to Richford and Berkshire to investigate a strange phenomenon that was occurring in the two towns. Lovecraft had been visiting friends in southern Vermont when he first learned about odd sightings in Richford.

Locals there were terribly afraid of a beast they had dubbed "the Awful." First spotted atop the Boright building at the corner of Main and River streets early one evening around dusk, the Awful, according to records of old, was a winged creature that resembled "a very large Griffin-like creature with grayish wings that each spanned ten-feet." The crea-

ture possessed "a serpent like tail that equaled its wing length" and "huge claws that could easily grip a milk can's girth."

Three men, workers at a local sawmill, were walking across the Main Street bridge when they spotted the Awful perched on the building's rooftop staring menacingly down at them. One of the men was so petrified he suffered a heart attack on the spot and had to be carried home. For weeks afterward his wife and children woke up in the middle of the night to hear him screaming in his sleep.

Two weeks later the Awful was seen flying about 50-feet above a Berkshire field near Lost Nation road. The creature it was said clutched a small, wailing infant in its gnarled claws, but most likely it was a small animal of some sort, a sheep perhaps. Over the next several weeks,

numerous farmers around Richford and Berkshire reported seeing the Awful flying over their fields. Farm wife Oella Hopkins was hanging wash out to dry in her yard when she looked up to see what her dog was fiercely barking at. Following the dog's nervous glare she saw the Awful perched on her porch roof gazing down at her. Terribly frightened, she ran into her house and hid under her bed, refusing to come out for hours. A year after the Awful was first spotted, sightings dwindled to a few each month. After 3 years, they stopped completely.

When H.P. Lovecraft returned to southern Vermont from Richford he told friends he was convinced that the Richford locals he had interviewed were "not in the least mistaken about what they had witnessed." Lovecraft later wrote, "The Awful

became ample sustenance for my imagination" and "over time the creature became the basis for many of my own fictional inventions." In 1927 Lovecraft wrote, "entering Vermont for the first time there is a sense of mystic revivification." He continued, "Something in the contours, something in the setting, has the power to touch deep viol-strings of feeling which are ancestral if one be young and personal if one be old."

A couple of weeks ago, one of Richford's more solid citizens, a person who does not want to be identified in this article because "people would think I've gone out of my mind," reported seeing "an unbelievable looking winged monster." The "thing swooped down from nowhere and plucked a huge black crow" from the upper branches of a tall pine tree. "I didn't believe my eyes," said this person, "but when the thing circled

my house...well, then there was no denying it."

Was it the Awful? "I remember my grandfather once talking about that thing, but I thought it was just a story, a tall folk yarn," said the person. And now? "What I saw was no yarn. Yarns don't fly and stories don't look like that. What I saw was real. And I hope to high heaven I never see it again."

H.P. Albarelli Jr. is an investigative reporter and writer whose articles have been published in books, magazines, and newspapers across the country, and on the Internet. He has written several television scripts for NBC, ABC, BBC, and A&E. Peredur Publishing, Ltd., London, published his novel, "The Heap," last year. Albarelli lives in Richford and is at work on a non-fiction book entitled "Green Mountain Gothic."

Cattle mutilations resurrect recurring mystery

By KAREN OGDEN
Tribune Enterprise Editor

Valier rancher John Peterson and his wife were recently headed out into the twilight to do some chores when they spotted her.

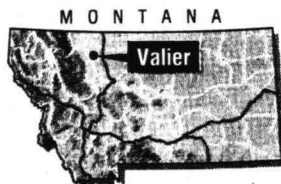
The healthy young cow lay dead in a stubble field, just off the road.

Stopping the truck to

investigate, they found the sickening, telltale signs.

The cow's udder, genitals and rectum were cut out with stunning precision. The left side of her face was carved off, the exposed bones stripped as clean as if they'd been boiled.

Peterson, who discovered a similarly mutilated cow on his neighbor's



ranch five years ago, knew he was the latest victim in one of rural Montana's greatest mysteries.

