

# UFO

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TRI-VALLEY HERALD, Pleasanton, CA - Sept. 3, 2006

# Organizations seek to verify UFO reports

■ Some scientists and ufologists are convinced that alien life visits earth

By Cheryl Winkelman

STAFF WRITER STAFF WRITER

We are not alone in the universe if the numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects are to be believed.

Residents of planet Earth recounted seeing 105 UFOs to the National UFO Reporting Center in only the first 16

days of July, and many were in California.

A Los Angelian saw a craft made up of two circles — one with several spinning orbs — floating straight up into the sky.

Someone in Pittsburg titled his claim "Holy Motherlode of a Mother Ship" and wrote about viewing smaller ships entering and leaving a big vessel the size of five football fields.

Both accounts are likely to be be-

lieved not just by ufologists, who've spent years investigating those unexplained floaters in the sky, but by astronomers as well. Though the two groups may not agree on much, both have come to the conclusion that we are probably not the only beings in the cosmos.

Many recent UFO sightings have been reported from the Central Valley in Lodi, Stockton and Tracy, said Chuck Reeve, the director of investigations for Mutual UFO Network, an in-

ternational organization trying to resolve the enigma of UFOs that includes actor Dan Akroyd as a lifetime member.

Once a sighting is reported, MUFON, as it is commonly called, may conduct a telephone or face-to-face interview, Reeve said.

Photographs and other anecdotal evidence is then collected, including the size of the object, when it was seen and its possible distance from the viewer.

Any physical evidence, such as pieces of material that cannot be identified as man-made, may be turned over to researchers. About 300 scientists donate their time to the all-volunteer organization, said International Director Jack Schuessler, who himself was an engineer with NASA's Johnson Space Center for 25 years.

While about 1,200 cases are investigated annually, only about 10 to 20 percent remain unexplainable. Calls to, for example, the weather bureau to determine if balloons were launched or the military rule out some cases automatically.

MUFON, founded in 1969, is now taking 37 years of paper reports and turning them into electronic files so patterns and commonalities in sightings can be noted, much like any intelligence agency works, Schuessler added.

The group has concluded extraterrestrial life is in fact out there, landing on the Earth, but people shouldn't be too worried.

"I don't think it's frightening. It's hopeful," Schuessler said.

Man could, for example, learn about the advanced propulsion technique used by many of the UFOs.

Members of the science community are equally as optimistic. Jack Welch, professor in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence at the University of California, Berkeley, said finding something somewhere is a chance to view our future.

Maybe they've figured out how to live with one another and how to survive their leaders, he said.

The problem is that, to date, no life has been found outside Earth, though its existence seems almost certain, he said.

One reason is that about 200 planets in the Milky Way Galaxy were discovered around stars about 10 years ago.

Scientists are looking — and hoping — for real, credible, physical evidence, and only one very controversial piece exists, said Seth Shostak, senior astronomer with the SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial

Intelligence).

The discovery, made 10 years ago, was a meteorite containing reportedly fossilized, one-cell Martians, but many scientists still view that skeptically.

Shostak is just as hopeful as the ufologists. SETI, the premier research institute for astrobiology, is in the process of building the Allen Telescope Array that will contain, when completed, 350 antennas each 20 feet in diameter. They will check for, among other things, radio signals from other beings.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - Dec. 20, 2006

### OTHER DAYS

50 years ago  
Dec. 20, 1956

■ A 21-year-old Clarksville woman reported seeing a small lighted object the shape of a doughnut in the sky over Clarksville early yesterday. Miss Irene Rosemeir described it as being about four feet in diameter and made of shining metal. It apparently had a motor, she said. Last week, also on a Wednesday, a bright, spotted object was reported over Fordyce.

# UFO chatter fills conference

300 huddle to share views on paranormal

By LAWRENCE MOWER

REVIEW-JOURNAL

Ken Jenkins could be anybody's dad or grandfather.

The 77-year-old retired Navy man and Las Vegas is enjoying his retirement and traveling with his wife.

One reason he likes retirement is that he now has more time to learn about UFOs.

That includes attending events such as the 4th Annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference, which took place at the Tuscany, on Flamingo Road near Koval Lane, over the weekend.

"This (type of conference) is the only place you can go to get information on the paranormal," Jenkins said Sunday.

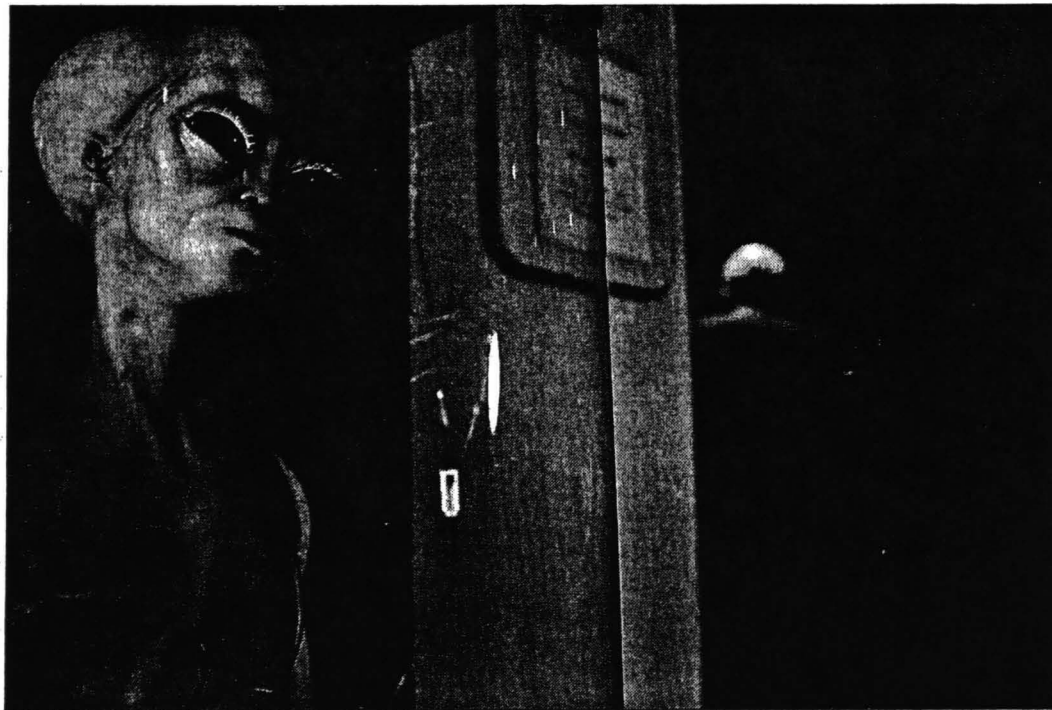
The three-day conference, which ended Sunday, attracted about 300 people from across the United States and featured some experts on the topic, according to Ryan S. Wood, the chairman of the conference who is among those who say they long have studied the issue of UFO crashes.

But for Jenkins, who has attended similar conferences in Laughlin and California, such gatherings are a way to hear about research being done that is largely ignored by the mainstream media.

"People who should be recognizing this and investigating it are laughing it off," Jenkins said.

"It's a shame," his wife, Maxine, added, "because it's one of the best-kept secrets of the government, and people deserve to know about it."

Although UFO sightings and reports frequently made headlines in the late 1940s through the 1950s, the topic largely has been pushed to the fringes of society and remains relegated to cable television specials and



JANE KALINOWSKY/REVIEW-JOURNAL

An alien display greets attendees Sunday at the 4th Annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference at the Tuscany, 355 E. Flamingo Road.

science fiction gatherings.

This is a stereotype that KLAS-TV reporter George Knapp, the conference's keynote speaker, said he has been stuck with.

"No matter where I go or what I'm doing, I'm the UFO reporter," Knapp told the audience Saturday night.

Knapp, who also writes a column for Las Vegas CityLife, a Stephens Media publication, has spent much of his career reporting on the paranormal and the goings-on at Area 51, 90 miles north of Las Vegas.

"I think the assumption for far too long among mainstream media, my colleagues, is that anyone who's interested in UFOs is a crackpot, a whacko, someone in desperate need of some kind of psychiatric attention," Knapp said.

"And, unfortunately, a lot of times, they're right," he added.

Since interest in UFOs ex-

ploded onto the scene 60 years ago, Knapp said, the only consensus among people interested in the topic is that there is "an elusive, unknown intelligence that's within our midst that's occasionally interacting with our lives."

Knapp added: "But there are no answers to the big questions: Who are they? Why are they here? Where are they from?"

There is no lack of evidence of the existence of UFOs, Knapp said, but the lack of consensus only adds to the stereotype that the topic is not legitimate.

"We've accumulated a vast amount of evidence, information, photos, videos, eyewitness accounts, government documents, physical traces from landing sites or encounters — a lot of this solid, verifiable proof of something. But of what?" Knapp said.

Former television reporter

and producer Linda Moulton Howe, who now runs the UFO Web site earthfiles.com, told the audience Sunday that the topic doesn't get enough mainstream coverage.

"Much of this should be on the nightly news, '60 Minutes,' (in) The New York Times," Howe said.

Richard Dolan, who has researched UFO sightings for 12 years and has appeared on numerous television documentaries about UFOs, said believers and skeptics alike should take a step back and look at the evidence for UFOs from a scientific standpoint.

"There are enough (unexplained phenomena) to make you really scratch your head," Dolan said.

He said the field has made some progress in understanding the phenomena.

"Just because there isn't the ultimate answer doesn't mean there aren't any answers."

## The week flying saucers came to the Inland Valley

Think the Inland Valley is the last place a flying saucer would visit?

Then consider the July 6, 1947, experience of the R.V. Allen family of Riverside Drive in Ontario:

"The rancher said that while he and Mrs. Allen and their daughter Dolores were seated in their motor car about 9:30 p.m., they saw a whole 'school' of the strange discs overhead from south to north and insisted that they 'played about in the air just as perch do in the water,'" wrote the Ontario Daily Report the next day.

Not convinced?

How about B.A. Runner who saw — and heard — some strange things that same night on West California Street?



JOE BLACKSTOCK  
Our Past

"Runner reported that several of the discs sailed over his house about 8 p.m., circled about and returned, one of them flying so low that the sound of an attached motor could be distinctly heard," wrote the newspaper.

And this was the day BEFORE the startling announcement in Roswell, N.M., of the recovery of a "flying disc" by the Army. That disclosure (which was quickly refuted by military

officials) has helped spawn decades of UFO sightings, invaders-from-Mars movies and conspiracy theorists.

Whether you believe in UFOs or not, it was obvious people locally — fueled by fear or wonder or too many stimulants — saw something up there.

On July 8, a "spinning platter" was said to have crashed into an almond grove near Lancaster. Redlands truck driver H.J. Stell reported "silvery eggs in a straight line" flew over March Field near Riverside.

Jerry McAdams saw a disc as "big as a house" in Beverly Hills: "It seemed to give off a low whistle as it disappeared."

On the morning of July 10, Pomona residents on West

10th Street told the Pomona Progress-Bulletin they saw three tumbling objects in the air, each sparkling as the sun reflected off them.

Now, not everyone was impressed by all this flying saucer talk — the Progress-Bulletin reported on July 8 that an irreverent skywriter drew two giant circles in the sky and spelled out the word, "Saucers," to mock the frenzy.

All this uproar wasn't easy for newspapers to keep straight.

According to a front page wire service story in the July 7 Daily Report, a plane shot down a flying saucer over Montana and the story quoted both the pilot and his camera-

(continued on page 3)



man. But on the next page of the same edition was a last-minute bulletin saying it was a hoax — the story grew from the pilot and his friends sitting around telling tales.

On July 8, a reward of \$1,000 was offered for anyone who could capture one of these flying things — an offer that only made things more crazy:

■ San Francisco designer Frank Borel produced a new women's hat drawn, he said, from a flying saucer he claimed he saw in a nightmare.

■ Newspapers and radio

stations were swamped by callers, though Kansas officials bragged that none of its residents saw UFOs because as a "dry" state it barred alcohol consumption.

■ A North Hollywood man planned to ask for the \$1,000 prize after a 30-inch disc conveniently landed in his garden. It contained a radio tube and two exhaust pipes and spewed out a lot of smoke.

In the interest of serious science, though, I must report that a flying saucer was indeed captured in the Inland Valley that week.

Pomona police about 10 p.m. on July 8 caught two young men atop a building

under construction at 2nd Avenue and Gibbs Street. Two others were nabbed in the street below.

They had made a 20-pound saucer fabricated from two plow blades on which they had attached some batteries and wires to add to its look. They had planned to set the saucer afire and hurl it into the intersection below, hoping to panic the good folks of Pomona.

The four — in their early 20s from Pomona, San Dimas and Covina — even stenciled "SBAAB" and "XP85" on the

saucer to imply it was some kind of strange experimental craft gotten loose from the San Bernardino Army Air Base (Nevada's Area 51 was still something far in the future for that sort of thing).

They were questioned and then later released, perhaps because that kind of out-of-this-world crime was something for which no law had yet been created.

Joe Blackstock writes on Inland Valley history every other Saturday. He can be reached by e-mail at [j\\_blackstock@dailbulletin.com](mailto:j_blackstock@dailbulletin.com), or by phone at (909) 483-9382.

WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT, Show Low, AZ - Dec. 8, 2006

## WME to host world premiere of UFO documentary

SHOW LOW — The WME Show Low Theatre will host the world premiere of "Fastwalkers," a feature-length documentary examining the "hidden" world of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.

Show Low resident Robert D. Miles, a television and motion picture writer, produced the film. Robert's son, Anthony Miles, directed the film. Anthony grew up in the White Mountains and graduated from Snowflake High School. He is now a television and film producer in Phoenix.

"Fastwalkers" is the code word used by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to classify UFOs. According to producers, the film "reveals the truth about UFOs and extraterrestrials that has been suppressed and hidden for centuries." The documentary "discloses information 'you were never meant to know.'"

Robert Miles said several questions are asked in the film: Are UFOs real? Do extraterrestrials exist? If so, how have they influenced humankind? Is there a cover-up?

"Fastwalkers" features UFO photos and footage gathered from around the world. It was shot in the style of an "intelligence briefing" and uses actual interviews provided by respected individuals in a variety of fields of expertise. Viewers will hear first-hand accounts of individuals who have been contacted or abducted.

Some of the subjects interviewed in the film will attend the premiere. Miles said some of the individuals might have been labeled "kooks" before, but their goal was "to give these people a vehicle to present their facts and information and let the people decide. It's disclosure."

Miles said Show Low was chosen for the big event because of its high definition theater. "It's not a horror movie. It was designed for people who want an intelligent approach," Miles said. "It's a film of hope. It's not your typical Hollywood UFO movie."

It's not an "American" film, he added. "It's a world film." Participants span the globe, from Austria, Germany and England to Brazil, Mexico and Canada.