Since the 1970s Montana ranchers have found dozens of cattle carved up in similar, macabre fashion.

The first known incident was a mutilated steer reported near Sand Coulee in late August 1974. By December 1977, sheriff's deputies had investigated 67 mutilation cases in Cascade, Judith Basin,

Chouteau, Teton and Pondera counties.

In each case, the cuts were made with surgical precision, often in circular shapes.

Similar cases have haunted ranchers in the Southwest since the 1970s, when a 300-page federally funded

report concluded the killings were the work of natural predators.

Peterson, a lifelong rancher, says he knows a predator kill when he sees one. Grizzly bears, wolves and coyotes aren't suspects in this case, he said.

"It's the weirdest thing," he said. "A guy hates to say too much because I don't know how far you can go before they'll put you in the nuthouse."

Others theories besides predators involve pranksters, satanic cults and space aliens.

Whoever, or whatever, is responsible has left precious few clues for Pondera County Sheriff Tom Kuka.

At least not the kind of clues lawmen are used to.

Like the others, Peterson's cow was found with no blood spills or splatters, no footprints and no sign of a struggle.

Nor were there footprints in past cases when the ground was muddy or snow-covered.

"There's no reasonable or rational explanation for this," said

Kuka, who is investigating the case as felony criminal mischief. Peterson's cow was worth up to \$1,200.

"I'm hoping to find anything that would show how did this animal come to get there," he said.

Perhaps the most unsettling hallmark of the mutilations is that hungry predators leave the carcasses untouched.

Peterson discovered the cow Oct. 9 and the birds are just now starting to peck at it.

"We had a cow die a week after this one about a half a mile away and there's nothing left of that other cow," he said.

Those oddities — no blood, no footprints and no predators — were all part of a similar spate of mutilations in the area in 2002, when ranchers reported at least 15 killings.

In one case, a rancher west of Dupuyer found a carcass with the skin peeled off the left side of the face and nose in similar fashion to Peterson's cow. The left eyeball, rectum and genitals were cut out. Part of the left ear was cut off, but the utter was intact.

On a ranch between Fort Shaw

and Cascade, a carcass was missing its left eye, one teat, its genitals and rectum.

But in this latest case at Peterson's ranch, Kuka found an intriguing clue.

A few feet south of the carcass there was an impression in the stubble field, like the cow had lain down there. But there were no footprints or drag marks between the impression and her final resting place.

It was as if the bovine had fallen from the sky — and bounced.

Could she have been pushed from an aircraft?

There are numerous farmhouses in the area, and none reported hearing low-flying aircraft.

Aliens?

Even Peterson, a down-to-earth sort, admits he's pondered extra-terrestrial explanations.

"You never know," he said. "I ain't gonna say they're out there. But I ain't gonna say they're not."

Reach Tribune Enterprise Editor Karen Ogden at kogden@greatfallsgannett.com or at 791-6536 or 800-438-6600.

LAKE COUNTRY REPORTER, Hartland, WI - Nov. 16, 2006

Is Bigfoot stalking Lake Country?

Creature sightings have been reported in two-county area

By KRISTI HAUNFELDER
Staff Writer

Town of Merton — Is Bigfoot stalking Lake Country?

The 8-foot-tall, fur-covered, manlike creature who became famous in the late 1950s with blurry films and huge footprints — 2 feet long — left in the dirt, has been sighted in the Town of Merton.

Two young Merton residents might have seen a large creature near their home near Highway VV a week ago. Was it Bigfoot, Sasquatch or a yeti?

A family did not return a phone call for comment, but according to a story on Today's TMJ4, David Radeztsky and a friend were outside jumping on a trampoline and saw a hairy monster on the corner of the woods.

Last week, Steven Krueger of Menasha, a contractor removing a dead deer from the highway near Holy Hill, reported seeing a large creature resembling a bear with pointy ears pull a freshly loaded carcass from the back of his pickup truck as the startled man drove away. That story was in the West Bend Daily News.

"It's kind of fun to think (Bigfoot) might exist, but in science we don't jump to conclusions until there's evidence," said Marlin Johnson, a semiretired associate professor of biology from the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha.

"I think people are just having fun with the whole thing," Johnson said.

"The only big foot around here is mine," quipped Hartland Police Chief Robert Rosch. He said his foot measures about 15 inches. "But I haven't been stomping around in Merton or Holy Hill lately."

Over the years, Bigfoot has been reported around the world and gained newspaper attention as early as 1920. It often was reported to have been seen in remote forested areas of the United States and Canada, specifically the Pacific Northwest, but also the Rocky Mountains, the northeast United States, southern states and the Great Lakes region.

"The evidence is very anecdotal," Johnson said. "As a scientist, I have to be skeptical. It

doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

"There have been supposed sightings of mountain lions in the Hartland vicinity, but there's a difference; it's a known animal," Johnson said. Bigfoot is not known to science.

Tom Isaac, a wildlife biologist at Pike Lake, said the only large mammals that have been in the area are large dogs, dog-wolf breeds that have gotten away from their owners, wolves occasionally passing through, and once, a few years ago, a bear. The bear had made its way from Northern Wisconsin and was captured in Milwaukee.

"I don't want to offend anyone out there who thinks they saw something, but, to my knowledge, Bigfoot just doesn't exist. It's one of those myths people keep propagating," Isaac said.

"In 17 years, we've never gotten a Bigfoot report," Isaac said.

"We got dozens and dozens of these reports about bears, and one of them was true," Isaac said. "The rest were black labs."

Isaac said that after one report of a sighting of a bear or a wolf gets out, "people get it into their heads," and sometimes the mind plays tricks, resulting in mistaken reports.

"It could be a big setup, but that's probably not what happened," Isaac said. Someone probably saw something.

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department can't make the same claim, according to Detective Steve Pedersen, the Sheriff's Department's public

information officer.

Pedersen said occasionally sightings of Bigfoot are reported to the department on New Year's Eve or when there's a big Packers Super Bowl party.

"Most of the time, it's someone who has been partaking of a party festivity a little too much," Pedersen said.

With the recent attention, radio and other media have been discussing Bigfoot, Pedersen said.

"Someone on the radio was saying it could be a bear-wolf," Pedersen said. On the same principle as a jackalope, a bear-wolf has the body of a bear and the head of a wolf.

Pedersen said that in his 22 years in law enforcement, this is the first sighting of Bigfoot in Waukesha County that he's heard of. "I'm not doubting what they say or their perception, but this is the first sighting we've had in our area," he said.

And, as long as Bigfoot behaves, apparently it can stay. "It's not a law enforcement issue," Pedersen said.

If the Hartland police ever got a call of a Bigfoot sighting, "I guess we would have to investigate to determine the threat of it," Rosch said. "If there was a threat, someone would have to neutralize it."

If nothing else, an investigation could discover "something left behind to support the sighting of something unusual," such as a footprint, Rosch said. "We could make a casting to document it."

What's so bad about big feet?

If it weren't for the fact that I have so much scheduled next weekend, I would probably be heading to whichever direction Clayton is located.

The towns of Clayton and Honobia have scheduled a Big Foot Fall Festival for Oct. 6-8.



Chrissie
ISENBERG

Since Big Foot was reportedly sighted in Caney during the summer, and near Antlers in the months preceding that, it seems only

right that he would migrate to Honobia.

(Maybe Bryan County is his summer home, and he winters in the east?

Studying his migratory patterns might prove interesting. It was just a thought passing through my head.)

It doesn't seem right that he would schedule his visit, as he has tried to remain elusive for so much of his life. But surely he has agreed to make an appearance, as he is supposed to be the guest of honor.

And the flier the towns are putting out says that pictures will be taken with Big Foot, which almost certainly means he will be there.

My kids have taken their pictures with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. I've had my picture taken with the Chick-Fil-A cow. I suppose our next step is Big Foot.

Maybe this is a coming out party.

Like a debutante at the ball, Big Foot didn't want to be in the lime light until it was his time.