Miles is an author, screenwriter, producer, director and cameraman

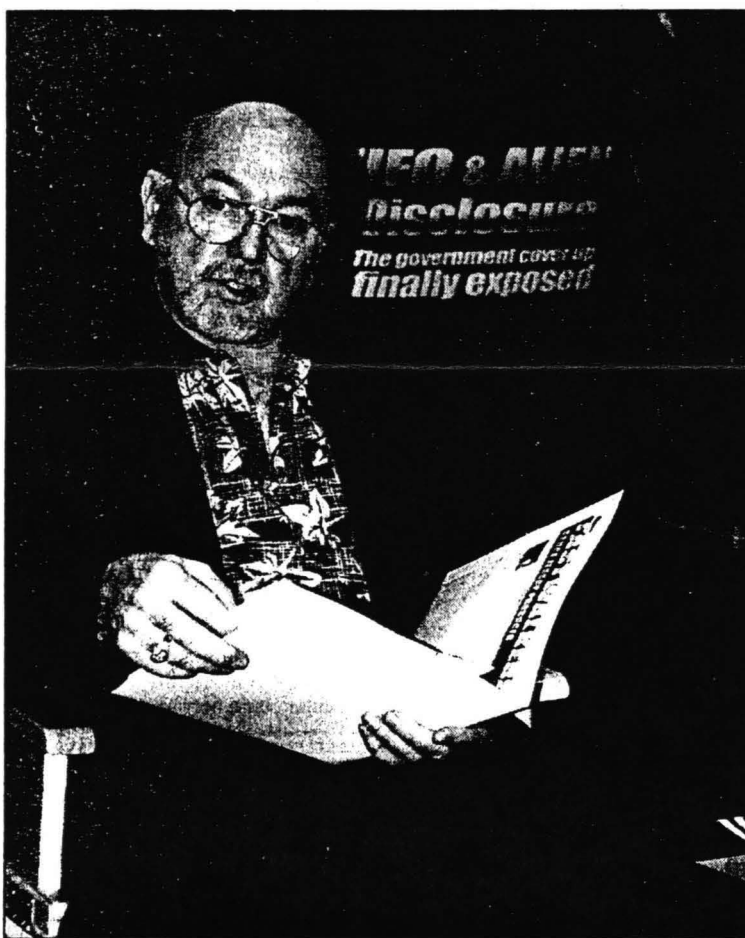


Photo by Kathryn Sky

Fastwalkers' producer Robert D. Miles presents the feature-length documentary on UFOs and extraterrestrials at a press conference Monday.

with 35 years experience. He has produced numerous films for television, full-length documentary features and hundreds of television commercials, many of which he wrote and directed. He has sold products to HBO, Showtime, On Television and the Z

Channel.

Miles also owned an advertising agency in California and Arizona for 21 years. An avid adventurer, Miles designed and built four sailing vessels and sailed to Hawaii, Baja Mexico and Honduras.

Miles also has his own "UFO experience." After sailing down the Oregon-California coast in the spring of 1968, Miles and his partner headed to Hawaii.

Docked in Honolulu, "early one morning just a couple of minutes after 5 a.m., I looked out the open skylight from my bunk at the beautiful early morning sky," Miles said. "My mind was filled with the events of the coming day. My partner and I had just sold the boat, and the new owner would take possession within a few hours.

"Suddenly, I experienced a dazzling array of shimmering light followed by an intense tingling of energy which filled the entire stateroom and engulfed me."

He said a "woman" materialized next to his bed. "Myself and others like me are friends, and we want you to come to a very important briefing," she told him.

After agreeing to go with her, Miles said, he was teleported to New York City, then boarded a saucer-like spacecraft and transported to an extraterrestrial location. Miles and about 50 other guests were given a "dramatic and vivid view of humankind's potential destiny."

Miles recorded much of his experience in the science fiction novel "SafeSpace," published in 2003. "Some of that story is fact, and some of it is fiction," he said. The novel received the Editor's Choice award from Universe Press in 2003.

Admission to the premiere is \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and \$5 for children.

The DVD will be available for purchase after the premiere. For more information on the film visit [www.fastwalkers.com](http://www.fastwalkers.com) and [www.safe-spaceproject.com](http://www.safe-spaceproject.com).

WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT, Show Low, AZ - Dec. 12, 2006

### UFO documentary held over for two more days

The WME Show Low Theatre, which will host the sold-out world premiere of "Fastwalkers" tomorrow, will extend the film's run two more days. The feature-length documentary examining the "hidden" world of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), will run Friday, Dec. 15, through Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Show Low resident Robert D. Miles, a television and motion picture writer, produced the film. Robert's son, Anthony Miles, directed the film. Anthony grew up in the White Mountains and graduated from Snowflake High School. He is now a television and film producer in Texas.

"Fastwalkers" is the code word used by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to classify UFOs. According to producers, the film "reveals the truth about UFOs and

extraterrestrials that has been suppressed and hidden for centuries." The documentary "discloses information you were never meant to know."

For more information visit [www.fastwalkers.com](http://www.fastwalkers.com) and [www.safe-spaceproject.com](http://www.safe-spaceproject.com).

# UFOs and other mysteries of the Kickapoo #17

## UFO sightings

By JOHN H. SIME

### A woman from Viroqua

We were at the house of a relative on a ridge near Viola. We were sitting on the deck just after sundown. It was in July of this year.

Off to the east was a large circular bright light almost as big as the moon. It was about the color of a star. It was not really high up in the sky, although it was higher than the tops of the trees. It appeared and disappeared.

That night, about half an hour later, again in the east, at about the same place, there appeared another light. This one was smaller, but it was still bigger than a star. It moved from north to south. Then it stopped where the other, earlier light had appeared. Then this light went straight up in the air and disappeared. Five of us saw this.

### A man from Viola

I was going down STH 56 and turned onto CTH G. Just there in the valley was this thing hovering in the valley. It had wings and an oblong-underneath was a basket-type thing. There were two bright lights on the wing thing. Two of us saw it. It went up the valley, heading to the east and sort of disappeared. We took CTH G to the top of the hill and again we saw it in the sky. We watched it go off into the northern sky. It never got very high.

### A non-UFO related mystery... a woman from Viroqua

Friends of mine were traveling down USH 27 near Rising Sun. Just as they passed the cemetery of the church, a strange animal came running out of the woods. It looked like a combination of a bear and a cow. It crossed the cemetery and jumped over the fence and went out into the road in front of their car. It jumped and then landed in the ditch below the road. When they looked for it it had completely vanished.

### Another cow-like mystery

Viroqua author Jay Rath, in *The W-Files*, tells a UFO story involving a cow like creature:

"At about 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 2, 1974, near Frederic in Polk County, William Bosak, a 69-year-old dairy farmer, was driving home when he saw a disc-shaped craft beside the road. 'I can remember it just as if it were yesterday,' Bosak told me.

"The lower half of the craft was shrouded in mist. It had a curved glass window, and inside the brightly lit compartment Bosak saw a creature covered with dark tan fur, except for its face and chin.

"He was looking out the window, and it was a different kind of character than you'd see on this earth," he said. "It looked a good deal like a man but it had a different-looking face than you'd see. It had a kind of cow-looking face."

Asked to elaborate, Bosak explained that the face had hair on its sides. The ears stuck out from the head about three inches, and the eyes were large and protruding.

"The creature held its arms above its head, and its expression led Bosak to believe that it was 'just as scared as I was'. After about 10 seconds Bosak quickly drove away, and as he did so his car lights dimmed, the engine sounded as if it were missing and he heard a soft 'whooshing' noise.

"The next day Bosak returned to the area and found a round spot, 6 feet in diameter pressed down into the hay-field." (pgs. 14-15)

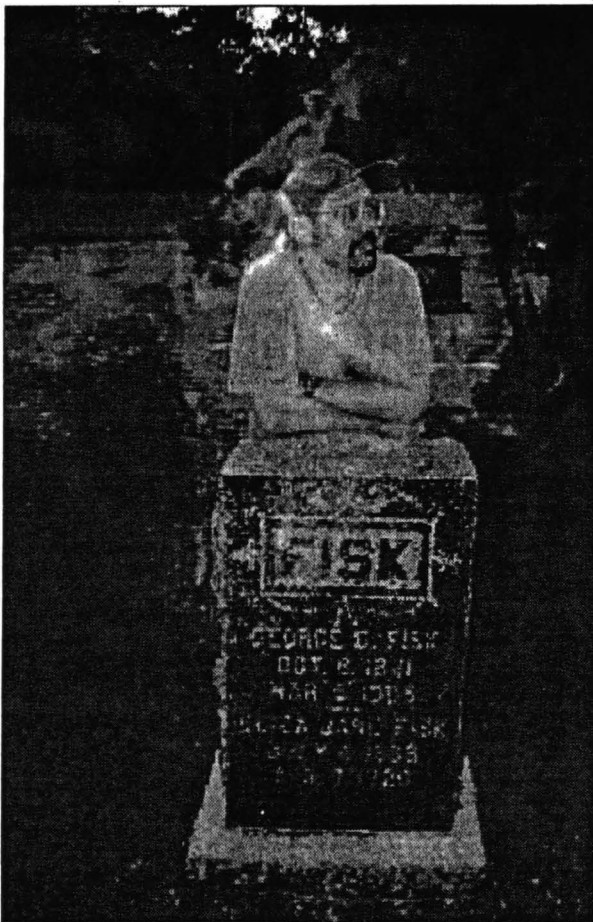


Photo of Terry Fisk, associate of Chad Lewis, taken at the Polk County Cemetery next to the grave of a relative. The swirling mist was not visible at the time the photo was taken. (Contributed photo)

### A ghost hunter visits the Kickapoo Valley

Chad Lewis appeared recently at the Soldiers Grove Public Library. He has a masters degree in applied psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He is the host, along with Terry Fisk, of a radio show called *The Unexplained on WHYS 96.3 FM* community radio in Eau Claire, Wis. They are also the authors of *The Wisconsin Road Guide to Haunted Locations*.

Many of the photos and stories used by Lewis in his presentation come from this book.

Much like the crew of T.A.P.S. (The Atlantic Paranormal Society) as depicted on the Sci Fi Channel's *Most Haunted*, Lewis, Fisk, and their associates incorporate camera, tape recorders, and various special instruments to scientifically analyze alleged haunted locations. They also research the folklore and legends surrounding such places and shine the spotlight of facts upon the scene. The result sometimes is the debunking of a legend.

The legend of Kate Blood who is buried in Riverside Cemetery is such a story. Each chapter of the book opens with the mythology of each tale:

"Ghost Lore--

"Kate Blood murdered her husband and three children and then took her own life. The gravestones of her husband and three kids are located in a small remote region of the graveyard cut off from the rest of the cemetery to hide her gruesome crime. If you visit Kate's gravestone at midnight on a full moon night, you will see a substance that looks like blood oozing out of the top, right corner of her stone; however, this liquid is dry to the touch." (pgs. 92-93)

However, Lewis and Fisk, using a minimum of research, readily discovered that Kate Blood could not have murdered her husband, as she died years before him. Moreover, Kate Blood never had any children with

him. Her husband, in fact, went on to have children by a second wife, with whom he is buried a short distance away. There are three small stones in front of her grave, but they actually commemorate Kate, George her husband and his second wife- not three murdered children.

Some tales might be hazy in a few details but witnesses still report genuine ghostly events. That is the case with the Walker House hotel in Mineral Point. The legend is that the haunting of this pioneer era establishment dates from the hanging of William Caffee for murder. A crowd of 5,000 people watched this first public hanging held in Wisconsin Territory in front of the hotel. Caffee reportedly was brought to the gallows on a wagon carrying his own coffin. He banged out the beat of the funeral march with a pair of beer bottles as he sat astride the coffin. Since that time, the Walker House was the scene of strange noises, apparitions, voices, and even ghostly pranks.

The research done by Lewis and Fisk found that it was unlikely that the hotel existed at the time of the hanging. In fact Jack Holzhueter of the State Historical Society, in his article "Then and Now" stated that the land had not even been purchased from the government until 1845.

Nevertheless, the stories of the ghostly events endure in the hotel.

Such stories also exist about the Bodega Brew Pub in LaCrosse. Employees at that establishment have reported a ghostly figure walking through the bar, bricks moved around by invisible hands, and the sounds of high heels heard clicking in the empty basement.

The London Grill in Genoa is said to be haunted by a former owner who persistently changes the TV channel to CNN as well as turn on the TV, lights, grill, and coffeemaker in the middle of the night after closing time.



Weyauwega UFO Feb. 2003/, UFO Wisconsin. (Contributed photo)

### A Readstown ghost story

A woman who once lived in Readstown reports a ghostly encounter she had in her parents home in the 1970s.

She got up in the middle of the night to get a drink of water. As she walked into the kitchen she encountered a young man standing in front of the refrigerator. He was in his early teens, somewhat older than she was.

He was dressed in a black suit, as if for a funeral or wedding. He wore fancy shoes and a nice shirt. He stared at her and she stared back. He seemed to exude a pleasant and friendly mood. She was not at all scared by him. Nevertheless, she ran immediately to her parents bedroom and brought her father. They looked all through the house and found no boy and no indication that the house had been broken into.

HERALD COURIER, Bristol, VA - Dec. 18, 2006



EARL WEIKIRK/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Kim Shaffer calls up an image he's saved on a laptop computer that shows an object over Bays Mountain in Kingsport.

## Bristolian seeks to identify flying objects

BY KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**BRISTOL, Tenn.**— One August evening in 2003, Kim Shaffer saw something that piqued his curiosity.

"Through the tree branches, it was a copper-colored round disk," he said. "It had no features. It was perfect."

Shaffer and his family spent 15 minutes videotaping the craft. It amazed them, he said. Ever since that day, Shaffer, 50, has devoted most of his free time to researching

Unidentified Flying Objects.

He doesn't necessarily believe the UFOs are alien space crafts, but doesn't know what they are, Shaffer says.

"I don't believe in little gray men or little green men, but I have seen things I can't explain," he said. "And I got videos of it."

Shaffer started his research by joining the Mutual UFO Network, a

national nonprofit research organization based in Bellevue, Colo.

In May 2004, Shaffer became the East Tennessee state director. In that role, he has collected hundreds, maybe even thousands, of possible UFO pictures and videos from Tennessee residents.

"Wouldn't we all like to know what those things are?" the Bristol native said. "It just does some-

(continued on page 5)



thing to you when you've seen one."

One of Shaffer's strangest stories is of Sidney Daugherty.

The 43-year-old Kingsport resident said a silverish, triangle-shaped object flew over him in October 2004.

*"I don't believe in little gray men or little green men, but I have seen things I can't explain. And I got videos of it."*

Kim Shaffer

It roared loudly and made him retreat. He tried to videotape it, but his body started radiating.

"And I felt that all through me," Daugherty said. "I felt like I was hot and cold at the same time, and my hair stood up on me."

Shaffer begged Daugherty to go to the hospital because the Kingsport man had severe burns on his shoulders, and his hair started falling out, Shaffer said.

"My hair was falling out," Daugherty confirmed. "When I got up that Sunday, I remember seeing a handful of hair on my pillow."

Since that sighting, Daugherty said he sees UFOs all the time. His last sighting was little more than a week ago, he said. Not only is he seeing more UFOs, he says they're affecting his health.

"My health is going downhill bad," he said.

Every time Daugherty sees something, he notifies Shaffer, who said he realizes people think he's crazy for talking about UFOs. People have even asked if he's been abducted or probed.

He has not.

"Most people say, 'Well,

why haven't I seen a UFO?'" Shaffer said. "And I say, 'If you look up long enough, you're gonna see something you can't explain.'"

Shaffer left MUFON in January and decided to start his own group - the Appalachian UFO Research Center.

AUFORC consists of 20 members who, like Shaffer, solicit footage and reports from Tennessee residents about UFOs. The organization posts most of its reports on its Web site, [www.auforc.com](http://www.auforc.com)

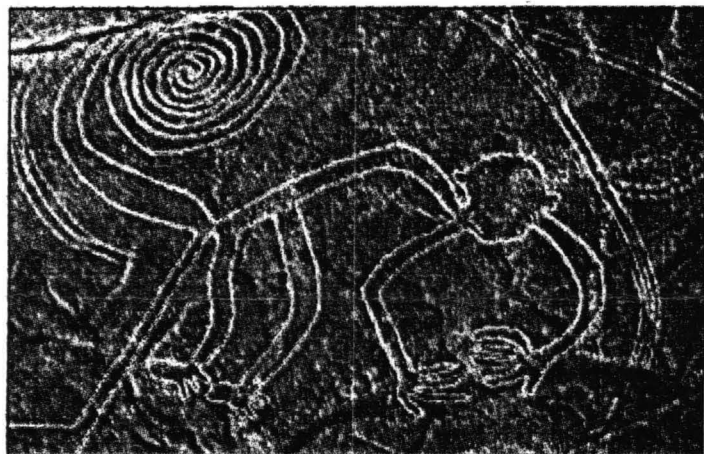
Shaffer has bought three video cameras and three digital cameras to capture UFOs.

He doesn't want to be caught off guard like in 2003.

"I'm doing this as a hobby because, frankly, I'd like to know what they are," he said.

[kbrooks@bristolnews.com](mailto:kbrooks@bristolnews.com) | (276) 645-2549

## Manatee UFO enthusiasts want to believe



COURTESY / 'ARRIVAL OF THE GODS' — REVEALING THE ALIEN LANDING SITES OF NAZCA'

Writer Erich Von Daniken says that the huge drawings of animals and abstract shapes in the desert in Nazca, Peru, could indicate the influence of aliens. Historians say his conclusions are pseudoscience.

### SIGHTING STORIES

#### Ed Straight, retired EMS chief for Manatee County

Straight always thought of himself as a UFO skeptic until 10 years ago when a bright white light followed his car on U.S. 41 north of Palmetto. It was too high to be a following car, too low to be a helicopter, he says.

"It felt like energy coming down. I lost a little bit of time. A friend said it come down over the car and then shot away. Ten years have passed and I haven't seen anything since."



#### Jackie Miller, retired teacher

In 1979, Miller was on Bradenton Beach when she saw a bright light pulsating on the horizon. The light headed off toward Pinellas.

That night she was shocked to hear on the news that a tornado had demolished aluminium trailers in Largo. She still keeps a newspaper clip of the event she is sure is linked to her sighting.

"I asked, 'What constellation is that light?'" and then it started moving."



By CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL

[chris.odonnell@heraldtribune.com](mailto:chris.odonnell@heraldtribune.com)

The stories sound like plot lines for TV shows like "The X-Files" or "Star Trek": Two white egg-shaped objects fly silently at astonishing speeds; a flying ring descends from a cigar-shaped cloud; a strange light hovers over a car for miles.

Those descriptions of UFO sightings, however, came from respectable folks from Southwest Florida: a retired teacher, a decorator and a construction company manager.

All are members of a local UFO organization, the UFO Group of Manatee, that attracts believers from Tampa to Port Charlotte.

The group has about 20 members, mostly retirees. They meet once a month at the Rocky Bluff Library in Ellenton to share stories, discuss UFO theories and watch documentaries.

During refreshments of soda and cookies, members make small talk about crop circles, Area 51 and alien colonization the way others talk about the weather.

They joke about government cover-ups and who in the group might be a government plant. There is much nodding of heads at the idea that military pilots see UFOs frequently but don't report them for fear of being relieved of duty.

Ufology — the study of UFOs — has come a long way since 1950s images of saucer-shaped metallic objects. Enthusiasts fashion theories that draw from a number of different scientific fields and different corners of the world.

Theorists point to structures as diverse as Stonehenge, the Nazca lines and Mayan and Egyptian pyramids as proof that higher beings helped early human civilizations.

Ellenton resident Harold

### INTERESTED?

**What:** UFO Group of Manatee

**When:** 2 p.m. first Saturday of each month

**Where:** Rocky Bluff Library, 7042 U.S. Highway 301 N.

**Admission:** Free, but donation for refreshments accepted

**Phone:** (941) 722-6556

Nils Pelta has never seen a UFO. But the former university administrator scans books and Web sites devoted to UFOs and other unexplained mysteries.

"I really want to know what's going on," Pelta said. "I don't think any government group is going about this the right way. A group like this, at least they're looking for an answer."

Science fiction may be widely accepted in film and on TV, but admitting to having seen a UFO is still a big step, said Jackie Miller, a retired teacher who said she saw a UFO near Bradenton Beach.

It's partly why she, along with her husband, Tom Miller, formed the group in October. At the meeting she encourages members to tell their stories, a moment she describes as coming out of the closet.

"It may be a little traumatic for someone to share their story for the first time," Miller said. "People want to share their weird experiences but they don't know who they can trust without being judged."

Finding a group of like-minded people — especially on a topic that breeds skepticism and criticism like believing in UFOs — is not easy.

Some learn of the group by word of mouth. A few come from Miller's dowsing group, a group that believe people can find underground water using a divining rod.



THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland - May 8, 2006

## The truth is out there, but it's probably only gas, say the experts

BEN HIND

FOR YEARS they have been cited as proof that alien life forms have visited planet Earth.

But sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are probably just tricks of the mind caused by gas in the atmosphere, according to government scientists.

Experts at the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) spent four years examining evidence of flying saucers in UK airspace, including the cluster of sightings from the so-called Bonnybridge Triangle in central Scotland.

Scientists at the organisation, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, reportedly described how glowing "plasmas" of gas were created by charges of electricity. Air flows then sculpted the plasmas into aerodynamic shapes which appeared to fly at extraordinary speeds through the sky.

The researchers were emphatic that UFOs did not come from alien civilisations, but equally did not dismiss those who claimed to have seen them as fantasists or hoaxers.

They said such plasmas could play tricks on the mind, creating vivid impressions.

They noted that "local electromagnetic fields... have been medically proven to cause responses in the temporal lobes of the brain."

People who thought they'd seen a UFO were instead suffering from "extended memory

retention and repeat experiences" induced by the plasmas.

The DIS report, released under the Freedom of Information Act, concludes this is a "reasonably justified explanation" for UFOs.

But Ron Halliday, a Stirling University academic and author of *McX: Scotland's X Files*, said he was not convinced.

"Anybody would agree there is a natural explanation for a lot of UFO sightings," he said. "But I don't think it can actually explain the class of sightings where people have seen what looks like a solid spacecraft or people who claim to have seen or been abducted by alien entities."

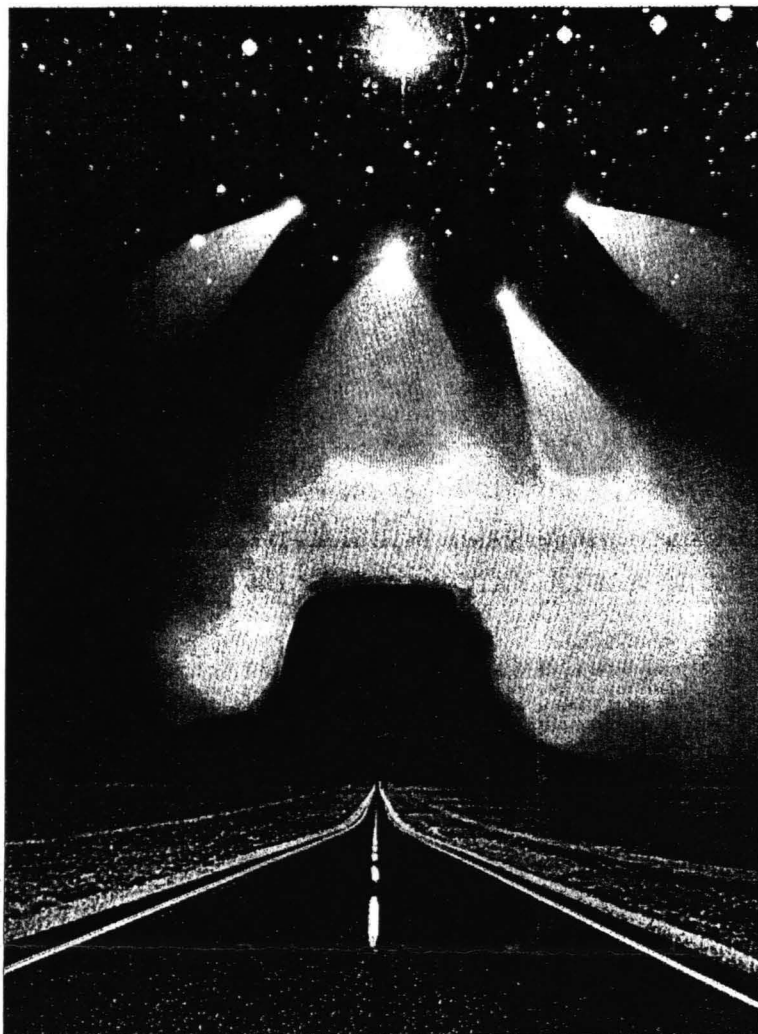
And Mr Halliday questioned why the electromagnetic fields would cause everyone who claimed to have had a close encounter with a UFO to experience a similar "hallucination".

"If it is some kind of effect on the mind then why is it only producing UFO sightings and not naked women or 10,000 other visions that could be stimulated?" he asked.

Mr Halliday said there had been 50 or 60 credible UFO sightings in Scotland in the past 15 months, many of them over East Kilbride or Fife.

"Certainly in Bonnybridge they haven't been as intense as they were several years ago, and there are one or two other areas where there have been increased sightings," he said.

Billy Buchanan, the local councillor for Bonnybridge who



Close Encounters of the Third Kind - all just fantasy, say men from the ministry

Picture: Kobal

successfully campaigned for the town to be twinned with Roswell in New Mexico - scene of a suspected UFO incident in 1947 - dismissed the DIS theory as a "piece of utter nonsense".

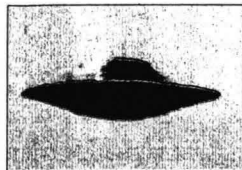
He said: "Having taken video footage myself of an object moving about in the sky, I can say it was definitely not gas. This object was absolutely huge."

And he insisted that the Stirling-

shire town still held the crown as the UK's UFO capital.

The MoD said: "We don't do these reports very often. The last one was in the 1950s and there probably won't be one again because both reports found no evidence of any threat to the UK."

The 400-page DIS report will be published on 15 May, after a delay the spokesman attributed to "cock-up, not a conspiracy".



The flying saucer: In collective conscience for 60 years



## Astronomers ask if anyone's out there

THE question of whether there really is anybody out there will be assessed at a conference of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) this week.

Leading astronomers from the UK and the US will gather at Burlington House in London on Friday to review their progress and discuss new projects in the hunt for alien life in outer space.

An RAS statement said: "The meeting will consider our present thoughts on the likelihood of other intelligent civilisations existing in our galaxy and our current attempts to receive any possible signals they might be transmitting."

Until relatively recently, most astronomers were confident of the existence of thousands, perhaps millions, of alien civilisations.

But another scenario currently enjoying some popularity suggests that life on other planets has progressed no further than the level of amoebas.

Oxford University's Monica Grady will present a paper asking whether the number of other communicating civilisations in our galaxy could actually be zero.

Other scientists are more hopeful.

Dr Ian Crawford, of Birkbeck College, London, will outline a planned search for alien artefacts on the moon.

"The idea is to look for microscopic fragments of alien spacecraft," he said.

BIG ISSUE, Yorkshire, England - July 24, 2006

## EXPERTS BAFFLED BY YORKSHIRE UFO PHENOMENON

BY PHIL CHAMBERLAIN

Yorkshire is the UFO reporting hot spot of the North according to recently released files from the Ministry of Defence.

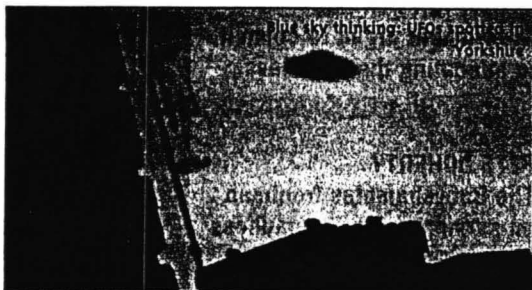
The documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act, log all the sightings of UFOs received by the ministry between 2002 and 2005. They reveal that Yorkshire had nearly 50 over that period.

That compares with three in Lancashire, two each in Humberside and Tyne & Wear, and a dozen between Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Many of the sightings describe bright lights moving swiftly across the sky. Two police officers in Hull on October 17, 2002, reported an object which: "appeared as the size of a 'normal' bright star, but of different colours - blue, green, red and white. The object moved fast."

Other witnesses listed in the report over the years include an aircraft captain, MoD police officer and the senior curator at the Royal Armouries Museum at Heckmondwike in West Yorkshire. He spotted: "two circular objects about half the size of the moon."

Among the Yorkshire incidents listed are a boomerang-shaped



UFO stationary over a power station at Goole; three red lights in a triangle formation over the A64 at Malton and a band of clouds with beams coming down over Rotherham.

Between October 16 and 19 last year there were 13 different reports of lights "like Christmas trees" in the skies above Yorkshire and Cleveland.

The next month, 42 sightings were recorded from a UFO group in Selby of a flying triangle in the sky.

Robert Rosamond, chairman of the British UFO Research Association, said: "We tend to work on the basis that 95 per cent of these sightings can be explained by known phenomena, rare astronomical occurrences, by aircraft seen at a weird angle, things

like that.

"Of the five per cent left most of those you can chip away at but some of them we have investigated very thoroughly and they just cannot be explained."

Earlier this year the MoD released a report looking at the UFO phenomenon to researchers at Sheffield Hallam University. It concluded that plasma clouds could explain most incidents.

"We knew about the plasma thing years ago," said Mr Rosamond. "When, during the first Gulf War, they wheeled out the stealth bomber they said that explained all the black triangles people had reported. But we have reports on black triangles going back to the Sixties. 'There is always one loose end which can't be tied up.'"

CHRONICLE, Congleton, England - July 6, 2006

## UFO 'sighting' prompts phenomena group appeal

A shocked driver claims to have witnessed a UFO as he drove from Congleton to Macclesfield.

And the Congleton based Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association is appealing to observant "Chronicle" residents to see if anyone else spotted the strange spinning disc in the sky.

The witness, a Macclesfield resident who wishes to remain anonymous, said that he was driving home along Congleton Road at 6.45pm on Sunday, 18th June when he noticed the object as he neared the outskirts of Macclesfield.

### Clouds

He said: "The weather was dry and the sky was cloudy - the clouds were fairly high with some breaks of blue sky."

"I noticed a spinning object about 300 feet high in the sky. At first I thought it might be a helicopter that was experiencing some difficulty and was spinning out of control."

### Revolving

"However, as I continued

driving along at 20mph I realised that the object was stable, maintaining height and slowly revolving about a slightly tilted vertical axis. The object appeared to be travelling at approximately the same speed.

"The more I looked at the object, the more I was trying to account for what it could be. I gained the impression that its cross section was slightly oval in shape."

He added that there appeared to be a triangular shaped part on either side of the object and the shape appeared to be "slightly twisted like barley sugar." He followed the object a little further and when he arrived at his house the man claimed that a second family member witnessed it.

The last reported UFO sighting in the area was the account of Astbury farmer George Ball who claimed to have seen a strange silver craft high in the sky as he was mowing the lawn of a house in Moreton on 16th July last year.

Mr Ball, of Watery Lane, said that he was "gob-smacked" to see the UFO with

a dome shaped top and thin wings. This was the second time that Mr Ball had seen something like this. In 1996 he was one of three local people to report that they had witnessed a cigar shaped flying object hovering in the skies above Congleton.

Another interesting local report came from a Congleton pilot in January 1995. He and his colleague said that they were in a Boeing 747 when they had a "near miss" with an unidentified craft that whizzed past at high speed.

### Report

Their experience was officially recognised in a Civil Aviation Authority report and after the results of a full independent investigation proved inconclusive, the rapid aircraft was recorded as a UFO.