Of course, as long as legend of Big Foot have been around, I would say he has passed sweet sixteen, but maybe like dogs, Big Foots (Big Feets??) age differently.

Maybe he is coming out because he, like Elvis, is tired of seeing himself on the cover of national magazines with the caption "Spotted" slashed across the front.

Maybe he believes making his presence known will erase not only all doubt about his existence, but also any reason for people to hunt him. Hunting for the elusive has to lose its thrill when the hunt has become elusive, or whatever the opposite of elusive is.

But I really think maybe those two towns are trying to capitalize on what is more of a "really southeastern" phenomena.

A little bit of research would show that Big Foot has been sighted all up and down the Red River, traveling where the fish are in abundance and all that.

As a matter of fact, the vast majority of sighting stories I have heard started

with "I was driving in my pickup, when I noticed a big, hairy thing running across the road. I didn't get a good view of it, but it was carrying a fish."

I would think there would be fish at the festival, but there is not mention of it on

the flier.

Whatever his reasons for showing up at the festival, it sure provides reason for us to go, too, doesn't it?

Anyway, attending a Big Foot Festival would be something to talk about, I am sure.

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Bolinas woodworker summons the sea serpent

By Sam Spiewak

Tom D'Onofrio, a Methodist minister and woodcarver, saw the 40-foot sea serpent off the coast of Bolinas on the afternoon of Aug. 30, 1976. Glassy swells rolled onto the beach. He sat atop a white horse.

D'Onofrio was struggling to finish a rosewood table commissioned by Grace Slick of Jefferson Airplane. It was supposed to feature some sort of mythical creature.

"I had all this pressure of working with a precious material and I wasn't getting it right," he said. "That morning a voice came to me and said go to the beach. I started arguing with the voice. I said, 'I can't go. I've got to get this thing done!' But my horse whinnied. I got on and rode straight to the beach. I didn't have to lead him. My friend Dick Borgstrom was camping out there. I told him, 'I can't get this design and it's driving me nuts. I got rent to pay this month. I'm running the Bolinas Craft Guild. I'm coming apart.' Dick said, 'Sit and talk about it.' I said, 'I can't, I'm just too nervous.' At that point something moved in the ocean."

D'Onofrio goes on. "We looked. Something came up. My God, what is this thing? The overwhelming sense of awe that was inspired in me just threw me out of my body and dissolved my resistance to anything."

He said he saw a dark creature that swam through the surf, as if it were playing. It was so big that it seemed to push the ocean back as it broke through the waves, displacing the water around it. D'Onofrio and Borgstrom looked at each other in amazement. D'Onofrio returned to his woodworking studio, shut himself up for four days, and finished the table. When he related the experience later, he was met with skepticism and a what-draws-were-you-on attitude.

Then, on a Monday afternoon in 1983, six members of a work crew repairing Highway 1 claimed to spot a "humpy flat-backed thing" gamboling in the waves off Stinson Beach. Steve Bjora, a truck driver claimed the serpent was plowing through the water at high speeds. "It was hard to describe how big it was," said one of the crew. "I have no creative imagination. It was a snake-like thing that arched itself up and was so long it made humps above the water." When the news was released, TV crews and newspapermen swarmed over the hill to Stinson Beach.

Other Bolinas residents made similar claims. D'Onofrio said he has seen it three times. The legend grew.

30-year-anniversary of serpent sighting
Wednesday was the 30-year anniversary of the alleged sighting, D'Onofrio decided

to return to the beach. He would hold a celebration to summon it. His friends would dance in Native American-inspired garb. His favorite local news anchor, that square-jawed pillar of journalism Pete Wilson, was coming to cover the event for channel 7.

For the last four years, D'Onofrio has been carving a wooden prow in the shape of the sea serpent. On the night before the celebration, he loaded the 70-pound prow into his truck and drove it to the harbor, where a friend mounted it on the bowsprit of the Sunyata. The Light was invited to attend the ceremony on the beach.