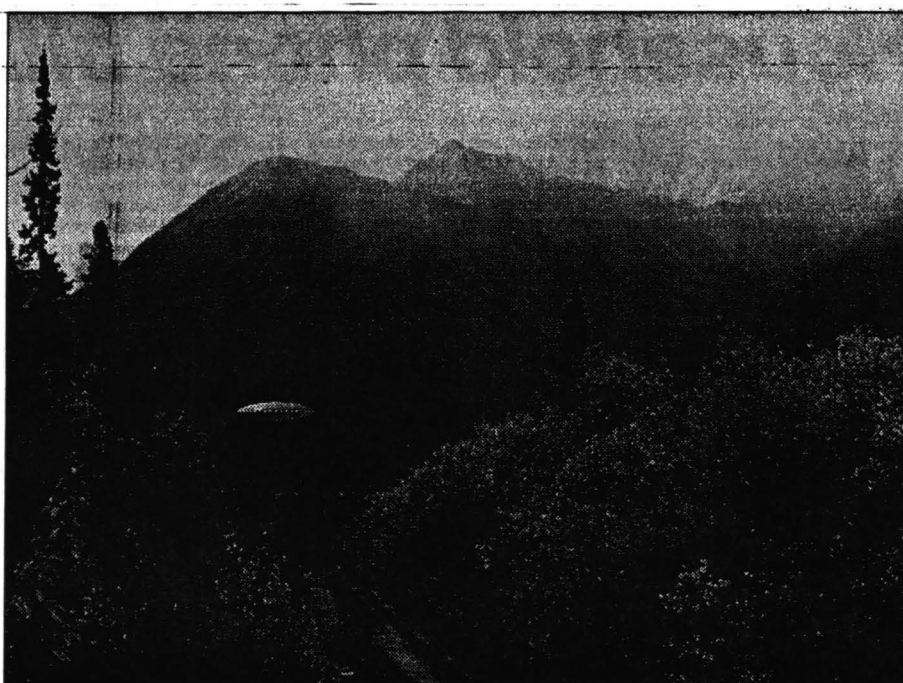
Dave Sadler of the association said that he found the most recent account "very interesting" and appealed for anyone who may have seen anything similar on that day or on a separate occasion to contact him on 0772 928 5987.

jamesliggett@chronicleseries.com





**CLOSE ENCOUNTER** – Kevin Brumm, a former Yukon resident, has gone public with his recollection of how two aliens abducted him in 1987 while he was moose hunting on the North Canol Road. Above is a composite of the original hand-drawn depiction of what he witnessed.



Illustrations courtesy UFOBC

**UFO** – The picture of an unidentified flying object was created from the original drawing provided by former Yukoner Kevin Brumm after his encounter on the North Canol Road.

# Yukoners to put UFOs under scrutiny

By **CHUCK TOBIN**  
Star Reporter

Six years ago, the Yukon's UFO organization held the first-ever conference in the territory to discuss and share stories about the unexplained, as part of the millennium celebrations.

Early on in the planning, organizers estimated the gathering would attract 50 or 60 people. Then it was up to 80 or so, maybe 90.

A month of two beforehand, it was as high as an encouraging 120.

In the end, it was standing room only as more than 300 people jammed the conference room at the Westmark Whitehorse, listening to world-renowned ufologists and locals who shared their experiences and research from across North America.

Among the guest speakers was Stan Friedmann, seen by many as a leading authority on the Roswell, N.M. incident that involved reports of flying saucers in 1947. The U.S. Army went to great lengths to explain away the incident, and Friedmann remains convinced it was a cover-up.

There were first-hand accounts of UFO sightings in the Yukon, including the Dec. 11, 1996 sighting of a spacecraft that was first seen on the Klondike Highway near Fox Lake, but later witnessed by several others, from Carmacks to Pelly Crossing, to Mayo.

Thirty-one in all have given eyewitness testimony from that night, describing essentially the same size and shape of craft.

There was a first-hand account from a woman who was followed by a spacecraft from the Takhini Hot Springs Road, then abducted as she travelled up Hamilton Boulevard toward home.

Martin Jasek, a nine-year resident of the Yukon and founder of the local organization, was among those who organized the event.

As a professional engineer continuing his career studying ice and river flows in B.C., Jasek returned to Whitehorse as the guest speaker for the 2002 conference. He is back again to host

tomorrow's conference, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Alpine Bakery.

Whether the stigma that was attached to anyone who spoke of close encounters has lessened over the years is something hard to gauge, Jasek said in an interview Thursday.

"I just hope to bring about more witnesses," he said. "I would like to see in my lifetime these possibilities getting accepted."

If not accepted, he added, at least treated some probability.

For Kevin Brumm, a former Yukon resident of Ross River and Whitehorse who is now living in Calgary, it was many years after his experience on the North Canol Road that he dared speak of it.

It wasn't until four years ago when he attended a UFO conference in St. Paul, Alta., where he met Jasek by coincidence, that he went public with his

story, which is laid out on the UFOBC website.

Brumm recalls then he was driving up the road on his motorbike during a moose hunting trip, a couple of days ahead of others in his hunting party, when he pulled over to have scope out the countryside.

He saw a UFO, was mesmerized by the moment but a few minutes later heard a something like a car door slam around the corner.

Thinking it may be the early arrival of his hunting partners, he went to have a look and saw two aliens standing side by side in the grassy shoulder of the road, he notes in his published recollection.

One of the aliens shone a flashlight object at him, and the next thing he knew he was standing on the road somewhat bewildered, with the keys to his motorcycle in his hands.

He always left the keys in his bike, for fear of losing them while crawling through the bush. His bike was parked on the opposite side of the road from where he'd left it.

Later that evening, he noticed small, scoop-like scars on the palm of each hand that were not there before the experience, but remain today.

Gradually, he began to piece together his memory of the encounter, and the recollection of how he was abducted. He remembers the friendly treatment by his alien abductors, who invited him to the window of the spacecraft to look far off into the distance at a planet – Earth.

"I think it was a really good experience, actually," Brumm said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "It was the most scariest thing at the time."

"But after you experience it, and work through it, you realize it really was a beautiful thing. It opened my eyes."

Recollection of the experience did not fully unfold until years later when he was working as a lathe operator at a shop in New Zealand, but unfold it did.

Brumm said as a naturally shy guy, it's not his mission to tell his story. He doesn't jump if he overhears a UFO discussion.

But when he does share his experience, the reaction among those listening is everything from acceptance to fright.

"It's amazing how many people tell me they have had something similar happen to them," said Brumm, who worked as a civilian for the RCMP while in the Yukon. "And I think the more it gets out, the more open it will become."

"I think a lot of people do see things that are unexplainable."

Jasek also believes gatherings like tomorrow's conference are important as a means of allowing those with similar experiences to hear other talk about their own sightings or encounters.

There are people who are drawn to UFO conferences because of pure curi-

osity, and then there are those like Brumm.

"People want to validate their own experience, and share their experience with others that will take them seriously, that won't laugh at them."

He is hoping, for instance, that one of those who've provided eyewitness accounts to the UFO over Mary Lake in February 2005 will agree to describe their experience.

It was a cold, clear night when one resident was outside looking to check out if conditions were right for his visiting in-laws to see the northern lights.

He witnessed two round objects in the sky, and, together with his wife and in-laws, watched the objects.

"We went outside of our house and we watched them for maybe five minutes, as they just seem to hang around slowly moving away," reads the account published on the UFOBC website.

"The lights then came really close to each other, then one went up, the other went down, and vice-versa. Then the right light slowly appeared to move farther away with the other light following the first light. The lights didn't go further away but rather straight up. Then one just disappeared completely and the last one just sat there way up in the sky and appeared to have some additional colours flashing. I went upstairs to grab my digital camera but when I ran back downstairs the other one had disappeared."

Days later, they learned of others who'd witnessed the same thing, including a couple of building contractors who had been out looking at their house project with children when they saw the two objects.

The builders and children took refuge under the house. As the objects appeared so close, they thought they were going to land on top of the house.

Jasek said he'll be speaking for a couple of hours, discussing recent UFO reports, and then will provide a couple of more hours for questions and an open microphone for anyone who might want to share his or her experience.



Photo courtesy UFOBC

**MYSTERIOUS MARKS** – Kevin Brumm maintains the scoop-like scars on his hands only appeared after he was abducted by aliens on the North Canol Road.

**ORANGE GLOW:** More sightings of strange UFOs over Island

# It changed shape before our eyes

by Lizzie Cook  
lcook@thekimgroup.co.uk

UFO sightings over Sheppey continue to be reported.

Wendy Cowee has been coming to the Island from her London home since 1966, but has never seen anything like the sight she and her son Michael Riordan witnessed in the early hours of Sunday, July 23.

She said: "Michael was sitting outside our caravan in Sheppey Holiday Village because it was so hot when I heard him shouting 'Come quickly, come quickly'.

"Then I saw about 200 to 300 feet up, between two caravans, an orange object that started as a tiny little glowing dot, which either shot off or disappeared.

"Next it became like a great blob of spilled water but with its wings bent up, flat with tiny dots round the edge like little lights.

## Changing shape

"Michael grabbed a pen and drew what he saw. Whatever it was, it was quite big and kept changing shape in front of our eyes,

"I wasn't going to say anything about it because I thought people would think I was mad, but then Michael saw Chris Stearns' letter in the *Sheerness Times Guardian*."

Yvonne Arnold has also come forward to say she witnessed something similar back in Jan-



■ Wendy Cowee and son Michael saw a UFO above Sheerness Holiday Village; and right, Ms Cowee with a drawing of the object she saw

uary when driving from her home in Eastchurch to Sheerness at about 9pm.

The orange-glowing ball was visible above the trees as she went along Lower Road.

She said: "It was so bright, even at a distance, and it could not



have been a balloon. It was really, really weird, but I wasn't going to say anything because people will think I've gone doolally."

In last week's *Sheerness Times Guardian*, Minster resident Doris Winter also reported seeing an orange flash in the sky from her home in The Leas.

**I wasn't going to say anything because I thought people would think I was mad**

## Riddle of the UFO armada

MYSTERY last night surrounded an armada of UFOs that "invaded" the coast of Britain.

The fleet of bright orange orbs, seen by thousands off the Channel coast, baffled bemused residents.

Police and air traffic control centres were overwhelmed by callers reporting the phenomenon in the night sky.

The incredible line-up of "spaceships" appeared off the coast of Brighton on Sunday evening and stopped people in their tracks.

Amazed witness James Gordon-Johnson, 33, who lives in Brighton, declared: "I hadn't been drinking. I was sceptical about UFOs before but this has changed my mind.

"I saw this big orange light in the sky. Then another one appeared in mid-air. Then another. And another."

Experts are still baffled, although Herstmonceux Observatory in East Sussex said a cloud of comet dust had produced a meteor shower which peaked with a display of shooting stars.

A four-year study by the Ministry of Defence into UFOs concluded that many sightings could be "glowing clouds of gas created by electricity charges".

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England - Nov. 28, 2006 CR: N. Oliver

HERALD, Worthing, England - Aug. 17, 2006

# I don't believe in UFOs but what was that I saw?

A CURIOUS couple want to know if strange lights in the sky seen from their Durrington home were noticed by anyone else.

Self-proclaimed sceptic Ray Thomas, 71, from Westlake Gardens, said: "I don't believe in UFOs. I'm very sceptical. It comes from having the name Thomas.

"But I can't find any explanation myself."

Retired engineer Mr Thomas and his wife, Pauline, 70, had awoken early for a cup of tea at around 4.50am on August 4 when they noticed three lights in the sky in the direction of Devil's Dyke, near Brighton.

A closer look with binoculars revealed the three lights were inside a "perfect circle" of around 70 smaller lights.

The couple watched the bizarre spectacle for more than half an hour before clouds interrupted

the view.

"People will say, like I would, that we're a couple of nutcases," said Mr Thomas. "But you can't be mistaken for half an hour."

Mrs Thomas added: "With the circle, the lights for such a long time, what could it be?

"We feel there is always an explanation, but we would like to know what it was.

"We really want to know if somebody else saw it." It is not the first time that Mrs Thomas has been involved in a sighting of the unknown.

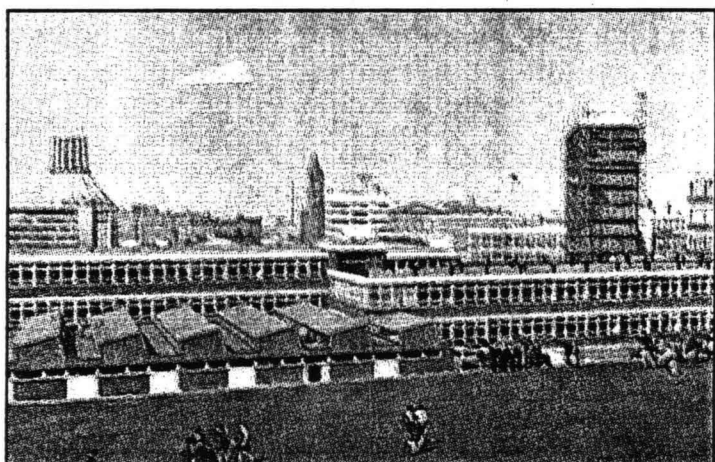
In the summer of 1984 she witnessed a large oval light over the Downs, which disappeared into the sky minutes before two RAF fighter jets arrived to investigate.

■ LEFT: Ray and Pauline Thomas of Westlake Gardens saw strange lights from their home W33208





# Were crafts UFOs?



● Was the triangular plane seen over Paddington Comprehensive School an alien aircraft?

Code NA

POST, Burntwood, England - Aug. 10, 2006

## UFO scare in the sky for woman

**A Bridgtown woman says an 'alien craft' spotted over her house scared the living day-lights out of her.**

The UFO sighting happened at 12.30am Sunday as the woman and her husband were chatting to their neighbour in North Street.

A self confessed non-believer (until now) she told The Post: "I wouldn't have believed it unless I had seen it for myself. I thought such things were a load of codswallop."

The woman, who does not wish to be named, is in her forties and does not drink.

She said her neighbour first



■ A picture which the woman found on a website - which is the same shape as the craft she saw, but different colours.

noticed the triangular craft, which had a white halogen-type light around the edges, and dull green lights at the points.

The lights were not flashing and there was no sound whatsoever. It moved over the house, lower than an aircraft, then shot off at great speed towards the Poplars tip.

The woman estimates it was about the size of a car.

"I just said 'oh my God'. It was really weird," she told The Post. "The shape was so vivid. We just stood there open-mouthed."

The woman and her husband kept watch until about 1.30am but did not see it again.

Now they wonder if any other local folk saw it.

Graham Allen, from Staffordshire UFO Group said there were also sightings reported that night in Telford.

"Over the last month there have been a number of reports about orange balls of light. One of the reports was from a JP."

"If the UFO in Bridgtown had no sound and was moving at rapid speed it is difficult to explain away with the technology we know of."

He said, interestingly, in the 1990s there were reports of orange lights - and triangular shapes at the same time.

"The two seemed to be synonymous," he added.

In the past when people have reported small equilateral triangular crafts there have also been sightings of isosceles triangular shapes the size of football pitches spotted at the same time.

Bridgtown Parish Council chairman Councillor Eddie Smith said: "Obviously they've come to the most futuristic place on the Chase to find a UFO launch pad."

by Janet Lee

janet\_lee@mrn.co.uk

## Frightened by sightings



### Local Mysteries

with TOM SLEMEN

**SEVERAL** years ago in Croxteth, a child who attended Our Lady & St Swithins Primary School, saw a UFO in broad daylight, flying north over Parkstille Lane.

No one believed the child, but one night the child's mother found her little boy gazing out his bedroom window.

He had seen a bright blue light hovering over Randle's Bridge Farm, on the Knowsley and Liverpool border.

The child's mum told him it was the police helicopter, but it wasn't, because the object flew vertically upwards at an incredible speed and not only did so silently, it ended up as a star-sized object, apparently miles above the ground.

The child became fascinated with the luminous object, and when his friend stayed over, they would watch the skies from the bedroom window with a pair of low-powered 8x30 binoculars.

One night, in the summer of 2002, the boys opened the window at around midnight, and saw that a bright flare-like object was hovering over Craven Wood, about half a mile distant.

The object dimmed, and on several occasions, it shone beams of light at the young observers, as if it was trying to communicate.

The object then left at high speed and vanished. The boys went back to bed, but at around three in the morning, screams echoed through the house in Croxteth.

The mother and father ran upstairs to the room, and found the children, crying in a corner.

The children said they had seen a 'scary face' on the wall of the bedroom. It's mouth was moving, and looked as if it was speaking, but the eyes were huge, black and round.

The parents said the boys had been seeing things, but when the parents turned off the bedroom light, they saw a strange

luminous image on the wall.

It was of a weird face with a mouth that opened and closed like a goldfish, and the eyes were black and disc-like.

The father established that the face was being projected into the room through the window which the boys had left wide open.

After the father broke the beam with his hand several times, the projected face vanished, never to return. Was this sinister face projected via the beams of the UFO seen over Craven Wood? If it was, whose face was it?

Another mystery of the sky, dating back to 1971, is often reported to me by readers.

In the summer of that year, a group of schoolchildren in the playground of Paddington Comprehensive school saw a huge white triangular craft passing silently over Liverpool.

At first, one of the teachers thought it was Concorde, but soon saw that there were no fins or jets on the strange craft, which looked at least 600 feet in length - three times the length of the famous supersonic plane.

That unidentified delta-shaped craft was seen flying very low in a flight path that took it over Maghull, Aintree, Everton, Kensington, Toxteth, Childwall and Huyton.

It's low altitude and erratic trajectory would have presented a danger to the commercial airlines yet the craft was not even picked up by any of our radar systems.

Thank heavens these thing are not hostile, for not only can they evade our radar, they can out-maneuvre any plane or spacecraft built on Earth.

Mrs June Matthews, who lived in Huyton at the time of the UFO sighting, said she was putting washing out on her line in her back garden when she saw the white triangular craft hover for a moment above her house.

June says: "It was there one moment, then it vanished. My son pointed to a white spot in the sky, and when I squinted at it I could see it was that triangular. It must have travelled miles in a second. Then it was gone."

● Join the Tom Slemen Local Mysteries Forum if you have seen a UFO or encountered a ghost at [www.slemen.com](http://www.slemen.com)

## Strange events after woman sees UFO

**A WOMAN** spotted unidentified bright orange lights over the A14 last Tuesday evening.

The UFO sighting follows three other in the county this month.

Sarah Hodges, of Packer Road, Kettering, spotted the lights at about 9.30pm.

She said: "I used to be a sceptic, but I was sitting in the garden when I saw a bright orange light appear on the horizon and it looked as if it was rising out of the trees."

"I watched it for a few seconds trying to work out what it was, then all of a

sudden, the light disappeared. It could not have gone behind a cloud as it was a clear night and it definitely was not an aeroplane.

"That night we had a disturbed night's sleep as our doorbell kept on ringing for no apparent reason - but not to the ringer tone we had set it to."

There were similar UFO sightings in Centre Parade, Kettering, on July 19, and in Northampton.

You can report sightings to <http://contactinternational.ufo.homestead.com/> or call 01869 320989.

# Delving into paranormal

by Tracy Walker

tracy.walker@northeast-press.co.uk

PARANORMAL activity will be the subject of a new book – and readers of the *Mail* are being invited to submit articles to feature in it.

UFO spotter Michael Bourne, of Whitfield Drive, Hartlepool, has secured a publishing deal with Reality Publishing and is looking for aspiring writers to fill it with articles on the paranormal.

He hopes to help those who have not yet been published before to get a foot on the publishing ladder and the book will be a companion to Michael's website [www.book-of-thoth.com](http://www.book-of-thoth.com).

Michael, 41, said: "I've been interested in the paranormal since I was about 16 when I saw a UFO in Normanby."

"It was absolutely amazing. It was just above the trees and at first I thought it was just an aeroplane, but then it shot up into the trees."

He added: "I want people who are interested in alternative history, like the Da Vinci Code, or aliens and ghosts, to send their articles."

"They must be non-fiction and not solely of personal experience, except what forms part of an article about a given topic. They should also be no less than 500 words and no more than 2,000 words."

For more information write to Michael at 12 Whitfield Drive, Hartlepool TS25 5BH.

The closing date for submitting articles is Sunday, December 31.



**ARTICLES WANTED:** Michael Bourne with the cover design of his new book investigating the paranormal. Picture by DAN PHILLIPS. D18280

# Red bricks but no sign of little green men!

**BRITAIN'S leading 'UFOlogist' was ready to pack his charts and head to Longdendale in search of a spaceship.**

It was in the middle of the magical period from the 1960's to the 90's, when it seemed everyone was walking around with necks craned to the sky.

And when most of them claimed to have spotted what they reckoned were flying saucers.

But what had readers jamming our lines was on the ground, not in the air.

They had seen a mystery crater in the dried up bed of a Woodhead reservoir, just yards from the A628 road.

It was slap in the middle of the Longdendale Triangle.

The lonely spot where mysterious lights shone from cloudless skies.

Where some people said ghostly Roman legions tramped across the moor.

And where 'sightings' of cylindrical objects peeping from clouds, were not too uncommon.

So when investigator Tony Dodd heard of the crater he was galvanised

**BY DAVID JONES**

into action.

He just had to see the perfectly rounded hole in the mud that looked to all the world where a saucer had landed.

But the Chronicle managed to save him a journey.

Our reporters rushed to the scene, picking their way gently over the mud flats. Sad to say we didn't see any little green men.

We did see the crater.....and row upon row of Glossop made red bricks that lined what turned out not to be a spaceship landing pad.

Just the remains of Vale House Mill chimney that was demolished when the land it was built on, was turned into a reservoir!

We called a disappointed Tony who took it all in his stride.

In fact he was still convinced that Woodhead was a UFO hot bed.

Space craft, he claimed, were often 'sighted' close to reservoirs and television masts.

Woodhead, with the Holme Moss transmitter just a few miles up the valley, had both.

It was just the latest in a long line of 'sightings' that came to nothing.

A silver sphere seen speeding over Bleaklow, turned out to be a hot air balloon that had broken free of its moorings.

Blobs of light were either aircraft on the flight path to Manchester International Airport, or the planet Venus. But there were others not so easy to explain away.

A rambler told of how a man in blue overalls - but with no face - appeared from a fog at Higher Shelf Stones, close to where a Flying Fortress crashed in the 1940's killing all the crew.

Then there was a V-shaped 'blue flash' seen over Simmondley and seconds later in the skies at Hollingworth.

And the silent Second World War bomber that suddenly appeared in the skies over the Snake and disappeared into the hillside with a massive bang.

Search teams poured onto the hills, but no wreckage was ever found.

Sad to say UFO sightings have been thin on the ground in the last few years.

We once averaged one a month, now it's probably one a year.

Have the UFO's gone from our skies, or is the beer getting weaker?



# It's really sci-fi in the sky – but there is something out there



The classic sighting . . . Ministry of Defence real-life "X-files" say UFOs do exist but not in this form

by David Perry

THE alarm bells started ringing at the Ministry of Defence one September evening last year when sharp-eyed observers saw "white circles all over the sky" above Letham, in Fife.

Five minutes later, at 8.55pm, someone in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, saw "three white circles going clockwise, then anti-clockwise".

By 9.15pm the phenomenon had moved back to Fife and was seen above Lochgelly, where it was described as "bright white lights that were moving in semi-circles".

And at 9.23pm precisely an observer in Kinross saw "two to three bright green and luminous lights circling" in the sky.

They moved east to Glenrothes, where they were described as "bright white lights moving in circles" before they disappeared after being seen at 11.15pm over Crieff, where they were described as "clear white lights, like a torch with no beam".

The events of that evening, on September 14, were duly recorded in a Ministry of Defence log of UFO reports.

The experts in defence intelligence – who decided not to bother with such sightings in a top secret report in December 2000 – prefer to call them UAPs, or Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, because "they're not always objects".

Their findings – that there really are UFOs but they can be accounted for by natural phenomena rather than little green men – were officially declassified

## Mystery of the bright lights

**A SELECTION of UFO sightings supplied by the MoD:**

**March 25, 2002, Newport-on-Tay:** "One bright red/orange cigar-shaped object seen over the sea."

**August 21, 2002, Fortrose, Highlands:** "Small torpedo-shaped object with a white or silver triangular-shaped object to one side."

**August 26, 2002, Dundee:** "Strange red and white lights seen through curtains. Then there was a solid red beam outside the window for five to 10 seconds."

**January 10, 2003, Stirling:**

"Two aircraft type objects flying next to each other. Both had vapour trails."

**January 13, 2003, Dunkeld, Tayside:** "Distant object moving from side to side. Bright light, brighter than any star. Went dim from time to time."

**Sightings elsewhere in Scotland include nine in West Kilbride in 2004, usually of yellow spheres. Some sightings elsewhere are from policemen, air traffic controllers, the captain and second officer of an aircraft and an RAF sergeant.**

sified after being stamped "Top Secret" and "For UK eyes only".

Britain's real-life "X-files" were extracted by means of a Freedom of Information Act request. They conclude that "there is no evidence that any UAP in the UKADR (Air Defence Region) are incursions by air objects of any intelligent (extra-terrestrial or foreign) origin or that they represent any hostile intent".

These are the "official findings" of an investigation over several years which was originally intended to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest.

Instead, the scientists concluded that while people reporting sightings are often

genuine, rational explanations – such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, including meteors – can explain them.

There are also such things as "buoyant plasmas" resulting from falling meteors which can produce interesting visual effects but have no controlling intelligence.

SNP defence spokesman Angus Robertson, the MP for Moray, was pleased the men from the ministry had released their very own X-files but he said: "These revelations will be unconvincing to many."

West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Liberal Democrat MSP Mike Rumbles added: "The MoD itself must be on another planet if they think it is news that UFOs exist. It is a bizarre thing for the department to say. I am lost for words."

# EARTH: WE'RE WIDE OPEN TO ALIEN ATTACK

## UFO expert wants probes into sightings

By LUCY THORNTON

**THE Earth is wide open to an alien attack, a Government expert warned yesterday.**

Former MoD chief Nick Pope said officials are not doing enough to probe UFO sightings leaving us vulnerable to an extra-terrestrial invasion.

Nick Pope, who ran the Ministry's UFO project from 1991 to 1994, said: "The consequences of getting this one wrong could be huge. Frankly we're wide open."

He said there has been a number of "highly credible" sightings and landings of strange metallic aircraft across the UK.

But don't panic, the scientist doesn't think we're on the verge of being over-run by Dr Who-style monsters.

Nick said: "There's no evidence of UFO hostile intent - but it cannot be ruled out in future."

He added: "There has got to be the potential for that and one is left with the uneasy feeling that if it turned out to be so, there is very little we could do about it."

"If you believe these things are extra-terrestrial craft then you

cannot rule out that what is happening is some kind of covert reconnaissance."

Reports of UFO sightings include a "vast, triangular-shaped craft" lying over RAF Cosford, West Mids, and RAF Shawbury, Shropshire, in 1993.

But Nick, who quit his job at the MoD's Directorate of Defence Security this week, warned: "If you reported a UFO sighting now, I'm absolutely sure you would just get back a standard letter telling you not to worry."

"If something doesn't behave like a conventional aircraft now, it will be ignored. That's because the X-Files have been closed down."

But an MoD spokeswoman insisted all UFO sightings were investigated for "evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity".

She said: "Unless there is such evidence, the MoD doesn't attempt to positively identify what was seen."

SCARY: Doctor Who alien



lucy.thornton@mirror.co.uk

# UFOs hover in sky over Northampton

**A SERIES of bright coloured UFOs have been spotted hovering above Northampton by two witnesses in the middle of the night.**

The cluster of lights were seen 'dancing' in the sky above Broadmead Avenue, Abington by hairdresser Paul Symeou, aged 44, at 11.50pm on Tuesday before being spotted again just ten minutes later by another man in Moulton.

Mr Symeou said: "I was lying on my bed with the windows and curtains open because it was so hot when all of a sudden the room turned pink."

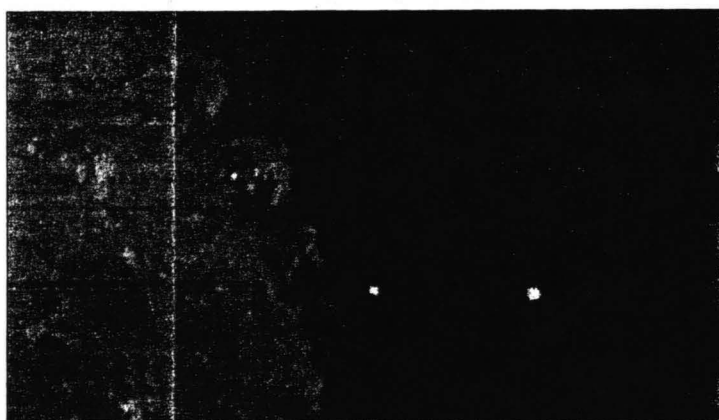
"I didn't know what on earth it was. At first I thought it was a helicopter but there was absolutely no noise coming from it and in know helicopters don't have pink lights."

After Mr Symeou watched the lights for a few seconds they disappeared then returned five minutes later.

He said: "I'm 44 and quite level-headed, but I've never seen anything like this."

"They were dancing around the sky, it seemed as if they were looking for something. It was quite eerie."

"After they vanished for the second time I sat up for a couple of



hours with my binoculars waiting for them to come back, but they never did."

While the lights were in the sky, Mr Symeou, who owns the Orius salon in Gold Street, claims they emitted smoke and a beam of light so bright it lit the whole area.

Just minutes after they were spotted in Abington, the lights were seen again in Moulton by a man who reported them to the national UFO group Contact International.

Group spokesman, Michael Soper said: "The man who contacted us was quite shaken by what he saw."

"He described it as an extremely bright light which lit up the whole

countryside.

"He said it was travelling extremely fast but was silent and quite low in the sky."

"We've had some remarkable sightings over Northamptonshire over the years but it's odd to get two in one day, especially with photographs."

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) said the sighting would simply be logged rather than investigated.

An MOD spokesman said: "If there was a threat to national security we would investigate but we haven't had anything that we'd consider a threat so these kind of calls are just logged."



# 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.]

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December 4, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: UFO PHOTOGRAPHED OVER TEPEXPAN — A report from Ana Luisa Cid — [UFOs were captured on] video by Victor Gabriel Gonzalez, seen in the skies of Tepexpan, State of Mexico, on November 26, 2006, at 14:00 hrs approximately.

The witness states that the probable UFOs were traveling toward the southwest and that the sighting lasted 30 minutes, adding that he flashed light signals at them with a mirror and that the objects then flashed back.

This video is truly compelling and was recorded by a person who enjoys great credibility and who has obtained over 50 recordings of unidentified flying objects over Tepexpan for well over a year. — CREDIT: Prof. Ana Luisa Cid

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December 10, 2006 — *El Sol de Mexico* — Chupacabras Reappears in Tulancingo, Mexico — TULANCINGO, HIDALGO - In the community of Lagunilla, belonging to Tulancingo, an unusual case took place yesterday that has made neighbors feel concerned and afraid.

Some said: "The Chupacabras has returned."

Seven sheep were found this morning with brutal injuries. One of them displayed a hole in its side, which caused its death. The rest showed signs of injury, but lived to see another day. Several years ago, an allegedly strange animal given the name "Chupacabras" entered into several pens and killed dozens of sheep and goats. Last Wednesday morning, Jose Isabel Islas headed for a sheep pen on his property and received a terrible shock upon witnessing the scene. Concerned, he contacted public safety officials in Tulancingo.

The director of this agency, Luis Alvarado Mayorga, stated that the dead sheep had a hole measuring six centimeters in diameter on its side. In this case, the circle was surprisingly well outlined. Jose Isabel added that he had heard his dogs barking that morning, but did not consider the fact to be unusual. About a month ago, he said, he also found a dead sheep eyeless and without a drop of blood. The owner of the flock of sheep said that he was baffled and could not find an answer to this riddle.

#### Family Sheep Died Under Similar Circumstances

At the site of the animal deaths, Isabel Islas added that 30 sheep belonging to relatives had also been found dead and presenting severe injuries.

At different addresses and times, geese or ducks were the first to succumb, followed by sheep.

Eladio Islas Duarte lost nine animals; Eufasia, with the same surnames, lost seven, and Porfirio Marquez lost five.

No other neighbor reported a similar situation with his or her flock.

"I'm certain that dog bites are not to blame," said the complainant. He added that his sheep pen is protected with a fence measuring 1 meter 50 centimeters and a large board. A dog cannot jump such a height.