The photographer and I arrived under the burning sun of noon. A woman in a straw-hat sang to herself by the tide pools. She pointed far up the beach. "It's around that point," she said. "The tide is high so I don't know how safe it is to walk."

We walked for what seemed miles. Sweating, I shed my jacket and sweater. I felt like a character in a French existentialist novel, doomed to wander forever under the blazing sun, pointlessly. It was an inhuman, surreal beach, empty of life and filled with weirdly sculpted rocks. On our right were eroded, rust-colored cliffs. A reef of black rock looked like a sea serpent, if I had been in the right frame of mind. The beach was littered with shells, rotted beds of seaweed, bleached white trees like enormous dinosaur bones, and the decaying corpses of birds, seals, and prehistoric-looking fish buzzing with clouds of flies.

At the bluff, the tide forced us to scale the crumbling cliff. Far out on the ocean, a sailboat appeared. The ship drew closer.

We rounded a bluff. D'Onofrio was posed in front of a phalanx of television cameras mounted on tripods. He gazed out on the ocean regally. He is a husky man, with a handsome, flat face, and gray hair that spills over his collar. The ship came towards the shore, the prow dipping down into the water and rising up into the air.

There were twenty-two people clustered on the beach and an equal number of cameras — handheld video cameras, television cameras, and film and digital cameras. A man dressed in a puma pelt smoked a joint and beat on a skin drum while the cameramen filmed him. There was a tall white horse. A couple of cameramen ate their sandwiches on a piece of driftwood. "You don't see this in Louisville," one said. The sea serpent and Pete Wilson had yet to appear.

"I saw the sea serpent in 1983," said Trisna Horvath, 39, of Bolinas as she sat cross-legged on the beach. "It was like a UFO of the sea. It was quite big, powerful, not a boat, and it seemed dark."

"For pretty much all my life I heard about the sea serpent," said Leodril Brady, 23. Brady was born in Bolinas and was blessed by D'Onofrio as a baby in a sun ceremony. "Anything I can do to be part of the legend, I'll do. I'm hoping it will show up today."

D'Onofrio's two daughters, Colby, 9, and Ciarra, 13, also hoped the serpent would show up. "Dad knows about a lot of amazing stuff," said the tallest of the pair.

The ship arrives in Bolinas

D'Onofrio wore a cell phone on his belt, and gave instructions to the captain of the boat through a handheld walkie-talkie. "Okay, turn the boat around now so they can photograph the other side. Copy? Eleven minutes till production time," he said, and disappeared down the beach to don a feathered headdress.

Marcus Daniels, a tanned and shirtless man, brought his kayak to the ceremony. He paddled out towards the ship, struggled in the waves, and then paddled back to the beach. "Sometimes you don't know why you're doing things, you just do them," he explained later. "Tom asked me to do this.

He was calling out for inspiration and he received it. If he says he saw it, he saw it."

D'Onofrio reappeared and walked toward the cameras wearing a velvet robe embroidered with Chinese dragons and a bird headdress made of white fur, feathers, and abalone shell. He improvised on a saxophone. On the ship, a man sat on the stern and blew trumpet notes in response.

"Okay sports fans, time for take two," said D'Onofrio. Facing the sea, the men in Native American garb beat skin drums, a Chinese gong, an acoustic guitar, and a conga.

"Just make it look good, that's all," said a cameraman. D'Onofrio blew bursts of saxophone squall toward the ship and the men danced. By 1:30 the crowd began to thin. D'Onofrio was going home to look at some footage of the event. It is his birthday in a few days. We started our long walk back on the desolate beach.



Bolinas master craftsman Tom D'Onofrio in front of a carving representing the sea serpent he claims to have seen in 1976. (Light photo by Meghan Gilliss)



Above left: The sea serpent carved by Tom D'Onofrio was mounted on the prow of a ship, which sailed to the spot where he claimed to have spotted the creature. Above right: D'Onofrio wore a velvet robe embroidered with Chinese dragons and a bird headdress made of white fur, feathers, and abalone shell. (Light photos by Meghan Gilliss)