#### Veterinarian Asked to Perform Animal Tests

Jose Isabel asked a veterinarian to come and inspect both the dead sheep and the survivors. He fears that the animals may be infected with some disease following the attack, considering that the attack came from another animal. Furthermore [he would like] the nature of the species that caused such injuries to be determined.

Alvarado Mayorga spoke to the veterinarian of the Municipal Abattoir, who promised to get in touch with the owner of the sheep.

In the meantime, Jose Isabel was doing his best to heal the injuries inflicted upon his animals. — CREDIT: Prof. Ana Luisa Cid

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December 16, 2006 — *La Tarde, Mexico* — MEXICO: UFOs OVER CHILPANCINGO — Several unidentified flying objects were seen flying over the city of Chilpancingo for a little over half an hour, causing curiosity and a certain measure of concern among the dozens who took to the streets to observe the phenomenon.

The UFO presence - some 15 objects - lasted little more than 30 minutes, being seen from 9:30 to 10:00 o'clock [AM].

Hundreds of people, including security guards from the Palace of Government and employees of the Servicio Medico Forense (SEMEFO) were witnesses to the flying objects.

"They were metallic grey in color, spinning from north to south, lit by the sun that rose in the east. That's why they shone, since [the sunlight] was hitting them head on. They moved at an even pace and made geometric formations in the air. First, nine UFOs went by, then two more, but the last two moved quickly and lower, making them easier to observe, or rather, they were larger," agreed physicians and SEMEFO personnel who viewed the phenomenon with astonishment.

A reporter took several photos, but the camera did not pick up the objects, which were observed by dozens of people, in their majority employees of the District Attorney's Office and the Office of Expert Services, who were able to observe them.

[Ana Luisa Cid remarks: According to the opinion given by researcher Jesus Martinez Castro, who forwarded this story to me, it should be noted that on the very same date of the Chilpancingo sightings, and with only a few minutes difference, a military airplane belonging to the Mexican Air Force suffered an accident and fell into the sea at Pie de la Cuesta, a few kilometers from Acapulco. (16 December 2006 at 9:25 hrs.).

The causes of the accident remain unknown and none of the bodies of the crew of the Antonov AN32B, registration number 3103, have been recovered.] — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Jesus Martinez Castro

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December 26, 2006 — *Planeta UFO, Argentina* — ARGENTINA: A UFO over Sierra de la Ventana (Buenos Aires, November 2006) by Guillermo Gimenez — This new case involving a photo of a chance UFO was recorded in November 2006 at the locality of Sierra de la Ventana, Province of Buenos Aires, located some 320 km from the city.

Alicia Darvieux of the city of Trelew, Province of Chubut, phoned this researcher to say that during her return trip from the city of Buenos Aires to the Argentinean south, photos were taken at the community of Sierra de la Ventana and one of them, taken by her father or her mother and an aunt next to a vehicle in which they traveled, show a disk-shaped object that went unseen by any of the tourists.

The event took place on November 21, 2006 between 15:00 and 16:00 hours and the instrument employed was a Canon A530, 5Mpx camera (the photo taken was at 3 Mpx) in Auto mode.

An object can be clearly seen flying at low altitude, flying at high speed over the site. It has the shape of two superimposed plates and one or two types of extremities, or something similar, can be observed [on] its lower section.

The studies conducted dismissed the possibility of fraud and we can say that it is no commercial or private airliner or a bird. It is without a doubt a strange object of the type known as UFO, flying over Sierra de la Ventana and accidentally photographed by a family from southern Argentina.

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December 28, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: AIRLINE CREW SEES UFO — According to a report received from researcher Alfonso Salazar, on December 23, 2006, the crew of a Magnicharter flight between Los Cabos and Mexico City witnessed the maneuvers of an unidentified flying object (UFO) at 8:30 p.m., as reported by flight engineer Angel Torres Arenas.

The witness described a luminous UFO giving off orange, green and blue lights, flying at an altitude greater than the aircraft's cruising attitude, placing it at 22,000 feet. He added that the probable UFO accompanied the aircraft through its entire route and that the crew was fully aware that it was an unidentified craft. As an additional item of information, he noted that the airliner was a Boeing 737-200, registration XA-MAE. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Alfonso Salazar

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December 31, 2006 — *INEXPLICATA: Journal of Hispanic Ufology* — A Forgotten Chupacabras Case from 2005 — As the year 2006 draws to a close, our colleague Raul Nunez of the *IIEE - Chile* organization has forwarded the following report of a strange animal-mutilating entity from the 9th Region of Chile. The story somehow eluded the media and has only been made known thanks to the diligent efforts of researcher Raul Gajardo Lepold. The following is *INEXPLICATA*'s translation of Mr. Gajardo's work:

"On November 18, 2005, Mrs. S.T.C., age 59, married, illiterate, but able to make her mark, was alone in her rural property near Angol, since her husband and son had gone into this city. At around 2:00 p.m., she was returning home after fetching the family's ten cows, which had been taken to drink water from a stream 30 meters downhill from the house. One of the cows, accustomed to this routine, got ahead of the others. When Mrs. S.T.C. came within 3 meters of the stream of water, she allowed the animals to continue alone and walked back to her house. It was at that moment that one of the cows began to bellow, and the woman ran back to see what was amiss. At that moment, she saw a very strange animal attempting to bite both the front and hind legs of the cow, which was already bleeding from one of its front legs. The strange creature surrounded the cow, attacking it on all sides, making small jumping motions and running with its two very large legs, which grew outward from the body at an angle and ended in four long toes with hard, black claws. Mrs. S.T.C. came within 4 meters of creature; in her despair, she ran back to her house to fetch a stick with which to beat the intruder. At no time did the entity try to attack her.

"She found a stick but never managed to strike the creature with it, as it ran toward the body of water, jumped in, and skittered under a large bush at the site, which was later removed and the site remains clear to this day. The animal ran away clumsily, in an erect position, on its two legs, but with considerable swiftness.

"The first time that she was close to the creature, at a distance of some four meters, the animal issued powerful whistling noises-some three or four continuous blasts-only to quiet down and resume again, all the while attacking the cow. Mrs. S.T.C. had never seen as strange a creature as this one and has never seen it again, nor have there been similar reports from other residents of her rural community. She only shared her story with her children and relatives."

The following is a description of the creature observed by Mrs. S.T.C.: "The entity measured approximately half a meter tall, some 25 cm. around, covered all over with green and pale red spots. There was something strange resembling wings growing out of its sides, starting at its shoulders, but these were kept folded. It was covered by some kind of short brown fur; the head was dog-shaped with large, slanted and protruding eyes, almost surely black in color, as Mrs. S.T.C. was unable to get a closer look. Its muzzle was elongated and flat, measuring some 20 centimeters, which it could open very wide to display long teeth. The witness estimates that it had two rows of them, judging by their number and whiteness. She did not notice if the entity had nasal passages or a tongue, but its front teeth were longer than the rest.

"The creature's head was elongated and a sort of wavy crest grew out of its forehead, reach down to the bottom of its back. Short, thick and firm neck. Cream-colored spots appeared on its abdomen.

"When it attacked the cow, it did so with a series of very small leaps, raining bites on the animal, while it emitted whistling sounds. On its back, where the protruding crest came to an end, there were brown bristles and the body ended with a short 10-cm. tail with a blunt tip. It lacked upper claws or legs. But it moved its shoulders upward as it attacked, without ever losing its upright position. At one point, the witness saw it on the ground, felled by a kick from the cow, which fought off its assailant gamely. The claws were covered with dark brown hair, as well as scales (sic). No ears were reported."

*INEXPLICATA* wishes to express its gratitude to Mr. Raul Nunez and the members of *IIEE Delegacion Chile* for bringing this case to our attention. - Scott Corrales

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## CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

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December 2, 2006 — *26Noticias.com.ar*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — Bringing havoc to fields in Corrientes province — THE CHUPACABRAS IS BACK — "Without the eyes and the tongue," but with the rest of his body intact, a rural local farmer reported about some of his animals showing up dead.

Mario Ernesto Martina, 68, who lives in Colonia General Paz (Corrientes province) reported that his cows and calves died with mutilated eyes and tongue and that other local farmers suffered similar events.

Several local farmers attributed the animals' deaths to an alleged "chupacabras."

Local police sources confirmed the strange event after the farmer took one of the dead calves to the police station.

A local veterinarian also had contact with the mutilated calf and could not determine exactly the cause of death.

According to reports, samples of the animals will be taken to the Veterinary Faculty of Corrientes where more thorough studies will be carried out to find a scientific explanation.

In any case, the local police asked the people to remain calm because the deaths "are nothing to worry about in number nor frequency," according to *Corrientes Noticias* (a local newspaper).





REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - Dec. 17, 2006

"When you see something like that, it's not really a question of do they exist, but what are they?"

— AUTUMN WILLIAMS, BIGFOOT BELIEVER



KEVIN CLARK / The Register-Guard

Autumn Williams has been a believer in Sasquatch since she saw a mysterious creature in the forest near Mount Rainier when she was a little girl.

# Shadowing Bigfoot

Believers have tracked the legendary Sasquatch throughout the Northwest, including Lane County

BY MARK BAKER  
The Register-Guard

**H**e not only exists, he is living among us. Right here in Lane County. Always has, according to Autumn Williams.

He's been in the Cottage Grove and McKenzie areas, and over in Oakridge, among other places. And, yes, there are female Sasquatches, too. Otherwise, how would Bigfoot exist in the first place?

Science," when a Bigfoot dies, insects, scavengers, porcupines, rodents, etc., are going to devour its remains quickly. After all, how many large elk bones do you find in the wilderness? asks Meldrum, the subject of a story in last Sunday's Los Angeles Times.

Bigfoot enthusiasts and researchers — many of whom believe the creature is a descendant of Gigantopithecus, an extinct Asian ape they say might have crossed the Bering Strait

"There's not just one," a bemused Williams says. "It's not the Easter Bunny."

Williams is most definitely a Bigfoot believer. Her Web site, [www.oregonbigfoot.com](http://www.oregonbigfoot.com), lists 870 alleged Sasquatch-related reports in North America since the late 19th century, more than half of them in Oregon and 58 in Lane County dating back to the 1930s.

"When you see something like that, it's not really a question of do they exist, but what are they?" says the 33-year-old

into North America — such as Williams and Meldrum are part of a resurgence of interest and fascination in a Pacific Northwest legend that dates back centuries and probably reached its peak in the 1970s.

Even Gov. Ted Kulongoski got in on the craze back then, successfully introducing a resolution to the Oregon Legislature prohibiting anyone from "harassing, annoying or intimidating" a Sasquatch.

Then a state representative



This drawing (above) was sent to Autumn Williams' Web site. A footprint cast she owns (left) is shown next to a human's size-9 foot.

## ON THE WEB

Williams has her own Bigfoot site: [www.oregonbigfoot.com](http://www.oregonbigfoot.com)

Eugene woman who has been researching and looking for Bigfoot since she says she saw one at age 3 in the foothills of Washington's Mount Rainier.

Sure, go ahead and say it. Or think it. Or whatever. How could anyone, in their right mind, believe in such a thing? A 7- to 8-foot-tall, hairy man-beast roaming the wilderness?

Where's the proof?  
Where's a corpse? Some bones? Anything?

Jeffrey Meldrum, an associate profes-

sor of anatomy at Idaho State University in Pocatello and one of the leading Bigfoot researchers in the nation, says there may be two reasons evidence is scarce.

First, there's "the nature of the beast itself," he says, citing Bigfoot's long life span and infrequent numbers, among other things. "When it dies, it's going to be an extremely rare event."

And, says Meldrum, 48, author of the just-released "Sasquatch: Legend Meets

from Junction City, Kulongoski told The Register-Guard in 1977 that he got the idea from his children, who were concerned that Bigfoot hunters "might actually catch him and put him in a zoo," even though "this shy creature ... has never so much as stolen a picnic basket," read the original tongue-in-cheek resolution that was later modified with a more serious tone.

Three decades ago, there was no one in Lane County more serious about finding Big-

foot than Ron Olson, who co-wrote the 1977 TV docudrama, "Sasquatch, the Legend of Bigfoot," directed by Eugene's Ed Ragazzino and starring local actors. In fact, Olson still has the Bigfoot suit an actor wore in the film that he dreams about restoring and re-releasing.

The man who now runs Eugene's two Lube It USA stores

(continued on page 16)

ran the North American Wildlife Research organization out of Eugene in the 1970s and even built a trap to catch a Bigfoot in Southern Oregon. And, yes, he still believes.

"I've always believed there is a Bigfoot," Olson told the (Medford) Mail Tribune in September for a feature story on the U.S. Forest Service's Passport in Time program restoring the trap that had been damaged. However, Olson's days of looking are long gone, he says.

#### The witness

"I wouldn't still be doing this if there wasn't something to it," says Williams, who is expecting her first child in January and has been seriously researching Bigfoot since she was 16.

"I know I might look like a dumb blonde, but I'm not," she says with a laugh. "I want to educate people about it."

Williams this year produced "Oregon Bigfoot: Search for a Living Legend," the first of a three-part documentary series. She's also an acquaintance of Meldrum.

"Jeff is a brilliant man," she says. "Why would he be wasting his time with it if there wasn't something there?"

"And here's what blows my mind. We're not talking about a great, big purple dinosaur in a pink tutu." After all, she says, American Indians spoke of a wild ape-man named Sasquatch (derived from the Coast Salish Indian word "sesquac," meaning "natural being that possesses a spirit better left alone") long before a 1950s newspaper reporter for the Humboldt (Calif.) Times coined the term "Bigfoot."

(Ray Wallace, a Toledo, Wash., man who died in 2002, made national news from his deathbed when he claimed he was the one who made the 1958 tracks that started the whole craze with a contraption he built. It also was reported that the female Sasquatch in the famous 1967 film by two Yakima men was his wife in a gorilla suit.)

Williams was born Oct. 20, 1973, six years to the day after that film footage was shot near Willow Creek, Calif., by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin.

"Isn't that weird," says Williams, who has a photograph of herself with a cowboy-hat-wearing Gimlin on her desk. Patterson died in 1972. Williams says Gimlin has joked "that maybe you're him" reincarnated, she says.

Sitting in the living room of the west Eugene home she shares with her fiancé, Skye Felton, Williams tells the story she has told many times: It was 1976, and she was living with her parents and two older sisters in a cabin in Orting, Wash., a small town of 3,700 southeast of Tacoma in the foothills of Mount Rainier. She and her mother were out collecting firewood on a path behind their home.



A grainy image from the famous 1967 film shows what some say is a female Bigfoot.

They came around the corner and, suddenly, there they were, maybe 20 or 25 feet away: an adult Bigfoot and its child. "I remember the big one's eyes," Williams says. "That really stuck with me."

Big and black, "human-sized and wide-set," she recalls, although she was just 3. "Almost like the pupils took up the whole eye. I wasn't really afraid at the time, because my dad and all his friends were hippies and had all kinds of facial hair," she says, her bubbly laughter filling the air again.

The encounters went on for four years, Williams says. She shows a stack of 1970s-era photographs that include Sasquatch-like footprints. Williams has drawings — one by her, the other by her mother — in her upstairs office of what she says she and her mother saw that day in 1976. Both drawings show the gentle-looking adult Sasquatch holding hands with its child.

Williams' mother, Sali Sheppard-Wolford, now lives in Elkton and has just published a book, "Valley of the Skookum," about the family's alleged Bigfoot encounters.

Williams, who moved to Eugene from Elkton when she was 21, launched her Web site in 2001 to provide a place for witnesses to record their Bigfoot encounters — or at least what they think might have been. The reports are listed by state and are mixed with those that Williams has gleaned from other Web sites, books and those she has gathered from witness accounts.

"Hunters saw hairy 'man' eating deer flesh," says the oldest report, from 1885 in Linn County. Of the 870 reports listed on her site, 580 are from Oregon, the most (120) coming from Clackamas County.

Many of the reports, however, are not actual sightings but claims of hearing strange sounds or seeing rocks piled in some odd way. A late 1950s report by two sisters on Geer Avenue in Cottage Grove says they saw a "creature staring through the window at them, and a report from Walton in the summer of 2005 says two bear hunters heard "two creatures whooping at each other."

Williams interviews several



JESSE HARLAN ALDERMAN / The Associated Press

Jeffrey Meldrum examines a casting of a footprint in his lab at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, in September.

eyewitnesses in her documentary, including Jack Waite of Culp Creek. Waite says he spent 19 years as a police officer, but that didn't prepare him for what he saw while driving his truck on Dinner Ridge Road in the Umpqua National Forest in the spring of 1997. At first, he thought it was a bear, but it was running on two hind legs.

"The hairs on the back of my neck stood up," Waite says. "I'd just never seen anything like this before."

#### The zoologist

"P.S.: It's NOT a legend!"

Wolf Henner Fahrenbach's e-mail comes through with the ferocity of his belief in response to an inquiry about a possible interview for a story "on the legend of Bigfoot."

Retired after 34 years at Oregon Health & Science University's primate research center in Beaverton, the 74-year-old zoologist is still on the trail of Sasquatch when he's not teaching histology at OHSU's dental school. He has some 20 hair samples he says came from Sasquatches and has taken measurements of more than 700 footprints.

He blames media sensationalism for a lack of serious scientific inquiry into the Bigfoot phenomenon. After all the hubbub created in Northern California in the 1960s with the discovery of footprints and then the Patterson-Gimlin film, "The people who should have pursued it, physical anthropologists, dropped the ball and left it to the press," Fahrenbach says. And "yellow journalism" made a mockery of it, he says. Any-

thing that appears regularly on supermarket tabloids, "They avoid it like the plague," he says of most scientists.

During his more than three decades at OHSU's Oregon National Primate Research Center, he says he had to sign a statement anytime he did any Bigfoot research saying OHSU had nothing to do with it.

"They don't want anything to do with something they perceive as frivolous," he says. "But they don't know beans about it."

Fahrenbach wrote a paper in 1998, titled "Sasquatch: Size, Scaling and Statistics," that he says "provides a sort of proof that is impossible to fake."

Fahrenbach's paper analyzes Bigfoot's foot length, ball width, heel width, height, weight, gait, pace length, speed, chest dimensions, weight extrapolation, caloric consumption, brain size, strength, foot anatomy, growth and life cycles, nocturnality and hair color, among other things, concluding that the data is "indicative of a sizeable population of a species that has adapted in a variety of ways to the demands of surviving in the montane environment of the North American continent."

But perhaps Fahrenbach's most telling conclusion is his response to what it will take for mainstream science to give Bigfoot any serious attention: "It'll take a corpse, and a scientist to take it to a meeting and rub people's noses in it."

#### The professor

The new book by Meldrum

contains an endorsement from the famed Jane Goodall, the English primatologist who lived among chimpanzees in Africa in the 1950s and '60s

("Meldrum's book brings a much needed level of scientific analysis to the Bigfoot debate"). But Meldrum still has not garnered much respect from his Idaho State colleagues, who may be afraid that his pursuit of Bigfoot is making a laughing-stock of the university.

"One could do deep-ocean research for SpongeBob SquarePants," physics professor Douglas Wells told the Los Angeles Times' Sam Howe Verhovek. "That doesn't make it science."

But Meldrum remains undeterred. The proof that Bigfoot, or some as yet "undocumented primate," exists is everywhere, he says.

"In example after example after example, you really have to start wondering what's going on here," Meldrum says. And there is no better proof than footprints, he says. The first ones he collected were in the Blue Mountains outside of Walla Walla, Wash., in 1996. Paul Freeman, the Bigfoot hunter who died in 2003 and also allegedly captured a Sasquatch on film in 1994, discovered the tracks that Meldrum came out to analyze. There were about 40 of them.

"To this day," Meldrum says, "I am convinced that if they are a hoax, they weren't created by (Freeman). Someone would have had to have known a lot about foot anatomy," he says of the tracks, which contained evidence of dermal ridges and midtarsal joints.

A year or so after discovering the Blue Mountain tracks, Freeman was on an expedition in the Siskiyou National Forest in Northern California when he and a travel companion were awakened in the middle of the night after using recorded vocalizations to try to lure a Sasquatch.

After hearing that "sort of high-pitched, wailing cry" witnesses often describe, Meldrum says some sort of creatures were on opposite sides of the camp making a "clacking sound," as if they were knocking their teeth together or banging rocks.

Suddenly, something ran by the tent on two legs and then lobbed softball-sized rocks from a trail. Another time, something came into camp, rifled through their backpacks and took only the two-gallon Ziplock bags of oatmeal that were on top, leaving the potato flakes, beef jerky and dried fruit. If it had been bears, they would have taken everything and left a mess, Meldrum says.

As for discovering so many footprints over the years, Meldrum says, "It takes you back. What else could make these? And what are they doing walking around barefoot in the forest?"

## Film crew says something's afoot, in search for Bigfoot

By EDDIE GLENN  
Press Staff Writer

Well, they didn't find Bigfoot.

But a documentary crew from Kansas visiting eastern Oklahoma two weeks ago did find plenty of people to talk about the mythical hairy creature whose existence is — so far — unsubstantiated.

Wichita, Kan., brothers Tyler and Derek Mleynek originally set out to make a film taking a light-hearted view of the beast known as Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, and various other names around the world. But once they started doing some research, they discovered

one of Bigfoot's most frequented hangouts (or, at least where people seem to see him a lot) is right down the road from them, here in the woods of Oklahoma — and the sightings were so numerous, it's hard to take them lightly.

They recently visited Cherokee and Adair counties with a film crew to interview folks about sightings in the area, and then traveled on down to Honobia, in the Ouachita National Forest, for that community's annual Bigfoot festival.

"I'd heard of sightings in other places, but I thought, 'Oklahoma?' I didn't realize how 'big' Bigfoot was in central and eastern

Oklahoma," said Tyler.

While they were in Cherokee County, the crew interviewed some folks involved with the investigation of a sighting in the early 1990s in the Eldon community, and dropped by the 911 center, which has received calls about Bigfoot sightings — including one about a year ago about an obviously female Bigfoot in the Welling area.

But the high point of their visit may have been their "Bigfoot hunting" experience, with a group of folks in Adair County who have formed an organization — the Green Country Bigfoot Research (continued on page 17)



A documentary crew has been shooting a film on Bigfoot in parts of Oklahoma. From left are: Matt Elwood, Derek Mleynek, William Shattuck, Tyler Mleynek and Enrique Ramirez.



(continued from page 16 - DAILY PRESS, Tahlequah, OK - Oct. 19, 2006)

Center—to hopefully get some documented proof that Bigfoot really is alive and well in the woods of eastern Oklahoma.

"I can now officially say I've been Bigfoot hunting—or 'Bigfoot researching.' Not many people can say that," Tyler said. "We heard a lot of stuff. We heard rocks hitting each other—I really can't explain that one—leaves crunching, things that were obviously walking through the woods, but I don't really know what they were."

Derek is not convinced yet that Bigfoot's out there, but he added that regardless of their elusive topic's existence—or lack thereof—they had a lot of fun searching.

"We saw some stuff, and heard

some stuff that kind of makes you go, 'Is this real?'" Derek said. "There's definitely something out there, but I'm not quite convinced that it's Bigfoot."

Derek said although the crew consisted of only five guys, they did a great job of shooting film for the documentary—especially considering their trip to Oklahoma was a quick three-day excursion, and their main "star," if you will, may or may not really exist.

"We want to come back and get a little more information," he said. "We're hoping to line up other interviews with people who are out there searching for Bigfoot."

Tyler said the crew was especially interested in some of the

Native American stories they heard—both in northeastern Oklahoma and in Honobia—about Bigfoot. They shot footage of Cherokees, Choctaws, and a Chickasaw/Seminole talking about the Bigfoot mythologies of their respective tribes. In Honobia, they even got a chance to hear one fellow do his imitation of the various vocal sounds Bigfoot supposedly makes as he's traversing the mountains of eastern Oklahoma.

"We found some interesting people—some very nice people—who were willing to show us what they do to try to prove Bigfoot's out there," said Tyler, who, like his brother Derek, said he's still a bit skeptical, but then again...

"I keep reading these e-mails that say how dumb it would be to assume that we know about every species that exists in the world. But this is a seven-foot hairy giant," Tyler said. "If he's walking around in the woods, it seems like someone would see one and be able to get some conclusive evidence."

Tyler concedes that until recently, people who claimed to have seen mountain lions in the Wichita area were looked at rather skeptically, too. (Similar mountain lion stories have also circulated in northeastern Oklahoma during the past couple of years.) Then, lo and behold, a mountain lion showed up.

"It was walking through the park," he said. "So you never know."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Dec. 1, 2006 CR: P. Noonan

## INSIDE STORY

# Science unlocks secrets of 'world's first computer'

By John Noble Wilford  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A computer in antiquity would seem to be an anachronism, like Athena ordering takeout on her cell phone.

But a century ago, pieces of a strange mechanism with bronze gears and dials were recovered from an ancient shipwreck off the coast of Greece. Historians of science concluded that this was an instrument that calculated and illustrated astronomical information, particularly phases of the moon and planetary motions, in the second century B.C.

The Antikythera Mechanism, sometimes called the world's first computer, has now been examined with the latest in high-resolution imaging systems and three-dimensional X-ray tomography.

A team of British, Greek and U.S. researchers was able to decipher many inscriptions and reconstruct the gear functions, revealing, they said, "an unexpected degree of technical sophistication for the period."

The researchers, led by the mathematician and filmmaker Tony Freeth and the astronomer Mike G. Edmunds, both of the University of Cardiff, Wales, are reporting the results of their study in the latest issue of the journal *Nature*.

They said their findings showed that the inscriptions related to 10-

nar-solar motions and the gears were a mechanical representation of the irregularities of the moon's orbital course across the sky, as theorized by the astronomer Hipparchos. They established the date of the mechanism at 150-100 B.C.

The Roman ship carrying the artifacts sank off the island of Antikythera around 65 B.C. Some evidence suggests that the ship had sailed from Rhodes. The researchers speculated that Hipparchos, who lived on Rhodes, might have had a hand in designing the device.

In another article in the journal, a scholar not involved in the research, Francois Charette of the University of Munich museum in Germany, said the new interpretation of the Antikythera Mechanism "is highly seductive and convincing in all of its details."

It is not the last word, he concluded, "but it does provide a new standard, and a wealth of fresh data."

Historians of technology think the instrument is more complex than any known device for at least a millennium afterward.

Earlier examinations of the instrument, mainly in the 1970s by Derek J. de Solla Price, a Yale historian who died in 1983, led to similar interpretations, but they were generally disputed or ignored.

The hand-operated mechanism, presumably used in preparing calendars for seasons of planting and harvesting and fixing religious festivals,

had at least 30, possibly 37, hand-cut bronze gear-wheels, the researchers reported. An ingenious pin-and-slot device connecting two gear-wheels induced variations in the representation of lunar motions according to the Hipparchos model of the moon's elliptical orbit around Earth.

The functions of the mechanism were determined by the numbers of teeth in the gears. The 53-tooth count of certain gears, the researchers said, was "powerful confirmation of our proposed model of Hipparchos' lunar theory." The detailed imaging revealed more than twice as many inscriptions as had been recognized from earlier examinations.

Some of these appeared to relate to planetary as well as lunar motions.

Perhaps, the researchers said, the mechanism also had gearings to predict the positions of known planets.

Charette noted that more than 1,000 years elapsed before instruments of such complexity are known to have re-emerged. A few artifacts and some Arabic texts suggest that simpler geared calendrical devices had existed, particularly in Baghdad around A.D. 900.

It seems clear, Charette said, that "much of the mind-boggling technological sophistication available in some parts of the Hellenistic and Greco-Roman world was simply not transmitted further."



THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A fragment** of the 2,100-year-old Antikythera Mechanism, believed to be the earliest surviving mechanical computing device, is seen in Athens. The bronze system was found in a Roman wreck off southern Greece in 1900.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Dec. 5, 2006 CR: P. Noonan

# Horse that launched animal-mutilation UFO lore lands on eBay

**Dr. Wallace Leary**, an Alamosa veterinarian, held bones belonging to Snippy the horse, with arrows pointing to metal fragments. Snippy was found dead in an Alamosa field in 1967, and her owner said that the horse was mutilated by space aliens. Leary believed that Snippy was shot by humans.



By Deborah Frazier  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Snippy, a horse that died mysteriously in an Alamosa field in 1967, is back in the news thanks to eBay.

The Appaloosa mare's death drew international media attention when her owner, Nellie Lewis, said the 3-year-old was mutilated by space aliens.

There were no tracks or blood on the ground, but the skin and flesh from the withers to the head were removed, exposing the bone.

Lewis told the world media there was a strange, sweet odor that she likened to incense on the rural ranch in the area where Snippy's remains were found.

The stories grew—the heart and brain were missing, too—and Snippy became the first reported case of animal mutilation by visitors from space.

Snippy, or Snippy's skeleton, dropped out of sight for decades, only to surface last week on eBay with a minimum bid of \$50,000.

"Whether it was a UFO or aliens or not, it is history," said Frank Duran, a marketing specialist for Dell's Insurance in Alamosa.

Duran said he posted Snippy on eBay after an attorney for a local man's estate asked him to market

the famed set of bones.

But Monday, Duran put the Snippy bidding on hold because the local chamber of commerce and a relative of Lewis' have claimed ownership.

"When I was a kid, I remember that Snippy was displayed at the chamber of commerce," said Duran, who created the [www.snippy.com](http://www.snippy.com) Web site to market the mare.

"At some point, the chamber was going to throw her away, and a guy, Herman Doty, took her with the dream of opening a museum," he said. "It didn't happen."

In the mid-1970s, the Lewis family donated Snippy to the Luther Bean Museum at Adams State College, where she was displayed until the 1980s, Duran said.

From there, Snippy moved to the home of Carl Helfin, a local collector. Helfin died in 2003, and the much heralded horse skeleton was part of the estate, Duran said.

With Snippy's legal ownership undetermined, Duran said he would like to see her displayed at the San Luis Valley Museum.

"We could try to raise some money," he said.

Dr. Wallace Leary, an Alamosa veterinarian, reconstructed Snippy's skeleton in 1968 and debunked the space aliens theory by finding two bullet holes in the horse.

"The shots came from a .22-cal-

iber and were in the left pelvic bone and the right thigh bone," Duran said.

"That probably wouldn't have killed her."

Wildlife experts have said that coyotes frequently leave surgical-style cuts in carcasses, but Snippy's space-alien legend grew, fed by Lewis' stories.

Lewis said the marks on the ground around Snippy included six indentations that formed a circle 3 feet in diameter, the sort of imprint a UFO might leave, according to news accounts.

Lewis said she picked up a piece of the horse's mane and it burned her hands. Later, the boots she was wearing were found to be radioactive, she said.

Two years after Snippy's death, area residents said no grass would grow on the site where the carcass was found.

Over the years, the San Luis Valley has become a mecca for people who wanted to see flying saucers. Hundreds of sightings have been reported to the county sheriff's office.

The trend started with Snippy.

"People are starting to be a lot more open to UFOs and aliens," Duran said.

"People are starting to say maybe it did happen."

# Sheriff wonders about '72 monster

BY NICK VOGEL

PEKIN, Ill. — Thirty-four years ago in Tazewell County, 100 armed men walked the woods around East Peoria's Cole Hollow Road in search of a monster.

The search was called off when one of the men accidentally shot himself in the foot. The creature was never found.

The monster hunters were looking for was dubbed the Cocomo Monster, a beast thought to be lurking in Tazewell County in the summer of 1972.

James Donahue, Tazewell County Sheriff in 1972, still remembers the infectious hysteria of that summer.

"At the time it was a very big deal," Donahue recently told the Pekin Daily Times. "Several people indicated they'd seen a monster up in that area. It was described as something like Bigfoot. All the neighbors showed up."

The former sheriff won't dismiss the monster idea entirely. Although he has no idea what it may have been, Donahue says he thinks somebody may have seen something.

## Invented to scare friend

On Tuesday, July 25, 1972, Creve Coeur authorities reported that a witness saw something big swimming in the Illinois River. The following evening, more than 200

phone calls about monster sightings jammed the switchboard at the East Peoria Police Department. More sightings continued until the scare died down.

In 1991, the Peoria Journal Star received a call from Randy Emert, who made one of the first sightings as a teen. He said that he made the whole thing up. Emert told the paper that he and his friends made the story up to scare a friend who worked late nights at a gas station. **AP**



Police in Tazewell County, Ill., in 1972 were flooded with calls reporting a beast like Bigfoot, seen in a hoax photo from the 1970s. —AP

INDEPENDENT, Port Orchard, WA - Oct. 14, 2006

# Library hosts Bigfoot program

▼ *Seattle-area researchers will discuss evidence, local sightings on Tuesday night.*

By JUSTINE FREDRIKSEN  
Staff Writer

Whether you call it Bigfoot, Sasquatch, or any one of the more than 60 words that Native Americans reportedly have for a big, hairy creature that may roam our forests, modern science is far from formally accepting its existence. But that doesn't stop most people from talking about it — and perhaps hoping to see one.

"Bigfoot is a fascinating part of our mythology, especially here in the Northwest," said Wally Clark, a reference librarian at the Port Orchard Library. "Many people wonder about it as they're walking in the woods here."

Clark said fall seemed like an appropriate time to host a program at the library about the elusive beast, whether because it's the season for mushroom hunters to be out scouring the forests, or because October is a good month to explore the strange and unexplained.

"We wanted to enlighten people about the history of Bigfoot," Clark said, explaining that the presentation Tuesday night will be a respectful, not "flip," treatment of the topic. "This research goes back hundreds of years, and people have been seeing creatures and finding evidence. And we wanted to get the top-notch folks here to talk about it."

That group is the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO), which member Kristine



Courtesy Photo

Citizens of Willow Creek, Calif., have erected a statue to Bigfoot.

Wells said is a volunteer organization that gathers and compiles sightings, physical evidence and other data about the mysterious, "hairy bipedal" known as Bigfoot.

Wells said she would not describe the group as experts, but rather "enthusiasts." She said they are all volunteers who live in the Puget Sound Region and compile nearby sightings and other research.

"A lot of people have misconceptions about what Bigfoot is, and we are going to present the

latest scientific evidence, along with a few of the local stories," she said, explaining that there have been many sightings "sprinkled throughout Kitsap and Mason" counties.

The most recent of which she said was near Shelton about six weeks ago. For that sighting, and others that are reported soon after they occur, she said BFRO has investigators that travel to the site and look for physical evidence of the creature.

Although many in her organization — including Wells — claim to

## If You Go

- **What:** Bigfoot discussion
- **Where:** PO Library
- **When:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Free program geared for adults and teens.

have seen a creature they believe was a Sasquatch, she said her group knows that most people do not believe Bigfoot exists, and that the point of the presentation is not to convince anyone otherwise.

"We are not coming to change anyone's mind," Wells said. "We just want to present as much of the scientific evidence as we can, and hopefully make it kind of fun."

Clark said a sense of fun, and the fact that Bigfoot is still mysterious and fantastical, is another reason why he wanted to have BFRO come to the library.

"If you are constantly looking at the world through reality, it takes the magic out of it," he said, explaining that he liked the idea of having a program designed for adults and teens that may spark their imagination. "I also want to see a presentation from people that are hoping to uncover something — that may just disprove something. That's exciting."

According to the BFRO's website, "the term 'Sasquatch' is an anglicized derivative of the word 'Sesquac,' meaning 'wild man,' that is used by the Coast Salish Indians of the Fraser Valley and parts of Vancouver Island."

The organization also explains that "Bigfoot was a journalistic term generated in the middle of the last century during a rash of sightings in Northern California," and that "its use is not unreasonable since the species has proportionally much bigger feet than those of human beings."



# Struggle for UFO mare's remains

'Snippy can't leave this valley,' Alamosa chamber head says

By Deborah Frazier  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

The battle for Snippy's bones is on.

Snippy, a horse that died in a field near Alamosa in 1967, drew international attention because her owner claimed that space aliens in a UFO mutilated the mare.

After a series of owners, Snippy's bones, wired together and mounted on a wheeled platform, appeared briefly on eBay last week for a minimum bid of \$50,000.

Attorneys for the heirs of Snippy's last owner, Carl Helfin, lawyers for the descendants of Snippy's original owner, Nellie Lewis, and legal counsel for the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce where Snippy once resided, all claim the mare's remains.

Snippy was the first reported case of animal mutilation by space aliens. All flesh between Snippy's nose and withers was re-

## Keeping up with Snippy

To stay on top of the goings' on with Snippy, perhaps the most famous horse who grazed in fields of the San Luis Valley, check out the following:

■ **On the Web:** Snippy Web site: [www.snippy.com](http://www.snippy.com); Chris O'Brien's UFO Web site with Snippy information: <http://tmv.us>

■ **To donate:** "Save Snippy Fund," 1st Southwest Bank, 720 Main St., Alamosa, CO 81101

■ **On Friday:** A "Save Snippy" event will be held Friday to raise money to buy Snippy's skeleton. The event is being planned by Debra Goodman, the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce and author/UFO investigator Chris O'Brien. Info: 719-589-3681

moved, along with her brain.

At the time, Lewis said the boots she walked in to where Snippy was found were radioactive.

And, Lewis said her hands



■ In 1967, Snippy became the first reported case of space alien mutilation.

burned when she picked up Snippy's mane and a gizzard-like growth appeared on her hand afterward.

Snippy launched the San Luis Valley's reputation for space-

ships, alien encounters and all things extraterrestrial.

Today, her bones are a hot commodity.

"We're temporarily stalled on eBay now," said Cassandra Mar-

tinez, the personal representative for Helfin's estate. Helfin died in 2003.

"The heirs think Snippy is more valuable than \$50,000 and they hope they can realize more than that," said Martinez, who declined to identify Helfin's heirs.

Helfin owned the Narrow Gauge Motel in Alamosa, collected real estate, artifacts and trains, Martinez said. The estate includes 26 boxcars of items, she said.

There is no paperwork that follows Snippy's postmortem trail from a veterinarian's home to the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce to Adams State College and private owners.

"Snippy can't leave this valley," said Debra Goodman, director of the chamber of commerce. "She's historic. There's a public outrage that she might leave."

The chamber of commerce, Goodman and author/UFO investigator Chris O'Brien plan an event Friday to raise money to buy Snippy's skeleton.

O'Brien, who has written several books on UFOs and false reports, said he saw Snippy's picture on a supermarket tabloid in 1967 when he was 10.

"The headline was 'Flying Sau-

cers Killed My Horse.' I devoured the article," said O'Brien, who lived in the San Luis Valley for 13 years, researching incidents.

"There's no other place with as many sightings. Snippy was the grand lady of the mutilations," O'Brien said. "I would hate to see someone from Japan come up with the \$50,000 to take Snippy away."

Frank Duran, hired by Helfin's estate to market Snippy, said Lewis' descendants are upset about the sale and visited his office this week to have a family picture taken with Snippy.

"I'd like to see Snippy stay here, too," Duran said.

Goodman said Helfin donated the railroad depot to the town that could house a museum that included Snippy and other historical items.

"She's our icon," Goodman said. "The valley is not what you call normal. We have a prominent UFO history. Snippy represents that history better than anything."

Martinez said that Helfin's heirs are sympathetic.

"They want the most value for Snippy that they can get, but the fact that the valley has such an interest in Snippy will come into play," Martinez said.



Matt Moniz, host of the radio show "Spooky Southcoast," in the reportedly haunted Freetown State Forest.

BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

# The old haunting grounds

## Some say Bridgewater Triangle is a paranormal hot spot

By Brian MacQuarrie  
GLOBE STAFF

**F**REETOWN — When Matt Moniz looks at craggy Profile Rock, he does not see the graffiti that deface what local legend says is the proud visage of a Wampanoag chief. He does not see the litter left by parties, either.

What Moniz sees is one of the supernatural superstars of the Bridgewater Triangle, a 200-square-mile swath of swamp and towns that devotees of the paranormal call New England's prime location for the weird and inexplicable.

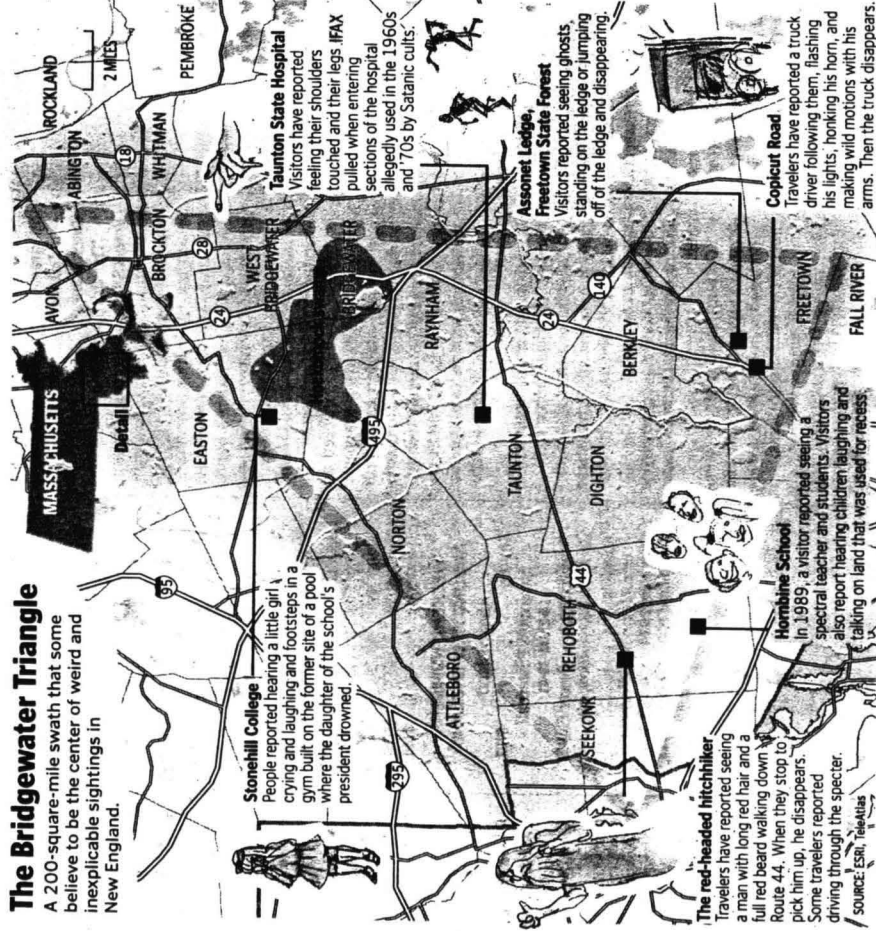
Moniz, a chemist by profession, also cohosts

"Spooky Southcoast," a weekly radio show on a New Bedford station. Profile Rock, tucked away in Freetown State Forest, holds a special fascination for Moniz because he grew up hearing of its reputation for hosting Native American ghosts in battle dress. The 39-year-old has yet to see a spectral warrior, but that has not stopped him from looking.

Profile Rock, however, is only one locale in a cornucopia of the creepy in this corner of southeastern Massachusetts, where the bloody legacy of King Philip's War in the late 17th century remains a tragic, delicate subject for the Wampanoag.

### The Bridgewater Triangle

A 200-square-mile swath that some believe to be the center of weird and inexplicable sightings in New England.



COMPILED BY MICHAEL NAUGHTON; DAVID BUTLER, DAIGO FUJIMURA/GLOBE STAFF

noag people, whose ancestors were brutally vanquished by the English settlers.

But in the so-called Bridge-water Triangle, points of which reach Abington, Freetown, and Rehoboth, a 250-year-old chronicle of the otherworldly has included reported sightings of UFOs, Bigfoot-type creatures, household-variety apparitions, and ghostly, psychotic truckers.

"In all my experience as a person who investigates the paranormal, I haven't found a similar area in this part of the country that's comparable for so many of this kind of claims," said Christopher Pittman, 27, of Franklin, a sales-

man who collects paranormal reports on a website and investigates many of them.

From 10 a.m., May 10, 1760, when a "sphere of fire" reportedly was seen in the sky over Bridge-water, Pittman said, the triangle has provided steady fodder for those who suspect the world holds more than meets the eye.

Other reports, Pittman said, have included the sighting of two UFOs landing near Route 44 in Taunton in 1976; large prehistoric-looking birds fighting over the inhospitable 6,000-acre Hockomock Swamp; and several glimpses of a terrifying 7-foot-tall creature that seemed half human and half bear.

Moniz says that, in his role as

"science adviser" to the "Spooky Southcoast" show on WBSM (1420 AM), he attempts to find scientific explanations for easily explainable phenomena that listeners report. Sometimes, those lights in the sky are only a meteor shower, according to Moniz.

Other times, he offers, there is no ready explanation, such as the time he says he saw a female form on a sheer cliff face on Assonet Ledge in Freetown. After he turned to his friends to announce they had company, Moniz said, he turned to the woman again — only to see she had vanished.

To Moniz, who has journeyed to England to study UFO-linked sites, the paranormal is just a different kind of normal.

Chris Balzano, 31, a writing teacher at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, thinks the number of odd occurrences defies logic in the Bridge-water Triangle. "I've seen cycles of tragedy and what might be a negative force popping up in different forms down through the centuries," says Balzano, of Woburn, who operates a website called Massachusetts Paranormal Crossroads.

And Freetown, he said, is the "psychic-energy heart" of the triangle. In the rural community of

8,500 people, reports have passed by word of mouth about a ghostly trucker who speeds on winding, lonely Copicut Road, blares his horn — although no one can say whether the rig is a Mack, a Peterbilt, or some foreign job — and threatens motorists, Balzano said. Talk about road rage.

But as quickly as the trucker appears, Balzano said, he disappears.

Winifred Sienkewicz, who owns a farm off Copicut Road, was asked this week if she had ever encountered the "mad trucker."

"It's news to me," Sienkewicz

said, shortly after leading a horse on the broad expanse of Land's End Farm. "I've been here since '81, and I've never heard anything about it."

A few miles away, at the gate leading to Profile Rock, Bruce Rymaszewicz, 55, had just returned from the outcropping with his daughter and a few of her friends.

Stories of Native American ghosts still angered by their defeat in King Philip's War do not frighten him.

Still, Rymaszewicz, a Freetown native, said he remembers long-ago tales about a phantom with green eyes in these woods where he played as a child. "Thank God I never saw it," he said.

**'I've seen cycles of tragedy and what might be a negative force popping up in different forms.'**

CHRIS BALZANO

## A foothold on Bigfoot

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**J**effrey Meldrum is a tenured professor of anatomy at Idaho State University and a recognized authority on Bigfoot. Yeah, the large, hairy anthropoid that, legend has it, romps through the woods of the Pacific Northwest. Meldrum's been drawing a lot of press this week for that belief. The EO even ran the story last Sunday.

Given news this week and last have been focused on elections coverage, reporters throughout the U.S. only can envy the schmo who was lucky enough to cover something as, well, fluffy as a Bigfoot story.

Be that as it may, no one should dismiss Meldrum outright for his belief. Just take a look at Adrian Shine. He heads up the Loch Ness Project. Yep, that lake in Scotland where folks see a monster. Shine went to the lake years ago, set on proving whether or not the thing was real.

Since then, he's become the foremost authority on the Loch Ness' ecology and biodiversity. He discovered there are probably more species of nematodes — worms — than any other living critter, including insects. And most of them probably live in sea and ocean floors.

Shine doesn't give much credence to a real monster in the loch, but he's used that pursuit to further our understanding of the natural world.

Hopefully Meldrum will do the same.